



## MODERN FOREIGN LANGUAGES - GCSE

### WHY STUDY A LANGUAGE?

Not only is a foreign language a passport to further study at university, and the discovery of the target culture and civilisation, but it opens up to the student a vast range of opportunities at all levels of ability, including enhanced job prospects.

**Monolingualism is no longer an option!**

### FURTHER STUDY

Universities are giving out a very strong message about the importance of a foreign language.

*"We describe ourselves as a global university and feel it is essential that students have an understanding of how another language operates and, crucially, another culture." (Professor M. Worton, University College London)*

*"We are looking at requiring those who haven't got a language GCSE to make it up in the first year of university," says Professor Kelly at Southampton University.*

Many universities are encouraging a language module to be studied with non-language degrees.

### WORLD OF WORK

A capability in foreign languages is becoming increasingly sought after in industry and the world of work. If you have one or more languages, then you have a distinct advantage over the rest of the field when applying for jobs.

*"Language skills are often a tie-breaker when two equally good candidates are considered for a job".*

Not only does knowing a foreign language increase your chances of getting a job, it can boost your salary by several £000s per year, i.e. the cost of a house over the length of a career!

According to the Worton Review on Languages in Higher Education, young people lose out on some of the best jobs later in life simply because they do not have the necessary language skills.

*"Exposure to a foreign language has become inevitable at a certain level. Given the way the world is moving, if your friends and rivals have these skills you are putting yourself at a disadvantage by not having them," said Tim Connell, vice-president of the Chartered Institute of Linguists.*

The employers' organisation, the CBI, recently reported that more than a third of employers specifically recruit people for their language skills, yet they are increasingly looking outside Britain to meet their needs. *"If we are not careful, all the best posts will go to other nationalities,"* says Professor Connell.

Contrary to popular belief, translation and teaching are not the only career paths. As the ability to understand other cultures has become a key business skill, the financial sector, for example, hires a large number of people with language skills. Languages are needed at all levels and in a wide range of sectors in the workplace.

## **Here are examples of just some of the jobs where foreign language skills can be used:**

Business, Banking/Finance, Wholesale/Retail, Public Admin, Community/Social Services, Education, Transport/Communications, Health/Social work, Leisure/Tourism, Teaching, Journalism, Manufacturing, the Forces, Engineering, Film and Media, Technical Services, Science, Information Technologies, Hotels/Restaurants, International Organisations, Marketing and Law.

### **Got a Language? Get a job!**

Read on to find out more information about our French and Spanish courses ...

## **GCSE FRENCH**

By the end of the course the aim is to be able to:

- develop language skills in a variety of contexts.
- build on KS3 language acquired and prepare students for further study.
- promote an appreciation of and respect for different cultures.
- add an international dimension to GCSE subjects in order to create greater opportunities in potential careers to work abroad or for UK companies with international links.

It is not just a question of learning a language, it is the use that is important. That is why the MFL Department will aim to provide, where possible, opportunities for cultural visits and links with France, which provide valuable insights into the culture and civilisation of the host country. We also ensure that MFL studies are interactive, dynamic and relevant to young people's interests, using a variety of methods, including ICT.

## **Themes and Topics covered follow the AQA GCSE French Specification:**

### **Identity and culture**

Me, my family and friends  
Relationships with family and friends  
Marriage/partnership  
Technology in everyday life  
Social media  
Mobile technology  
Free-time activities  
Music  
Cinema and TV  
Food and eating out  
Sport  
Customs and festivals in French-speaking countries/communities

### **Local, national, international and global areas of interest**

Home, town, neighbourhood and region  
Social issues  
Charity/voluntary work  
Healthy/unhealthy living  
Global issues  
The environment  
Poverty/homelessness  
Travel and tourism

## **Current and future study and employment**

My studies  
Life at school/college  
Education post-16  
Career choices and ambitions

The following **format of assessment** is used:

- Equal weight for all four skills: Speaking (25%) Writing (25%) Listening (25%) and Reading (25%).
- There will be two tiers of assessment for all four skills: Foundation (1-5) and Higher (3-9).
- Speaking tasks will be internally assessed at the end of Year 11.

Listening, Reading and Writing examinations take place in May/June of Year 11.

## **GCSE SPANISH**

Spanish has become increasingly popular as a GCSE choice. It is very widely spoken around the world. The GCSE course is based on topic areas, where words and structures are taught alongside grammatical concepts. The course content is supported by interactive on-line content and is designed to reflect your interests and experiences.

By the end of the course, the aim is to be able to use the language:

- for visiting the country and have a deeper understanding of the rich culture
- to understand authentic materials, such as literary texts and film
- in meeting and entertaining visitors from Spain and other Spanish speaking countries
- as an asset to any employer trading in the rest of Europe and Internationally

The MFL Department will aim, where possible, to provide opportunities for cultural visits and links with Spain, which provide valuable insights into the culture and civilisation of the host country.

**Themes and Topics covered follow the AQA GCSE Spanish Specification:**

### **Identity and culture**

Me, my family and friends  
Relationships with family and friends  
Marriage/partnership  
Technology in everyday life  
Social media  
Mobile technology  
Free-time activities  
Music  
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