



A Level Modern Languages (French and Spanish)

Key contacts: Miss V Murphy (Head of Department)

Exam Board: AQA

Overview of the course:

In a world growing 'smaller' due to increased contacts, trade and communications, the ability to communicate in one or more Modern Language is becoming more and more vital and advantageous.

Many young people are also beginning to think about careers which might take them abroad where there are rapidly growing opportunities all the time.

Proficiency in one or more modern language is the key which could unlock these opportunities.

It also provides both great enjoyment and intellectual stimulation and enriches one's personal life as a result of contacts and friendships abroad. To speak a modern language, therefore, provides skills for the **whole of life** and not just the work place.

What will you study?

Typical content which students will explore for the purposes of practical communication covers the areas of Culture and the Arts, the Media and a variety of Social, Environmental and Contemporary issues, as well as general human interest news items. These topics will be pertinent to any country where the studied language is spoken. You will also study either literary texts or films during the two years.

Oral work is considered a very important aspect of the course and so all students will have regular time with the Foreign Language Assistant. All students are strongly encouraged to make the best possible use of this valuable contact.

It cannot be emphasised enough how important it is that individual students appreciate the value of independent listening and reading practice to complement and enhance their studies. Therefore, students are to complete an independent study log throughout the year.

Trips

You will be offered to take part in a trip, i.e. work experience, exchange or cultural visits, depending on your chosen language.

Assessment

There are **three** units of assessment, tested through a variety of mixed skills papers.

These units, at the end of Year 13, will address the four major skills of **Listening, Speaking, Reading and Writing**. Therefore, students will have regular opportunities to develop confidence and competence in these skills, through a variety of sources, materials and teaching strategies.

Paper 1: Listening, reading and writing.
Assessment consists of a two and a half hour exam, which is 50% of A Level.

Paper 2: Writing.
Assessment consists of a two hour exam, which is 20% of A Level.

Paper 3: Speaking
Assessment consists of an oral exam lasting 21 -23 minutes (including five minute preparation time). This counts towards 30% of A Level.

Possible career path?

There are a very wide range of opportunities. These might typically include:

- Working overseas, e.g. for European Commission
- Bilingual Secretary
- Translating / Interpreting
- Journalism / Media
- Sales / Marketing and distribution
- Specialist careers in the Civil Service
- Secretarial Linguist
- Travel and Tourism – Hotel Catering
- Teaching / Lecturing
- Law, Insurance and Accountancy in the EEC

These certainly aren't the only ones - as mentioned earlier, opportunities in almost all types of work can be **enhanced** if you can communicate in a suitable foreign language.

Entry requirements

Five GCSEs Grade 9-5, including English and Mathematics **and** a Grade 6 in the chosen Language.