

A Level courses in **languages** provide a suitable foundation for further study and/or practical use of the language.

In addition, A Level courses in languages should provide a sufficient basis for the further study of languages at degree level or equivalent.

French/Spanish note: The information provided is generic to both languages as the same syllabus is followed in each language.

A Level courses in languages should encourage candidates to:

- Develop understanding of the spoken and written forms of French/Spanish from a variety of registers.
- Communicate confidently, clearly and effectively in French/Spanish through both the spoken and written word, using increasingly accurate, precise, complex and varied language.
- Increase their sensitivity to language and language learning.
- Develop critical insights into, and contact with, the contemporary society, cultural background and heritage of countries or communities where French/Spanish is spoken.
- Develop positive attitudes to language learning.

A Level courses in languages also provide a suitable foundation for further study and/or practical use of the language.

Regardless of whether students would like to progress to further study in their chosen language, studying this A Level should provide a coherent, satisfying and worthwhile course of study. For those unsure of what they want to do at university or for a career, an A Level in French or Spanish provides opportunities to develop an extensive range of transferable skills.

Students will learn to write summaries with tight precision, master complex language, write essays, conduct independent research, use evidence to support an argument, give spoken presentations and debate issues. In addition, they will have the opportunity to analyse literature and film.

A Level courses in languages should provide a sufficient basis for the further study of languages at degree level or equivalent.

Materials:

Textbooks and an online resource will be used as the main basis to the course. In the case of studying a film, it would be beneficial for students to have their own copy of the film. When studying a literary text, students will need to purchase their own copy which they can annotate.

Language Assistants:

Students will have access to native French or Spanish speakers to provide additional support for their speaking and listening skills and to provide a unique insight into cultural issues. These sessions will be in addition to timetabled lessons. Previous A Level students have found this support invaluable.

French and Spanish – Core Content:

- 1: Social issues and trends
- 2: Political and artistic culture
- 3: Grammar

Options:

- 4: Works: Literary texts and films

Examinations:

Dictionaries are not permitted in any part of the examination.

Paper 1: Listening, reading and writing, including comprehension tasks, two translations, summaries of written and spoken material. Students have control of the listening material.

Paper 2: Writing about one text and one film OR two texts.

Paper 3: Speaking – the exam is made up of two parts.

Part 1 is a 5-6-minute discussion of 1 sub-theme using a stimulus card which is prepared in the 5 minutes before the exam.

Part 2 is a 2-minute presentation by the candidate followed by a 9-10 minute discussion of a research-based project carried out by the candidate.

Exam – 16-18 minutes + 5 minutes preparation time.

The speaking exam, where possible, will be conducted by a visiting examiner from AQA either at school or off-site. This involves an increased examination fee. When this is not possible, the exam will be conducted by one of the A Level teachers.

Chinese - Core Content:

Theme 1: Changes in contemporary Chinese society

Theme 2: Chinese Culture

Theme 3: The evolving Chinese society

Theme 4: The impact of the 1978 reform on opening up the Chinese ring

Options:

Works: Literary texts and films

Examinations:

Dictionaries are not permitted in any part of the examination.

Paper 1: Listening, reading and writing, including comprehension tasks of spoken and written materials, and one translation task from Chinese into English. Students have control of the listening material.

Paper 2: Written response to works and translation. Essays about one text and one film OR two texts, and a translation from English into Chinese.

Paper 3: Speaking – The exam includes two tasks.

Task 1: discussion on a Theme prompted by a stimulus card.

Task 2: presentation and discussion on an individual research project.

Entry Requirements:

- Grades 7 - 9 at GCSE are desirable, but candidates who achieve other grades will be considered on an individual basis.
- A genuine interest in and liking for language and the cultures in which that language is spoken.
- A number of universities offer languages such as Arabic, Chinese and Japanese ab initio and an A Level in a modern language is often a prerequisite for gaining a place on such courses.

Universities and Careers:

Chinese can be studied at University in a variety of ways:

- to degree level as a discreet subject or in combination with another language or, indeed, a variety of other subjects as a joint honours degree: courses range from literature-based degrees to translation and interpreting;
- in conjunction with business studies;
- as a stand-alone module to complement a wide range of disciplines in both the sciences and arts.

For any of our students who have European citizenship wishing to spend a year abroad as part of the exchange programme, a working knowledge of a language is essential. Careers related to the study of languages comprise: teaching, travel and tourism, journalism, translation and interpreting, to name but a few.

With increases in tuition fees, some students are also considering applying to universities overseas where the tuition fees tend to be lower.

There is no question that a working knowledge of at least one modern language is the key to a successful career in industry and the corporate world. Given the number of foreign nationals now working in Great Britain, competition to secure a career with corporate leaders has never been keener.



Take the first step towards your child's post-16 journey: **scan the QR code** to request a prospectus or arrange a visit.