



MODERN FOREIGN LANGUAGES A-LEVEL

Click **here** to watch an introduction to A-Level Modern Foreign Languages from our Head of Languages

Exam Board - AQA

What can I expect from this subject?

Why study modern foreign languages? Well, the answer is simple, because you will grow in independence, in resilience and tolerance. You may catch the travel bug or decide at a later stage in your life to work abroad for a while. With one or even two modern foreign languages in your personal bag, you will find yourself well prepared for any form of short or long-term adventure.

The current French and Spanish A-Levels offer a vast specification based on the study of either French or Spanish speaking countries. Your vocabulary will widen considerably, you will become almost fluent and will understand and communicate effectively with native speakers: by the end of the course you will not need a translator! The topics are relevant to today's societies and will give you insights into their social and artistic world as well as into the problems they face currently in politics, the environment, or the economy. You will learn about their leaders, their role-models, their heroes, their history and famous literary figures.

On a more mundane level, your four traditional skills, listening, speaking, reading and writing will be tested, but this time they will be integrated. There are three papers in which you will have to showcase your higher-level analytical and translation skills.

What can I do to prepare for this course?

- Immerse yourself in your chosen language in the summer holidays prior to starting the course.
- Read your set texts over the summer holidays.
- Go on a grammar course in your chosen foreign country and practise.
- When abroad, don't be shy. Get involved and ask how to say things, insist on speaking the native language.
- Go to the cinema, or access Netflix and watch foreign films in the original language

What will my next steps be?

You will find that one or two modern foreign languages form a very good base for almost every university course. Modern languages A-Level courses are very much valued because of the high-level analytical skills required. Pure language courses are, of course, available and you can become a specialist who will cascade your knowledge and passion to the next generations, but you could also be tempted by combined courses with business studies, economics, law or journalism. So, you could look forward to careers in law, medicine, teaching, cinema and theatre. Careers such as reporters, foreign/war correspondents and politicians may hold some appeal for you too.