



MODERN LANGUAGES A-LEVEL

WHY SHOULD I STUDY A-LEVEL MODERN LANGUAGES?

Developments in media, information and communication technology require multilingual communicators. Employers like to take on graduates who have a second and even a third language. Speaking a foreign language gives you an advantage over others in an increasingly globalised labour market and it opens career opportunities in Europe and beyond. Languages develop important skills of analysis, debate and independent thought and learning Modern Languages gives you extended access to information as well as skills and experiences that will expand your horizons for the rest of your life.

WHAT WILL I LEARN ABOUT?

The approach is a focus on how society has been shaped socially and culturally and how it continues to change. Students will develop their knowledge and understanding of themes relating to the culture and society of countries where French, German or Spanish are spoken, and their language skills. They will do this by using authentic spoken and written sources. Topics are relevant to the 21st century and could include the changing nature of family, cyber society, youth culture, immigration, racism, diversity, equal rights, music and cinema, to mention just a few! Students will study two set texts or one set text and one film. They will hone earlier grammatical foundations and develop their communication skills to help them function effectively in the target countries. There is an individual research project, where students research a subject of personal interest, relating to the target country or countries.

HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

Assessment takes place in listening, reading, writing and speaking skills. All questions are in French, German or Spanish. Students provide non-verbal responses to spoken and written passages from a range of contexts and sources. There is translation both into and from French, German or Spanish. Students will also complete a question on a set text/set film. This requires a critical appreciation of the concepts and issues covered in the work and a critical analytical response to features such as the form and technique of presentation, as appropriate to the work studied. In the speaking assessment students discuss one of the key themes that have been studied. They also present and discuss their individual research project.

WHAT SKILLS WILL I DEVELOP?

The A-level specification builds on the knowledge, understanding and skills gained at GCSE. It constitutes an integrated study with a focus on language, culture and society. It fosters a range of transferable skills including communication, critical thinking, research skills and creativity, which are valuable to the individual and to society.

WHERE COULD THIS SUBJECT TAKE ME IN THE FUTURE?

Students of languages are good listeners and good communicators. You may consider studying languages at university and become a translator or interpreter. Consider also opportunities in Sales, Journalism, International Development, Logistics, the Diplomatic Service, Education, Publishing and Tourism (amongst other careers). In this increasingly globalised world, languages have become like currency or stock - the more you speak, the higher your value rises!

