



SUBJECT: GCSE French/Spanish

YEAR: 10 & 11

HEAD OF DEPARTMENT: Mrs V Wytchard

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 French art, music, literature, fashion, cuisine and cinema makes French a culturally important foreign language.

Spanish - 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 South America. Knowing Spanish will allow you to fully understand the rich Hispanic culture and get more out of your travels.

What will be covered?

We follow the AQA GCSE course for the French and Spanish and over the course of the 2 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 4 skill areas of: speaking, listening, reading and writing

What will homework look like?

Homework will take a variety of forms. It will be set weekly and students should aim to spend 45 minutes to an hour on it. It may take the form of a piece of writing, a piece of self or peer assessment, a reading activity with comprehension questions, preparation for a presentation, a listening activity, revision or some research on a cultural or grammatical theme. Alongside the set homework, students should be in the habit of learning vocabulary each week. The earlier they start this the more benefit it will have. Staff will often have vocabulary tests to encourage this.

What enrichment opportunities are available?

There are a variety of enrichment opportunities that could be / are made available to students at KS4, 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:





- Catch-up sessions and workshops
- Residential trips to France/Spain/Germany
- Foreign film club
- Termly competitions within school
- Planning and running 'Language Days' and 'Cultural Evenings'
- Option to subscribe to Mary Glasgow foreign language magazines

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 all exam papers at either higher or foundation level.

The final exams will include:

- **Paper 1 – Listening.** This will be a 35 minutes 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.
- Students have access to their own course book online, therefore you can share/practise what your child has done in lesson and they can do extra activities from the pages to reinforce their learning.
- Encourage them to listen to the foreign language radio/ watch programmes on the Internet. 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 or vice-versa.
- Test them often on the words they are currently learning.
- Get them to try to teach you a new grammar point 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.
- Give them responsibility for dealing with day to day transactions when you are on holiday.
- 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 either from the exam board website or on BBC Bitesize.

If needed, your child will be offered Catch-up sessions or work-shops in the lead up to exams and you will be notified about these. Invited students should attend these wherever possible in order to feel as confident as possible as they go into their exams.

