

Modern Foreign Languages

French / German / Spanish A Level

What qualifications do I need to begin the course?

Five GCSEs at 9 – 4. In addition, you will need at least a grade 6 in GCSE French / German / Spanish in order to continue with an A-level in your chosen language.

What does the course involve?

Studying a language not only gives you the ability to write and converse in a foreign tongue, you also learn about the structure of language, syntax and grammar and how these interact with your own natural language. This translates to a greater understanding of English, which can be beneficial for writing, reading and interpreting our written language. You also benefit from learning about different cultural aspects and you will have the opportunity to express your opinions on a variety of topics and discuss issues in depth.

A Level Topics are:

Social Issues and Trends:

- Changes in the family
- Cyber Society
- Charity
- Politics and Culture
- Artistic Culture
- Music and Cinema
- Study of a film and a novel/play

How is the course assessed?

AL – unit 1: Listening, reading and translation

1 hour 50 minutes

AL – unit 2: Written response to a film or a book plus a further translation.

2 hours 40 minutes

AL – unit 3: Speaking exam

21-23 minutes

(discussion on a chosen theme, plus further discussions and a presentation)

The Future?

There are a number of extremely interesting courses in Higher Education that include studying a language. Many learners combine the study of a language with other subjects such as History, Law, Economics, Politics and Maths, which will enable you to live abroad for a year.

Having a foreign language skill is a distinct advantage in many careers. Here are some quotes from employers:

'Employees with language skills are definitely more marketable and have a greater worth in the labour market.'

Bob Shankly, HR director, BMW.

'The fact is businesses are looking for employees with language skills. As globalisation accelerates, the ability to communicate internationally is becoming a pre-requisite for success.'

Miles Templeman, Director General, Institute of Directors.

'Multi-lingualism is an indicator of general mental ability and an internationalist outlook.'

Chief Learning Manager, Deutsche Bank

Did you know that:

- 75% of the world's population don't speak any English at all.
- Only 6% of the world's population speak English as a first language.
- One in five exporting companies say they are losing trade because of language and cultural barriers.
- 72% of UK trade is with countries that do not have English as their first language.

Exam Board: AQA

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