



AS/A2 Modern Foreign Languages Course Outline – French, Spanish & German

Overview

The aim of the course is to develop and enhance the student's ability to communicate effectively, read and understand texts, write extended essays in the foreign language and develop listening comprehension. The study of a modern language entails acquiring a language system and applying it in four active and interrelated ways: through listening, speaking, reading and writing.

The course will be based on life in the present day. Visits and school exchanges to France and Spain will be organised to open the students' mind to the fascinating aspects of the language, life and history of the country whose language they are studying. A significant amount of independent personal study will be required and language students will be able to work with a foreign language assistant.

Course Structure & Content

AS:

At AS level students will learn about current topics such as:

- Youth Culture and Concerns,
- Lifestyle: Health and Fitness,
- The World Around You,
- Education and Employment.

At AS level students will be examined on:

Unit 1: Spoken expression and response (30%) 8-10 minutes

Section A: students choose a topic area and talk about a stimulus related to it

Section B: students will discuss other related topics

Unit 2: Understanding and written response (70%) 2.5 hours

Section A: Students answer questions on a range of French/Spanish recordings

Section B: Students answer questions on a range of French/Spanish texts

Section C: Students write 200-220 words in French/Spanish on a short printed French/Spanish language stimulus.

A2:

At A2 level three additional topics are being studied:

- Customs, traditions, beliefs and religion,
- National and international events,
- Literature and the arts.

At A2 level students will be examined on:

Unit 3: Spoken expression and response (35%) 11-13 minutes

Section A: Students choose a topic area and talk about a stimulus related to it

Section B: Students discuss other related topics

Unit 4: Research, Understanding and written response (65%).2.5 hours
Section A: translation from English to French/ Spanish
Section B: A French/Spanish-language essay (approximately 250 words)
Section C: A research-based essay (240-270 words)

Assessment

Assessment Objectives for AS & A2 are the same. The complexity builds throughout the course particularly with reference to syntax and grammar.
Texts and essays are based upon themes studied in the course.

Assessment Objectives (Edexcel)

Having followed the course students should be able to:

- Understand and respond, in speech and writing, to spoken language.
- Understand and respond, in speech and writing, to written language.
- Show knowledge of and apply accurately the grammar and syntax prescribed in the specification.

Entry qualifications

Grade B at GCSE in the relevant language is required.

Career Prospects

The AS/A2 course forms a sound basis for studying Languages in Higher Education and many students continue with it either as a single subject degree or in combination with another subject such as European Studies, Marketing, Law Politics, History, etc. As more universities participate in the Erasmus/Socrates scheme, students of disciplines other than languages (Maths, Chemistry, Engineering and Computing) have the opportunity of studying for a year in a foreign university. Students will have the opportunity to take the "Test de Connaissance du français" (TCF) which is a French University entry exam. Similar entry tests will be offered to students wishing to study in other European universities. Career opportunities include work as translators, interpreters, in teaching, from banking to tourism, from lawyer to doctor, from engineer to journalist; from civil servant to pilot...the list is endless. Competence in one or more of the key languages of the European Community will enhance career prospects in the business world. Many British firms have links with their foreign counterparts; therefore knowledge of a language can be a useful skill for those going directly into employment after their A levels.