

MFL DEPARTMENT

French and Spanish A Level courses constitute an integrated study with a focus on language, culture and society.



What will I learn?

The approach is a focus on how French/Spanish-speaking society has been shaped socially and culturally and how it continues to change. In the first year, aspects of the social context are studied, together with aspects of the artistic life of French/Spanish-speaking countries. In the second year further aspects of the social background are covered, this time focusing on matters associated with multiculturalism. Students also study aspects of the political landscape including the future of political life in the French/Hispanic world by focusing on young people and their political engagement.

Students will develop their knowledge and understanding of themes relating to the culture and society of countries where French/Spanish is spoken, and their language skills.

For example:

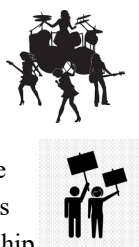
Social issues and Trends :



- The changing nature of family
- The 'cyber-society'
- Equality of rights: LGBT, feminism & racism
- (French) Prison systems



Political & Artistic Culture:

- Cultural heritage, music, sports, cinema & regional identity
- Youth politics & the right to vote
- Immigration & social movements
- (Spanish) Monarchy & Dictatorship



Film: French—La Haine 
Spanish— María, llena eres de gracia 

Literature: French—L'étranger, A. Camus
Spanish—Como agua para chocolate , L. Esquivel

AO1 + AO2 : Understand and respond:

in speech & writing to spoken and written language drawn from a variety of sources

AO3: Manipulate the language accurately,
in spoken and written forms, using a range of lexis and structure.

AO4: Show knowledge & critical analysis
of different aspects of the culture and society of countries/communities where the language is spoken.

Your Final assessment will consist of:

Paper 1 (Listening, reading and Writing) 50%

Paper 2 (Writing on film & literature) 20%

Paper 3 (Speaking) 30%



Entry Requirements

GCSE French (minimum Grade 6)

GCSE Spanish (minimum Grade 6)

Good grammatical skills and accuracy with clear understanding of all the GCSE tenses for your chosen language(s).

But above all.....You need to have a passion for language learning and the willingness to work hard!

Exam board: AQA

Link to course specification [French Spanish](#)

Link to example exam papers [French Spanish](#)



Complementary Subjects

English: literary analysis

History: understanding global context

Government & Politics: understanding political structures

Art: creativity & understanding of artistic culture

Music: creativity & understanding of musical culture

Geography: culture & society

Maths: problem solving & using patterns

Specialist Speaking assistants

As well as your MFL lessons, you will also have a weekly tutorial with our French / Spanish assistants who do a fantastic job of preparing you for your speaking exam. In 2019, 30% of students gained an A* grade in their oral exam.



Enrichment Opportunities

There are a number of enrichment activities to get involved in too.

- Trip to the **BFI**—extending film studies
- UCL Near Peers / OxNet—mentoring from university students
- (Spanish) Trip to **Barcelona** with Geography department— attending a language school & visiting the cultural sights of Barcelona
- Trips to cultural events (e.g. Tango festival)



Here's what our students think!

"A level Spanish definitely exceeded my expectations- I really enjoy the subject! You learn some juicy topics, from racism to immigration to gastronomy."

"I particularly like the IRP, a research project for your speaking exam where you can research anything you like from the Spanish speaking world. The classes and teachers are amazing, and honestly I highly recommend it."

"A-level French has been an exciting step up from the GCSE. There are a wide range of topics so there is something for everyone! Studying the film and a book is also exciting because it allows you to use the language in a way that feels satisfying and engaging."

"I love studying French A Level because it is so different it is to my other subjects and it is really engaging. We study a range of topics relating to the modern world, current issues and history which is really interesting and you get a really great understanding of a different culture"

Careers

Having a languages A Level will open doors to a huge variety of careers. Employers are looking for candidates with foreign language skills. You will be equipped with a range of transferable skills such as:

- strong communication & leadership skills
- analysing & interpreting information
- attention to detail, resilience & problem solving

Possible careers:



- Interpreter
- Translator
- Various roles in tourism industry
- Secondary / University teacher
- Diplomat
- Teaching English as a Foreign Language (in the UK or abroad)
- Any career abroad in a French/ Spanish-speaking country
- Journalism

Other careers that use language skills:

- Lawyer
- Police
- Marketing
- Business
- Retail & international trade
- Human Resources
- **Anything that involves communication!... The world is your oyster when you know another language.**

Click the link to find out more about a career in [languages](#).