

Modern Foreign Languages - French and Spanish

Examination Board: AQA

What is the course like?

Pupils have already covered some of the content of the GCSE course in Key Stage 3, and many of the pupils will already be working at a basic GCSE level in terms of grammar and vocabulary. Pupils do not need to be fluent in French or Spanish to do a GCSE. First and foremost, it is expected that pupils will enjoy being able to communicate in another language and that they will be able to respond with a degree of spontaneity using a variety of different problem solving strategies. Pupils will be taught primarily through the use of French/Spanish and should not expect to hear much English in lessons. This is the most effective way of learning a language. Pupils will also need to learn vocabulary on a regular basis to be able to produce language from memory. Online resources and mobile apps can be used to reinforce the learning outside of the classroom.

If pupils can:

- Understand main points, details, views, recognise past, present and future events
- Communicate the main points of a message
- Take part in simple transactions and conversations
- Express personal opinions about a variety of topics using past, present and future events

then they will succeed!

What is studied during the course?

The themes and topics covered in both French and Spanish are:

- Identity and Culture
- Local, national, international and global areas of interest
- Current and future study and employment

How is the course assessed?

Unit 1: *Listening 25% Final examination/no dictionary*

Pupils will be assessed on their ability to: understand specific details and key points, summarise texts, recognise attitudes, opinions and emotions and draw conclusions, understand a variety of registers.

Unit 2: *Speaking 25% Teacher examiner but marked externally/no dictionary*

Pupils will be assessed on their ability to: seek and give information, carry out transactions, participate in conversations, narrate and discuss past, present and future events, express ideas and points of view.

Unit 3: *Reading 25% Final examination/no dictionary*

Pupils will be assessed on their ability to: understand specific details and key points, summarise texts, recognise attitudes, opinions and emotions and draw conclusions, understand a variety of registers.

Unit 4: *Writing 25% Final examination/no dictionary*

Pupils will be assessed on their ability to: express ideas, attitudes, feelings and opinions, giving reasons where appropriate, refer to and narrate past, present and future events. Pupils are not expected to be able to write fluently and freely in the language, though some pupils may achieve this.

There are two tiers of entry: higher tier gives pupils access to grades 9-4 and foundation tier gives access to grades 5-1. Pupils must do all four exams at the same entry level they cannot mix and match.