

SUBJECT: French / Spanish

YEAR: 12 & 13

HEAD OF DEPARTMENT: Mrs V Wytchard

GROUPING POLICY: Students must have at least a grade B at GCSE in the relevant language.

COURSE CONTENT

What will my child learn?

We follow the AQA exam board and use the AQA course book.

Book 1 leads to AS level and the following topics are covered:

- Media (Television, Publicity and Communication Technology)
- Culture (Cinema and film, Music and Fashion)
- Healthy Living (sport and exercise, health and well-being and holidays)
- Family and Relationships (family relationships, friendships and marriage)

Book 2 leads to the A2 exam. The exam board sets the following topics:

- The environment (Pollution, energy and protecting the planet)
- Multi-cultural society (Immigration, Integration and Racism)
- Social Issues (wealth and poverty, law and order and scientific and technological progress.
- Plus, a choice of 2 cultural topics (a film, book, period of history, an author, a region etc)

What will homework look like?

Students should expect to do at least one hour's homework after each lesson. This will take the form of comprehension exercises both listening and reading, exercises to practise writing, grammar exercises or preparing for a speaking task.

In addition students are expected to "read around the subject" by, for example, reading foreign newspaper articles (on the internet), watching films in the language, following a famous Spanish/French person on twitter or doing extra grammar practice.

Students are expected to learn vocabulary every week and to review each lesson at home to ensure retention of new work

What enrichment opportunities are available?

A stay in France/Spain is highly recommended. In the past students have spent a week doing work experience abroad and have found it very beneficial. Details will be provided for students who wish to pursue this.

ASSESSMENT

How will my child's work be assessed?

There will be regular informal assessment throughout the course and a formal Mock exam in January of Year 12 and 13.

Students are assessed through a four-unit structure. There are two assessed units at AS level and two at A2.

The AS GCE is made up of two mandatory units, which are externally assessed and form 50% of the corresponding four-unit Advanced GCE.

Unit 1 is a listening, reading and writing paper. All sections will be based on the topics covered over the course of the year. It is a 2 hour exam. It makes up 70% of the AS and 35% of the A2.

Unit 2 is a speaking exam. It is made up of a 5 minute role-play card (with 20 minute preparation time) and a 10 minute general conversation, based on the topics covered over the course of the year. It is 30% of the AS exam and 15% of the A2.

The Advanced GCE is made up of the two mandatory units at AS and two further mandatory units at A2. These A2 units are also externally assessed.

Unit 3 is a listening, reading and writing exam. It is worth 35% of the A level.

Unit 4 is a speaking exam. It is worth 15% of the A level. It includes a general conversation about the cultural topics they chose to study.

The speaking assessments are conducted by the class teacher, recorded and sent to the examination board

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

How can I support my child in this subject?

- AS/A2 students should have a good bilingual dictionary which will help them to develop their vocabulary.
- Encourage an interest in current issues which will enable students to develop their opinions.
- Encourage them to listen to the foreign language radio/ watch programmes on the Internet. This will allow them to practise their listening skills, develop confidence in pronunciation as well as an understanding of the culture.
- When watching films try to watch them in the foreign language with English subtitles or vice-versa.
- Encourage your child to complete a work experience placement in France/Spain which would provide a unique opportunity to practise and improve their language skills

How can I support my child with exams?

The ideas mentioned above will enable your child to approach the exams with confidence.