

The Courses

We offer French, Spanish and German at A Level. In addition to the courses being designed to improve and extend knowledge of the target language, students examine the contemporary culture of the country, as well as its literature and compare it to our own here in the UK.

Grammar at A Level

A Level students will study the grammatical system and structure of the language. The end of course exams will test their use of accurate grammar and structures appropriate to the tasks set, drawing from the lists in the specification.

Optional Content

Students study two books or one book and one film from the lists in the specification. Assessment: Students conduct individual research on a subject of personal interest, relating to the country or countries where the language of study is spoken.

Assessment

Paper 1: 2 hours and 30 minutes

- Listening and responding
- Reading and responding
- Translation into English
- Translation into the language of study

Oral Examination Speaking

- Individual research project (minimal input from teacher)
- Knowledge of one of the sub-themes

How it's assessed

- Speaking test: 21-23 minutes (including 5 minutes preparation time at the start of the test)
- 60 Marks
- 30% of the A Level

In addition to the traditional A Level courses we offer in French, Spanish and German, it is also possible as part of the school's ASPire programme for us to offer alternative, hands-on language qualifications to students who have not chosen to study a language at A Level in the form of the Certificate in Languages for Business.



Paper 2: Written Exam - 2 hours

Two books from the list of set texts in the specification or one book from the list of set texts and one film from the list in the specification.

Students must answer either two questions from Section A or one question from Section A and one question from Section B.

**Content for French:****Year 1**

- Aspects of French-speaking society: current trends
- Artistic culture in the French-speaking world

Year 2

- Aspects of French-speaking society: current issues
- Aspects of political life in the French-speaking world

Content for Spanish:**Year 1**

- Aspects of Hispanic society
- Artistic culture in the Hispanic world

Year 2

- Multiculturalism in Hispanic society
- Aspects of political life in the Hispanic world

Content for German:**Year 1**

- Aspects of German-speaking society
- Artistic culture in the German-speaking world

Year 2

- Multiculturalism in German-speaking society
- Aspects of political life in the German-speaking world

Why study a Modern Language?

The benefits of studying a language are wide-ranging: from learning to communicate in fresh ways to have a window into the culture of another country, from learning to express your views and listen to the opinions of others through the language that you are learning to study its culture through a variety of modern media. By learning to manipulate a language to generate your own ideas and responses, you will broaden your own horizons and appreciate the variety that other languages offer. Delivering presentations and being able to summarise your reading skills that go well beyond the classroom. Demand for linguists from employers and top universities is also growing – for example, in the recent CBI report (Stem Skills), top businesses rated advanced qualifications in MFL as being very desirable to improve the UK's engineering outlook. Within the department, there are many opportunities to spend time in the countries where our languages are spoken and plenty of contact with native speakers who visit Solihull:

French

- Five day immersion trip for Sixth Form students to Normandy.

Spanish

- Students have the opportunity to host a peer from Argentina every two years in May (from Colegio Yapeyu).
- There is further opportunity to go to Peru to work with the charities LAFF and Otra Cosa for six weeks in the summer holiday, after the Lower Sixth.
- We also offer Upper School and Sixth Form trips to Andalucía.

German

- A biennial culture and language trip to Berlin.
- Strong links with our partner school in Hofheim.
- Responsibility for our in-house German magazine 'Das Alles Ist Deutschland'.
- Opportunity to undertake work experience in Frankfurt, organised via our partner school.

What do I need to study a Modern Foreign Language?

A Grade 7 at GCSE in the relevant language is required.