

French, German & Spanish A Level

Who is the course for?

If you enjoy the challenge and the satisfaction of learning a foreign language at GCSE, are sociable and like communicating with people, a language course could be perfect for you. Speaking a foreign language helps you learn about different people and cultures and learning a foreign language is a great way of opening your mind to new ideas and new ways of looking at the world. In addition, competency in another language enables you to enjoy things such as literature, film, and music in the original language.

You will enjoy this course if you are an open, confident person who communicates well with others but is also able to work independently on quite challenging but rewarding tasks. You must be committed, hardworking and able to appreciate the importance of accuracy and attention to detail when learning a language at this advanced level. You will be expected to learn and revise vocabulary and grammatical structures regularly, as well as reading and listening widely in the target language so that you can debate current affairs with confidence.

What does the course involve?

A variety of teaching and learning methods will be used including teacher-led activities, group work, personal research and debate. Learning is based on an interactive and communicative approach and we will help you to develop the skills of listening, speaking, reading and writing. Lessons will be conducted mostly in the target language and students are expected to participate fully in questioning, discussions, conversations and presentations. You will have access to web-based films and other foreign language practice material. You will have the advantage of learning in a small group in which your teachers will be able to give you a good deal of attention. You must be prepared to read widely and practise your writing technique in the foreign language.

Awarding Body

AQA

Languages offered

French, Spanish and German

Topic areas include:

- Study of one book and one film and an independent research task
- The changing nature of family
- The digital world and the 'cyber-society'
- Society
- Politics including immigration, racism and political demonstrations
- Culture including art, fashion, cinema and architecture

Assessment Methods

This course is 100% examination and consists of 3 exams. The speaking exam is worth 30% of the total mark during which you will discuss current affairs and your Independent Research Project. The writing exam is worth 20% and consists of 2 essays on the book and the film studied. The Listening, Reading and Translation exam is worth 50%.

Progression Options

The opportunities when you speak another language are endless. Languages, and the communication skills they involve, are held in high regard by employers and Universities. Previous students have gone on to secure higher apprenticeships e.g. Rolls Royce and Osborne Clarke solicitors.

At University, students have continued to study the language and combined it with another subject e.g. law, maths, business studies, English, international relations, sports journalism, often picking up a 2nd or 3rd foreign language, with Italian and Russian being very popular.

In an increasingly global business world, the ability to speak a language at a very high level will only increase chances of employment and career prospects. A higher level qualification in a foreign language does not necessarily mean a career in translating or teaching, but prepares you for most career opportunities including commerce, banking, sales, marketing and posts abroad.