



King's Academy
Prospect

GCSE French, GCSE Spanish

Ms Zoë Mumford
Head of Languages

Qualification overview



- Exam board **Pearson Edexcel**
 - New GCSE specification for first teaching September 2024
 - Reduced content (1200 words for foundation, 1700 for Higher), more student friendly and inclusive, all instructions in English.
 - There are 6 thematic contexts - a lot of content will have been covered in KS3 so students will be able to build on that knowledge i.e. they are not starting from scratch:
- My personal world
 - Lifestyle and wellbeing
 - My neighbourhood
 - Media and technology
 - Studying and my future
 - Travel and tourism

Assessment overview



- Students are assessed by end-of-course exams in May/June of year 11
- There are four exams - one in each of the skills - speaking, listening, reading and writing.
- Students are entered at Foundation (grade 1-5) or Higher (grade 6-9) tier.
- Three of the papers are externally examined.
- Speaking is conducted by the teacher, and marked by the exam board.

Students must:	% in GCSE
A01 Understand and respond to spoken language in speaking and in writing	35%
A02 Understand and respond to written language in speaking and in writing	45%
A03 Demonstrate knowledge and accurate application of the grammar and vocabulary prescribed in the specification	20%
Total	100%

Breakdown of Assessment Objectives

Component	AO1 %	AO2 %	AO3 %	Total for all Assessment Objectives
1: Speaking	15%	2%	8%	25%
2: Listening and understanding	20%	0%	5%	25%
3: Reading and understanding	0%	25%	0%	25%
4: Writing	0%	18%	7%	25%
Total for GCSE	35%	45%	20%	100%

To be successful, you must



- Have **excellent attendance** as there is a lot to cover!
- Be willing to **open your eyes** to other cultures and have a **positive attitude**
- Be willing to contribute orally, to **take risks** & not worry too much about making mistakes in order to build **confidence** in communication
- Be prepared to **practise daily** at home - minimum 10 minutes a day - to learn and remember key vocabulary and structures necessary for spontaneous communication
- Develop your **memorisation skills** - memory plays an important part in successful communication.

Which language should you choose?



We expect you to opt for the language you have studied in KS3.

In exceptional circumstances, you may wish to choose a language you have not studied in KS3, for example:

- if you have prior knowledge of one of the other languages, you have links to that language through family members.
- if you have shown considerable aptitude for languages in KS3 and would like to choose more than one language for GCSE.

The Head of Languages will make the final decision as to whether you are suitable for this course.

Next steps & Enrichment opportunities



- Learning a language is a skill for life, regardless of whether you intend to pursue language learning at A level or beyond.
- There isn't a single subject or career pathway that is not enhanced by the knowledge of another language!
- Language learning can open up opportunities to work abroad.
- We live in a global society, with distance becoming less of a barrier to working with people from all over the world.
- We run trips abroad so that students can experience the languages they are learning in the countries in which they are spoken - in the past we have taken trips to Cologne in Germany, Lille and Paris in France. We have also collaborated with the history department on trips to the battlefields in France and Belgium. We are looking to plan our first-ever Spanish trip next year.

Questions?

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