



GCSE French and/or Spanish

Exam board

AQA GCSE French 8652, Spanish 8692

Why study French and/or Spanish?

Spanish is the official language in 20 different countries in the world and has nearly 500 million native speakers. It is the third most used language online.

French is spoken by over 200 million people on five continents and is the official language in 32 countries.

Lots of university courses require at least one modern foreign language at GCSE. Through learning French or Spanish, you will acquire invaluable transferrable skills that will make you stand out as a candidate (communication, interpersonal, problem solving, logical and analytical). You will also discover the francophone or Hispanic culture and explore its lifestyle.

In the GCSE course, you will not only develop your target language knowledge; you will also learn about these countries' traditions, culture and lifestyle. Learning a modern language is investing in your communication skills and these are vital in any kind of professional role in an increasingly global market.

Requirements

The GCSE course builds on the grammar and vocabulary acquired in Key stage 3. Whereas it is not completely impossible to start the course from scratch, we would advise any complete beginners to discuss their plans with the Head of Languages to ensure their needs can be catered for.

Content

The course content is structured around three main themes. These are identical for French and Spanish.

- People and lifestyle
- Popular culture
- Communication and the world around us.

Assessment

All of the course content is externally assessed and each of the four skills (Listening, Reading, Writing and Speaking) contribute to 25% of the final grade.

Paper 1: Listening and understanding in French/Spanish

Written examination.

Foundation tier: 35 minutes including 5 minutes reading time; 40 marks

Higher tier: 45 minutes including 5 minutes reading time; 50 marks

Paper 2: Speaking in French/Spanish

Internally conducted and externally assessed

Foundation tier: 7-9 minutes plus 15 minutes preparation time; 50 marks

Higher tier: 10-12 minutes plus 15 minutes preparation time; 50 marks

Paper 3: Reading and understanding in French/Spanish

Written examination

Foundation tier: 45 minutes; 50 marks.

Higher tier: 1 hour; 50 marks

Paper 4: Writing in French/Spanish

Written examination

Foundation tier: 1 hour 10 minutes; 50 marks

Higher tier: 1 hour 15 minutes; 50 marks

