

"If you speak to a man in his language, it goes to his heart" – Nelson Mandela.



MODERN LANGUAGES: FRENCH & GERMAN

A-LEVEL

Examination Board: AQA

Course content:

This course builds upon the four skills acquired at GCSE and fosters a deeper understanding of the culture and language through more contemporary topics which encourage discussion and debate. **In the first year**, students study social and technological change alongside highlights of artistic culture such as festivals, music, art and cinema, plus a film or literary text.

In the second year students explore the influence of the past on present-day communities and study a variety of contemporary issues such as immigration and the changing landscape of Europe. Students will have the opportunity to carry out independent research on an area of their choice in preparation for their A2 oral exam.

Assessment:

The course is examined at the end of the two years study through three exam papers that cover all aspects of the course.

| Paper | What's assessed | Length | Marks | A2 |
|-----------------------------------|---|--------------------|-----------|-----|
| 1: Listening, reading and writing | Aspects of society, artistic culture and political life in the country being studied. A short Translation from English to the target language and from the target language into English | 2 hours 30 minutes | 100 marks | 50% |
| 2: Writing | One essay based on a film and one on a literary text from the country being studied | 2 hours | 80 marks | 20% |
| 3: Speaking | Conversation based on a stimulus card and discussion of an individual research project of choice. | 21-23 minutes | 60 marks | 30% |

Skills acquired:

Speaking a language enhances confidence and social skills. Studying a language gives a deeper knowledge and understanding of the culture and civilisation of another country and the ability to question your own ideas and the ideas of others from a broader perspective.

Possible careers and links with other subjects:

Fluency in a language and development of cultural understanding are skills in demand which can be allied to many careers which require a global perspective. Languages combine well with many other subjects such as: Business; ICT; Law, Accountancy, Engineering, Science, Journalism & Tourism.

Prior experience:

It is preferred to have at least a Level 6 at GCSE, although a Level 5 will be considered, and a keen interest in developing your understanding of French or German culture.

Student comments:

"Smaller groups means lots more opportunity to speak and develop my confidence".

"It's great having enough language to really discuss interesting topics".

"I really enjoy the French, German and Spanish films and TV coverage – it makes you see things from a different perspective".

"It's challenging but rewarding".

"The French Exchange and Berlin trip brought the learning experience to life".