

Subject: Modern Foreign Languages - French, German or Spanish		
Head of Department	Qualification GCSE	Exam Board AQA

A brand new format for GCSEs in Modern Foreign Languages began in September 2016. The new GCSE provides a practical and engaging course and has been specifically designed to develop and inspire students' foreign language skills. A skills-based approach has been introduced so that students will be able to manipulate their foreign language in a range of age-appropriate and authentic contexts. This new GCSE provides a strong basis so students will be able to use their foreign language later in the world of work or to study it beyond GCSE.

The emphasis of GCSE Languages at Langtree School will continue to be on learning a foreign language as a means of real, everyday communication. This is essential at a time when exciting opportunities exist for people of all ages to study, work and live in other countries, especially within the European Community. This "real life" approach remains a key part of the course and it ensures that learning a language is even more engaging and relevant for Key Stage 4 students. The Languages Department at Langtree uses up-to-date and authentic materials in its communicative language teaching and we constantly modify materials to suit the needs and ability of all of the students. All work is differentiated and we cater fully for students who are native-speakers. We also encourage our students to develop a deeper understanding of the people and customs of the countries where the studied languages are spoken. Furthermore, we aim to provide enjoyment, intellectual stimulation and a basis for further study.

EBacc. GCSE passes in a combination of subjects (a Language, Humanities subject, a Science, English and Maths) result in students achieving this title.

GCSE Themes

1. Identity and culture (includes social media, technology)
2. Local, national and international areas of interest (includes traditional celebrations and international events)
3. Current and future study and employment.

GCSE Exams

Students are entered for the GCSE at higher or foundation level and sit the same level paper in all four exams.

Paper 1: Listening. Understanding and responding to different types of spoken language

Written exam: 35 minutes (Foundation Tier), 45 minutes (Higher Tier)

40 marks (Foundation Tier), 50 marks (Higher Tier)

25% of GCSE

Paper 2: Speaking. Communicating and interacting effectively in speech for a variety of purposes

Non-exam assessment

7–9 minutes (Foundation Tier) + preparation time

10–12 minutes (Higher Tier) + preparation time

60 marks (for each of Foundation Tier and Higher Tier)

25% of GCSE

Paper 3: Reading. Understanding and responding to different types of written language

Written exam: 45 minutes (Foundation Tier), 1 hour (Higher Tier)

60 marks (for each of Foundation Tier and Higher Tier)

25% of GCSE

Paper 4: Writing. Communicating effectively in writing for a variety of purposes

Written exam: 1 hour (Foundation Tier), 1 hour 15 minutes (Higher Tier)

50 marks at Foundation Tier and 60 marks at Higher Tier

25% of GCSE

All four exams are marked and graded by the Exam Board.

Equipment Required

A bilingual dictionary e.g. Collins Pocket Dictionary approx. £7.

Students will not be allowed to refer to dictionaries in the exams, but will need to regularly look up key vocabulary in class and at home so that they are able to build a strong vocabulary bank over the two years of study.

Malvern Vocabulary Guides £5.00

It will not be possible to begin a language in Year 10 as all our courses build on the language built up throughout Key Stage 3. It is possible, though, to study two foreign languages at GCSE.

Reasons to study a language

94% of the world's population does not speak English as their first language.

75% of the world's population does not speak English at all.

60% of UK trade is with non-English speaking countries.

Customers addressed in their own language are three times more likely to buy from you.