



MFL

French

A. Course detail/overview of content:

Through studying a GCSE in a modern foreign language, students should develop their ability and ambition to communicate with native speakers in speech and writing. The study of a modern foreign language at GCSE should also broaden students' horizons and encourage them to step beyond familiar cultural boundaries and develop new ways of seeing the world.

GCSE specifications in a modern foreign language should enable students to:

- develop their ability to communicate confidently and coherently with native speakers in speech and writing, conveying what they want to say with increasing accuracy
- express and develop thoughts and ideas spontaneously and fluently
- listen to and understand clearly articulated, standard speech at near normal speed
- deepen their knowledge about how language works and enrich their vocabulary in order for them to increase their independent use and understanding of extended language in a wide range of contexts
- acquire new knowledge, skills and ways of thinking through the ability to understand and respond to a rich range of authentic spoken and written material, adapted and abridged, as appropriate, including literary texts
- develop awareness and understanding of the culture and identity of the countries and communities where the language is spoken
- be encouraged to make appropriate links to other areas of the curriculum to enable bilingual and deeper learning, where the language may become a medium for constructing and applying knowledge
- develop language learning skills both for immediate use and to prepare them for further language study and use in school, higher education or in employment
- develop language strategies, including repair strategies

B. Nature of assessment: EDEXCEL

These are the topic areas that we will study during the GCSE Course:

- Identity and culture
- Local area, holidays and travel
- School
- Future aspirations, study and work
- International and global dimension

The GCSE assessment will consist of four papers which are all assessed externally:

Paper 1: Listening and Understanding (25% of the total GCSE marks) 45 minutes (plus 5 minutes of reading time)

Paper 2: Speaking (25% of the total GCSE marks) 10 - 12 minutes (plus 12 minutes of preparation time)

Task 1: Role play

Task 2: Questions based on a picture stimulus

Task 3: General conversation based on two themes

Paper 3: Reading and Understanding (25% of the total GCSE marks) 60 minutes

Includes short translation from French into English

Paper 4: Writing (25% of the total GCSE marks) 80 minutes

Question 1 - 80/90 words (from choice of two questions)

Question 2 - 130/150 words (from choice of two questions)

Question 3 - translation from English into French

C. Careers this can lead to:

Languages are great for a wide variety of careers especially those involving translation or communication with people from non-English speaking countries. This can include careers in tourism, government, politics, media, publishing, human resources and journalism.

D. Questions to ask yourself?

Can I find a job with a foreign language?

You will be competing for jobs in a global market – but don't assume that by speaking English you will have an advantage. Think of your competitors for the best jobs as non-native fluent English speakers who also have a native language.

I am not very good in talking in front of others. Can it help me to improve my communication skills?

Studying a language means getting to grips with speaking and writing. You will need to be accurate, creative and clear. Learning how to get things right trains the brain, and improves our face-to-face interactions.

I am living in Essex and I don't know any French people. Why are we learning French?

Learning a language opens our minds – we meet new people and gain new experiences, learning about others and ourselves. It is an exercise in global citizenship, allowing us to see that we have more things in common than differences.

Everyone speaks English. Why should we bother to study a language other than our own?

This is a question only native English-speakers can afford to ask as we speak a language which serves as a global second language – almost everyone learns English in schools all over the world. However, it is actually very common for people to speak more than one language but most native-English speakers don't! This puts us at a disadvantage, so it comes down to our education to fill this gap. Training as a linguist helps to make us fully human, but there are also many practical uses for learning another language.

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