

Modern Languages – French, Spanish

Entry Requirements

If you have obtained a good grade - **at least a grade B at GCSE Level French or Spanish**, it is likely that you will enjoy the AS/A2 Level course in that Language. Whether you intend to continue to study Languages as a full A Level leading to a University option, or to follow a very different set of disciplines with an AS Level in a Language indicating a broader programme of study, an AS or an A Level in a Modern Foreign Language will be viewed as a very clear and practical asset to your CV. Skills acquired at GCSE Level will be developed so that study of the Language of your choice at AS/A2 Level will be not only a useful qualification as far as employers are concerned but a practical addition to your skill portfolio.

Nature and content of the course

In Modern Languages we will be following the new CCEA specification, first teaching from September 2016.

Throughout this A Level course, students develop knowledge and understanding by studying themes relating to the society and culture, past and present, of France or Spain and, indeed, other countries and communities where the Languages are spoken. The course has six units in total: three at AS Level; three at A2 level. GCE French and Spanish give students the opportunity to explore two broad areas of interest: social trends and issues; and either political culture, intellectual culture or artistic culture.

For those who do not continue to A2, the AS level is a recognised qualification in its own right. However, to gain the full GCE, students need to complete both the AS and the A2 courses.

The specification presents students with five broad contexts for learning:

Broad Contexts for Learning	
AS	A2
Relationships	Young people in Society
Culture and Lifestyle	Our Place in a Changing World

Students also have the opportunity to study a set film (currently the film 'Solas' for Spanish AS level) or a literary text at AS Level; a set literary text at A2 and either a cultural aspect, a historical period or a region.

As the European Union continues to develop, a working knowledge of a language would give any job seeker in an EU country a distinct advantage. Furthermore, as the UK increases its level of integration into the EU, those without a qualification in a second Language will be at a disadvantage when compared to their European counterparts.

Learning a Language also gives students opportunities to develop confidence, independence, communication and presentation techniques and IT competence, as well as skills in research, evaluation and analysis that universities and employers value highly.

Scheme of Assessment

- AS 1:** **Speaking – Presentation and Conversation**, 11 minutes
30% of AS, 12% of A level
- AS 2:** **Listening, Reading and Use of Language**, 2hrs
40% of AS, 16% of A Level.
- AS 3:** **Extended Writing**, 1hr
30% of AS, 12% of A2
- AS:** **40% of A Level**
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- A2 1:** **Speaking - Discussion and conversation**, 15 minutes
18% of A Level
- A2 2:** **Listening and Reading**, 2hrs
24% of A Level
- A2 3:** **Extended Writing**, 1 hour
18% of A Level
- A2:** **60% of A Level**

Pupils studying languages at Foyle College have the advantage of regular conversation classes with a native speaker as we employ a Language Assistant for both Languages. There is also the opportunity to travel to Spain and practice your Language skills as part of the Senior Spanish trip; there are opportunities to participate in a French Exchange too.

Any pupil who intends to study Languages will need a suitable dictionary - a small one will not suffice at this stage. This reference book should be considered an essential tool in your Language studies. A personal CD player/mp3 player will also be necessary for the Listening part of the examination.