

Modern Foreign Language - French/Spanish/Urdu GCSE

AQA exam board

Description

A GCSE language helps students develop language skills in a variety of contexts and a broad understanding of the culture of countries and communities where it is spoken. It encourages enjoyment of language learning and the recognition that language skills enable students to take their place in a multi-lingual global society.

This four-unit specification requires students to develop their ability to write and speak in the chosen language and to understand when it is written or spoken. This qualification is linear. Linear means that students will sit all their exams at the end of the course. It is particularly suitable for students who enjoy their language lessons, are hardworking and have the self-discipline to work independently and consistently.

This qualification counts towards the English Baccalaureate. Languages skills will be an asset for students whatever the future holds. Learning a foreign language is in itself, an enjoyable and rewarding experience, opening doors to all kinds of jobs and better prospects in an increasingly global world and socially in terms of leisure, travel and free-time. Language learning is a lifelong skill and one which develops confidence, independence and an increased understanding of both cultures and our own.

Content

Students study all of the following themes on which the assessments are based.

[Theme 1: Identity and culture](#)

[Theme 2: Local, national, international and global areas of interest](#)

[Theme 3: Current and future study and employment](#)

Assessment

Listening: 25% Written exam: 35 minutes (Foundation Tier), 45 minutes (Higher Tier)

Reading: 25% Written exam: 45 minutes (Foundation Tier), 1 hour (Higher Tier)

Speaking: 25% 7–9 minutes (Foundation Tier) + preparation time 10–12 minutes (Higher Tier) + preparation time

Writing: 25% Written exam: 1 hour (Foundation Tier), 1 hour 15 minutes (Higher Tier)

Progression

A good grade at GCSE will enable students to continue their study of languages at A Level and beyond. Some universities prefer students to have a language GCSE for degrees in a wide variety of subjects.

Learning another language can enhance your employment and mobility prospects. Employers are always asking for candidates with language skills and qualifications will place you in a strong position for interesting employment with plenty of career opportunities. Examples of employment where language skills are particularly valued include journalism and media, law, engineering, business and marketing, ICT, sport and leisure, travel and tourism, medicine, customer service, Civil Service (immigration, customs, diplomatic service) and teaching (UK and abroad).

"I have always enjoyed learning languages and think that doing a language module at university will give me the advantage over other applicants for jobs later on."