Year 8 Options 2020

GCSE Modern Foreign Languages
French, German or Spanish

Examination Board: AQA

What is a GCSE in French, German or Spanish all about?

There has never been a more important time to consider choosing a Modern Foreign Language as a GCSE option. You may be forgiven for thinking that learning a language is just about speaking some French, German or Spanish. However, this is a common misconception, as learning a language at GCSE equips you with so much more. What? I hear you ask! Well, transferable skills, such as developing a variety of communication strategies (listening, speaking, reading and writing skills), confidence building, expressing yourself through a variety of media, the ability to argue an opinion or point of view, as well as developing an understanding of rules and patterns, which at the same time enhances the understanding of your own language. All of these attributes are what employers and sixth forms/universities are actively seeking.
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Course Structure:

This exciting and engaging syllabus studies a variety of contemporary topics (outlined below). All of the themes covered are relevant to you and your life and are taught through various technologies and formats, such as video clips, electronic recordings as well as group work and pair work, which will develop skills for life alongside the command of the language.

The context for learning the language is organised under **three broad themes:**

1. Identity and culture
2. Local, national, international and global areas of interest
3. Current and future study and employment

During the GCSE course there will also be the opportunity to visit the countries where the language is spoken, in order to experience first -hand how rewarding speaking and communicating in a Modern Foreign Language is.

How will I be assessed?

At the end of the two year course you will be assessed in all four skills; Speaking, Listening, Reading and Writing. Each skill counts for 25% of your final mark.
Speaking-In this examination you will be required to do a roleplay, discuss a photo- card and also engage in a conversation with your teacher.
Listening & Reading. These components require learners to respond to a range of questions in English and also in the foreign language. Question types will include multiple choice with non-verbal and written responses; gap-fill one word answers and selecting correct/false statements.
Writing-For this examination you will need to produce a short text, an extended piece of writing such as an email, letter or promotional material and a translation exercise.

What could I do next with a GCSE in French, German or Spanish?

The sky is the limit with a GCSE in French. German or Spanish. It can lead to a career in Business, Law, Economics, Science, the list truly is endless. Employers and Sixth forms are impressed with a GCSE in a language, as it is something that makes a candidate stand out. There is also the possibility to continue with French and German at A-Level in our Sixth Form, to develop your passion for language learning even further at Key Stage 5.

Speak to any of the staff in the MFL Department should you have any further questions.