

SUBJECT: French | German | Spanish

YEAR: 10 & 11

HEAD OF DEPARTMENT: Mr Carter

GROUPING POLICY: Mixed ability

EXAM BOARD: AQA

ASSESSMENT: 75% External Examination; 25% Externally Set Task (Speaking component)

Link to Specification: <http://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/languages/gcse>

COURSE CONTENT:

French is one of the world's major international languages. Knowing French increases your chances of communicating in a non-English speaking country and the prestige of Francophone art, music, literature, fashion, cuisine and cinema makes French a culturally important foreign language.

Spanish - As one of the most widely spoken languages in the world, a knowledge of Spanish will not only help you in Europe but also across most of Latin America. Knowing Spanish will allow you to fully understand the rich Hispanic culture and get more out of your travels.

German - Spoken in Germany, Austria and Switzerland, German is one of the major European languages. Despite its very close links to English, certain aspects of the language (e.g. word order) are very different and provide a brilliant challenge for students. Knowing the language well provides a wonderful insight into the rich cultural history of Germany.

What will be covered?

We follow the AQA GCSE course for French, German and Spanish and, over the course of the two years, we cover the following themes:

- Identity and culture (family, technology, free time, festivals and customs).
- Local, national and international areas of interest (home town, social issues, the environment, travel).
- Current and future study and employment (school life, jobs, future careers, post-16).

During the course, we aim to further develop the four skill areas of: speaking, listening, reading and writing.

What will homework look like?

Homework will take a variety of forms. It will be set twice weekly and students should aim to spend 30 minutes on each piece. Teachers may set vocabulary to revise and practise, a piece of writing, a reading activity with comprehension questions, preparation for a presentation, a listening activity, revision or some research on a cultural or grammatical theme.

What enrichment opportunities are available?

There are a variety of enrichment opportunities made available to students at Key Stage 4, and as a department, we are open to suggestions from students as to what they would like to be involved in.

These opportunities range from:

- Revision clubs
- Residential trips to France/Spain/Germany
- Competitions
- Planning and running 'Language Days' and 'Cultural Evenings'

ASSESSMENT

How will my child's work be assessed?

All external assessment of this course takes place at the end of the course. However, there will be regular formal and informal internal assessments to monitor student progress towards the final exam and to ensure they are clear about the expectations upon them. Students can choose to enter at either Higher or Foundation level.

The final exams will include:

- **Paper 1 – Listening.** This will be a 35-45-minute exam and will account for 25% of the final grade.
- **Paper 2 – Speaking.** This will last approximately 7-12 minutes and will account for 25% of the final grade.
- **Paper 3 – Reading.** This will last approximately 45 minutes to 1 hour and will account for 25% of the final grade.
- **Paper 4 – Writing.** This will last approximately 1 hour to 1.25 hours and will account for 25% of the final grade.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

How can I support my child in this subject?

Whether you speak the language that your child is learning or not, you can support them in many ways. For example:

- Having a bilingual dictionary at home for them to use will help them to develop their dictionary skills.
- Helping your child to access the online course book and revisit activities they have done in class to consolidate knowledge and understanding.
- Purchasing a revision workbook, such as 'Revise AQA GCSE 9-1 Revision Workbook' - French, German or Spanish.

- Practising vocabulary on apps such as Quizlet, Memrise or Duolingo.
- Encourage your child to listen to foreign language radio or films/series on streaming services. This will allow them to practise their listening skills, develop confidence in pronunciation as well as develop an understanding of the culture.
- When watching films try to watch them in the foreign language with English subtitles, rather than dubbed.
- If you can, plan a family holiday to a country where French, German or Spanish is spoken.
- Test them often on the words they are currently learning.
- Get them to try to teach you something that they are learning.
- If you do speak the language, try to set aside some time each day/week that you communicate with them only in the language.
- Encourage your child to draft and check any written work they do, so that they focus on accuracy.

How can I support my child with exams?

Alongside all of the things mentioned above, which are great ways to support your child in the run up to exams, you could also help in the following ways:

- In preparation for the Listening and Reading exams, you can encourage your child to do practice papers from the AQA website.
- Encouraging your child to attend the Year 11 Revision Club on Thursdays.