

Modern Foreign Languages

Examination Board: AQA

STAFF CONTACT:

Ms A Booker

Graded: From 9 - 1

This GCSE course builds on the cultural knowledge, vocabulary, grammatical structures and concepts that students have already encountered earlier in their MFL learning experience, and is centred on the following 3 broad themes:

Identity and Culture

Local, National, International and Global areas of Interest, Current and Future Study and Employment.

Students considering a career in a field such as Journalism, Leisure and Tourism, Retail, Marketing, Commerce, The Armed Forces, Engineering or Business Administration would make suitable GCSE MFL candidates.

The course enables students to gain a wider appreciation of the culture and identity of the countries where the Foreign Language is spoken. It also empowers students to express their thoughts spontaneously and fluently, and to become more independent learners.

Students who study a modern foreign language also enjoy enhanced career opportunities, with a command of a major European language highly valued by employers in a competitive global market, and increasingly favoured by universities.

EXAMINATION

All four MFL language skills are assessed, and each is worth 25% of the total marks available, whether at Foundation Tier (grades 1-5) or at Higher Tier (grades 4-9). No mixed-tier entries are permitted.

The listening exam requires candidates to discriminate between important and irrelevant information by answering questions in English and in French. At Foundation Tier it lasts 35 minutes and at Higher Tier it lasts 45 minutes.

The speaking exam has 3 elements; a role play situation; a photo card task designed to elicit 5 answers to questions based on a visual stimulus; and a general conversation during which candidates speak spontaneously and initiate and develop extended discussions.

The reading exam has 3 sections - in Section A candidates respond to written texts in English; in Section B candidates respond to comprehension questions in French, and in Section C candidates translate short text from French into English. This exam lasts 45 or 60 minutes respectively.

The Foundation Tier writing exam has 4 tasks - a short photo-based task, a brief passage (up to 40 words) based on bullet points, a short translation from English into the Foreign Language, and a structured written task of around 90 words. The Higher Tier exam has 3 tasks - a structured written task of around 90 words, an open-ended written task of around 150 words, and translation of a longer text from English into French.



