



MODERN FOREIGN LANGUAGES

FRENCH, GERMAN AND SPANISH

Entry Requirement: Grade 6 - 9 in the appropriate language(s)

Examination Board: French: AQA 7652
German: AQA 7662
Spanish: AQA 7692

Course Content and Assessment

Candidates of all three languages build on the knowledge, understanding and skills gained at GCSE. The skills of listening, reading and writing are integrated in the development of linguistic competence. There are 3 unit assessment components. These are the same for French, German and Spanish.

Paper 1: Listening, Reading and Writing: 2 hours and 30 minutes. Students are asked to answer questions based on social issues and trends and the political and artistic culture related to the countries where the chosen language is spoken.

Paper 2: Writing: 2 hours. Candidates answer two questions, in the chosen language, for each of two works studied, two books or a book and a film. There will be a choice of questions. Texts and films are chosen carefully, to engage the students and reflect themes which are of interest to them.

Paper 3: Speaking: 21-23 minutes. The test is in two parts. Part 1: the discussion of a sub-theme from the specification. Part 2: the candidate presents and discusses an individual research project.

Teaching and Learning Methods

This course aims to inspire students linguistically, culturally and socially so that they are able to discuss and write about a wide variety of topics related to the countries in which the language is spoken. It challenges and motivates them by providing opportunities to extend their knowledge of grammar and vocabulary. Throughout the course students will experience a range of teaching and learning approaches and there is a weekly one to one session with a native speaker language assistant.

Homework

Homework is set regularly to reinforce the work studied in class and will include a mixture of essays, presentations, comprehension exercises, grammar and vocabulary work. We subscribe to Kerboodle, AQA's online resource material, which can be used for homework tasks and independent study.

Complementary Subjects

The study of a language offers versatility in a global market and is a valuable component in any combination of subjects. Popular combinations are: English, History, Geography and Business and Economics. It adds communication and literary skills to a candidate's portfolio and, as such, regularly attracts students of the Sciences and Maths.

Trips and Visits

The MFL faculty runs a number of trips. These have included weekends to Berlin, Munich, Madrid, Valencia, Paris and Marseille. The Faculty can also advise any students who wish to undertake work experience placements in France, Germany or Spain.

Materials

Students are normally expected to purchase textbook for German, as well as photocopied booklets. In addition, they will need to buy the relevant literary texts and are advised to purchase the DVDs studied too. These will be ordered for students and can be collected from the relevant departments. Students will also use materials from a variety of other sources both text-based and online.

Key Features

The A level syllabus 'constitutes an integrated study with a focus on language, culture and society. It fosters a range of transferable skills' ... (AQA)

The subject can lead to a Languages Degree, or be combined with other degree subjects. Modern Foreign Languages are essential to today's world and open doors to a wide variety of careers including interpreting, translating, journalism, finance, law, industry, business, teaching, marketing and travel and tourism. They also enable students to seek work abroad more easily and afford them a competitive edge when applying to multi-national organisations.

'a language degree gives you a better chance of finding a job than any other except medicine'.
'Employers cannot get enough people with language skills'. (Guardian Education)