

A Level Modern Languages



Exam Board: Educas

An A-level course in French and/or Spanish is very different from a GCSE course in a language. The topics are more adult e.g. Family and Society, Technology, Politics, Culture and The Media including Film Studies. It will be an asset to you for any University course whether the language is studied at degree level or whether you choose a language as an additional subject. It is also seen very positively by employers.

A-level will help you to develop your existing language skills to a higher level of competence. You should want to spend some time in the country whose language you are studying, for example, taking part in a work experience and developing your interest in the wider issues affecting that country.

You will be able to read/understand and extract information from written passages in the target language taken from authentic sources, such as magazines and newspaper reports or books. You will be able to listen to and understand contemporary spoken language and answer questions on what you have heard. The passages will be taken from a range of sources such as news reports, interviews and discussions. And finally you will learn how to hold conversations and how to write essays and discuss in the target language.

Course overview:

Component 1 - Speaking

Component 2 - Listening, Reading and Translation

Component 3 - Critical and analytical response in writing

Assessment:

Unit 1 – 50% of A-level

Listening/ Reading and Writing paper on cultural, political and current aspects of the target language and its society.

Unit 2 – 20% of A-level Understanding and written response in target language of a film and a text that have been studied.

Unit 3 – 30% of A-level Understanding and spoken response in target language about an individual research project; a theme studied



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Entry requirements:

Minimum Grade 6 at GCSE in the relevant language. Confidence in each of the four language skills of listening, reading, writing and speaking. A willingness to work hard and with enthusiasm, to participate not only in lessons but in the extra activities which are often on offer, e.g., study days, work experience

Other Course Information

- Dictionary for home study – £15.00
- Set texts – £15.00
- Course books – £25.00
- Possible work exchange – approximately £500

Who is the course for?

- Students who want to do a degree course in languages, or those who wish to pursue a higher education course in another subject, but choose a language option alongside it.
- Having a language at A-level will improve your employability, in particular with companies which have international branches and is an excellent step towards achieving your goals.

Career pathways

Language skills can lead directly into a career in translating, interpreting or teaching, and are also in demand in areas such as hospitality, law, publishing and business services.

"I decided to take A-level in a language as I had such a fascination with the culture and wanted to further the knowledge I had at GCSE. The A-level course really appealed to me as it allows you to learn about history, politics, gastronomy and more. There is more depth and freedom in the A-level course than at GCSE. I have really enjoyed improving my language skills and I intend to study abroad during my time at University."

