

Optional: Modern Foreign Languages (AQA: French 8658, Spanish 8698)

Students may choose as their *core* Modern Foreign Language **French or Spanish**, provided that language was studied in Year 9.

The objective is to enable students of all abilities to develop their language skills to their full potential, equipping them with the knowledge to communicate in a variety of contexts with confidence. In studying for the GCSE qualification, students will be able to understand language in a range of situations, communicating effectively and developing a knowledge of grammar and wider language learning skills. Through this course cultural awareness is developed alongside positive attitudes towards language learning, enjoyment and intellectual stimulation. Languages are taught as a skill for life and not simply as a qualification.

The specification covers three distinct themes which relate to students' own experiences and that of other people in the target language country.

1. Identity and culture

- *Me, my family & friends*
- *Technology in everyday life*
- *Free-time activities*
- *Customs & festivals in the target language country/community*

2. Local, national, international and global areas of interest

- *Home, town, neighbourhood & region*
- *Social issues*
- *Global issues*
- *Travel & tourism*

3. Current and future study and employment

- *My studies*
- *Life at school/college*
- *Education post-16*
- *Jobs, career choices & ambitions*

The scheme of assessment is linear and students may be entered either for Foundation or Higher Tier overall. All four skills of listening, reading, speaking and writing will be assessed by means of one examination paper each respectively, taken at the end of Year 11, and each paper is worth 25% of the final mark.

In considering their choice of Modern Foreign Language, students may find the following of interest:

French:

More than 200 million people speak French on five continents and French is also the only language, alongside English, that is taught in every country in the world. On the international job market, a knowledge of French naturally opens the doors of French companies in France but also other French-speaking parts of the world (Canada, Switzerland, Belgium, and North and sub-Saharan Africa), and as the world's fifth biggest economy and number-three destination for foreign investment, France is a key economic partner. Culturally, French is also a strong choice as the international language of cooking, fashion, theatre, the visual arts, dance and architecture. A knowledge of French offers access to great works of literature, as well as films and songs, allowing access in the original language to the works of Victor Hugo, Molière, Edith Piaf, Jean-Paul Sartre, amongst others.

Spanish:

Spanish is one of the world's major languages with 329 million native speakers, and its global influence is growing day by day. By 2050 the number of Spanish speakers is expected to increase to 530 million, with the Spanish-speaking population of the USA alone currently increasing at more than 1 million a year. Being able to speak Spanish opens up a whole new world, whether travelling in South America, making the most of holidays in Spain or using your language skills to improve your employment prospects. Spain is one of the UK's major trading partners and Spanish companies such as Santander, Mango and Zara have established themselves on our high streets. The total value of business between Spain and the UK is £21 billion per annum. Learning Spanish will also give you the opportunity to enjoy a wide range of cultural works such as the films of Guillermo del Toro and Pedro Almodóvar, and contemporary Spanish and South American music. *¡El español mejora tu calidad de vida!*