



AS 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. Speaking another language also opens up a world of possibilities that include working abroad, travelling, and enriching your personal life.

Speaking another language sets you apart and provides you with a skill set that you can carry with you for the rest of your life. The AS French/Spanish specification builds on the knowledge, understanding and skills gained at GCSE and it constitutes an integrated study with a focus on language, culture and society. It fosters a range of transferable skills, including communication, critical thinking and creativity, which are valuable to the individual and to society. The content has been designed to be of relevance to students of all disciplines, whether they want to progress to A Level or not.

What will you study?

Over the one year AS course, students will develop their understanding of themes relating to the society and culture of the country or countries where the language is spoken. Typical content covers areas of the Arts, the Media and a range of social, environmental and contemporary issues relating to any country where the language of study is spoken.

Students will also develop their language skills and build on their knowledge from GCSE; they will do this by using authentic spoken and written sources.

Students must also study one book or film from the lists in this specification. They must know and understand and be able to respond critically in writing in French/Spanish to the work they have studied.

Speaking skills are considered to be an extremely important aspect of the course and as such, students will have regular opportunities to spend time with the Foreign Language Assistant. All students are strongly encouraged to make the best use possible out of this valuable contact.

Assessment

There are **three** units of assessment at the end of Year 12 and these focus on the four skills of **listening, speaking, reading and writing**.

Paper 1: Listening, reading and writing.
Assessment consists of a 1 hour 45-minute exam, which is 45% of AS Level.

Paper 2: Writing.
Assessment consists of a 90-minute exam, which is 25% of AS Level.

Paper 3: Speaking
Assessment consists of an oral exam lasting 12-14 minutes which is 30% of the AS Level.

Possible career path?

There are a range of career paths within languages, however doing an AS in a Modern Foreign Language is about enhancing your own skill set and giving you something to set you apart from others. Speaking another language can enhance your performance in almost any area of work in terms of communication, problem solving and cultural awareness.

Entry requirements

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