



Why study languages?

Languages are really important in the world we live in and give you great skills for the rest of your life. The internet has brought everyone much closer together, so chatting, blogging and networking with people of different languages from all over the world is easy. Imagine all the other people you could communicate with and all the amazing places you could travel to or work at and all because you can speak their language. So, log onto the world's real social network and learn languages at GCSE!

www.whystudylanguages.ac.uk

Students can choose to study French (AQA), Spanish (AQA) or Urdu (Edexcel) depending on what language they have studied at KS3. Each language is designed to develop on the skills covered in Key Stage 3.

Year 10 and Year 11

All language courses involve using the four language skills (listening, speaking, reading and writing) and cover three main themes:

- 1) Identity and Culture
- 2) Local, National, international and global areas of interest
- 3) Current and future study and employment

You don't just learn how to speak the language, you also learn about the culture and lifestyle of foreign countries.

Examinations

Paper 1: Listening

Foundation – 35 minutes / 40 marks
Higher – 45 minutes / 50 marks

25% GCSE

Paper 3: Reading

Foundation – 45 mins / 60 marks
Higher – 60 mins / 60 marks

25% GCSE

Paper 2: Speaking

Foundation – 7 - 9 mins / 60 marks
Higher – 10 -12 mins / 60 marks

25% GCSE

Paper 4: Writing

Foundation – 1 hour / 60 marks
Higher – 1 hour 15 / 60 marks

25% GCSE



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Revision guides

- Students have the opportunity to purchase revision guides through the school shop at a reduced price. These provide a concise and comprehensive overview of the curriculum and offer advice and practice relating to exam-style questions.



How to be a successful language learner

- Learn vocabulary: keep a vocabulary book, start making vocabulary flashcards or practise online. It doesn't matter which method you decide to use, just start doing it now! It is impossible to cram for a language exam. Aim to do 10 minutes of vocabulary 2 or 3 times a week to ensure you are confident when the exam period arrives.
- Grammar: learn your verb endings. Test yourself weekly. Again, you could make flashcards or go online to practise. Grammar is key to be able to communicate in the writing and speaking exams.
- Make revision notes: when you finish a unit make a mind map of language/phrases you could use in your writing and speaking exams.
- Be organised: keep your books tidy and any handouts organised into a folder. This will make your life much easier when it comes to revision time.
- Use your language: Read newspapers/magazines online. Listen to music. Watch films. Speak. You can only get better at a language by practising it!

Useful websites / apps

- www.quizlet.com - vocabulary
- www.lyricstraining.com - listening skills
- www.bbbc.co.uk/languages - courses and phrases, audio and video, vocabulary, pronunciation, grammar, activities and tests
- <https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/languages/gcse> - past papers for AQA languages
- <https://qualifications.pearson.com/en/qualifications/edexcel-gcses> - past papers for Edexcel languages
- Each language will have additional useful websites specific to the language.

Please do not hesitate to contact the Curriculum Area Leader of this subject should you wish to discuss the course.