

Modern Foreign Languages

A LEVEL - AQA

What are the aims of the course?

Students will be encouraged to:

- Enhance their linguistic skills and promote and develop a capacity for critical thinking on the basis of their knowledge and understanding of the language, culture and society of the country or countries where the language is spoken
- Develop control of the language system to convey meaning, using spoken and written skills
- Develop their ability to interact effectively with users of the language in speech and in writing, including online media
- Develop knowledge about matters central to the society and culture, past and present, of the country or countries where the language is spoken
- Foster their ability to learn other languages
- Develop as independent researchers through the language of study

What does it involve?

To focus on how French/German society has been shaped, socially and culturally, and how it continues to change. In the first year, aspects of the social context are studied, together with aspects of the artistic life of countries where the language is spoken. In the second year, further aspects of the social background are covered, this time focusing on issues, such as life for those on the margins of society, as well as looking at the positive influences that diversity brings. Students also study aspects of the political landscape, looking at immigration from the political perspective and at the way in which political power is expressed.

Students will develop their knowledge and understanding of themes relating to the culture and society of countries where the language is spoken, and their language skills. They will do this by using authentic spoken and written sources in French/German.

How is it assessed?

The students will sit all examinations at the end of the course.

Paper 1:

Listening, reading and writing
2 hours 30 minutes
50% of A Level

Paper 2:

Writing
2 hours
20% of A Level

Paper 3:

Speaking
21-23 minutes
30% of A Level

Are there any specific entry requirements?

Students should have the skills and knowledge associated with a GCSE language course.

Why is it a useful qualification?

It will open doors for you – the ability to speak a second language is an acknowledged and proven competitive advantage in the work place.

It will open your mind – understanding other cultures and changing your view on the world, teaching you to be flexible and mobile.

It will open your heart and encourage you to meet new people, make friends and possibly change your life!

In the words of Nelson Mandela:

“If you speak to a man in a language he understands, that goes to his head. If you speak to him in his own language, that goes to his heart.”

