

Modern Languages y9

In Year 9 at Shelley College, the majority of students will study either French or Spanish. A small number of students, the dual linguists, will study both languages. Students have 6 hours of curriculum time per fortnight.

Homework is set once a week. The modern language that students study in y9 will be the language that they go on to study at GCSE level in y10 and y11.

Modern Languages - GCSE

Examination Board - AQA

5 periods per 2 weeks

Course Content

The topics studied at GCSE are organised into three categories. These are:

- **Identity and Culture**

Me, my family and friends – relationships with family & friends, marriage & partnership.

Technology in everyday life - social media, mobile technology.

Free-time activities - music, cinema & TV, food & eating out, sport.

Customs and festivals in French/Spanish speaking countries & communities.

- **Local, national, international and global areas of interest.**

Home, town, neighbourhood and region.

Social issues – charity/voluntary work, healthy/unhealthy lifestyle.

Global issues – the environment & poverty/homelessness.

Travel and tourism.

- **Current and future study and employment**

My studies.

Life at school/college.

Education post-16.

Jobs, career choices & ambitions.

Our aim is to promote a lively, communicative approach to learning languages. Students will have the opportunity to speak and write the language for a wide range of purposes and to understand the spoken and written language in a wide range of contexts. They will also develop their cultural awareness. It is important that students also take the opportunity to work both with others in groups as well as independently, using appropriate reference materials and computers.

Examinations

In the GCSE examinations for French and Spanish each of the four skills involved in language learning – Listening, Reading, Speaking and Writing – is tested and the skills are equally weighted at 25% of the final GCSE grade.

GCSE French & Spanish have a Foundation Tier (grades 1–5) and a Higher Tier (grades 4–9). Students must take all four question papers at the **same** tier, either **Foundation** or **Higher**.

The Listening, Reading and Writing skills are tested by three exams at the end of the course in Year 11. Students will also attend a separate Speaking exam, which will be conducted & recorded by the class teacher during April/May of Year 11, and externally marked by the exam board.

Paper 1 – Listening

Foundation Tier – 35 minutes Higher Tier – 45 minutes

Section A - Questions and answers in English.

Section B – Questions and answers in French/Spanish.

Paper 2 – Speaking

Foundation Tier - 7-9 minutes + preparation time

Higher Tier - 10 -12 minutes + preparation time

Role Play - 2 minutes

Photo card – 2 minutes at Foundation, 3 minutes at Higher.

General conversation – 3-5 minutes at Foundation, 5-7 minutes at Higher.

Paper 3 – Reading

Foundation Tier – 45 minutes Higher Tier – 1 hour

Section A – questions in English, to be answered in English.

Section B – questions in French/Spanish, to be answered in French/Spanish.

Section C – translation from French/Spanish into English (35 words minimum at Foundation and 50 words minimum at Higher)

Paper 4 - Writing

Foundation Tier – 1 hour Higher Tier – 1hour 15 minutes

Foundation

Question 1 – short written message, in response to a photo.

Question 2 – short written passage in response to four brief bullet points. Approximately 40 words.

Question 3 – translation from English to French/Spanish. Minimum of 35 words.

Question 4 – structured writing task. Approximately 90 words.

Higher

Question 1 – Structured writing task. Approximately 90 words.

Question 2 – Open-ended writing task. Approximately 150 words.

Question 3 – Translation from English into French/Spanish. Minimum of 50 words.

In the writing examination, students will be tested on their grammatical, as well as content knowledge and accuracy. Students will be required to use and manipulate language confidently and independently, and to apply the linguistic structures and grammar points learned during the course. These skills will equally be tested during the speaking exam.

Homework

We aim to offer a wide range of homework activities. Vocabulary learning is a key part of students' progression. Students are expected to develop their skills and knowledge using the extensive materials available to them via the school's website.

Progression

Progression to AS/A2 and specialist languages occupations is only one of many routes forward from GCSE. There are also opportunities for vocational progression. Practically any job can involve using a language and GCSE provides an important foundation for work related language courses in further and adult education. It should be noted that skills in languages are the most prized by employers in the global economy.

A Level Languages

We offer A Level French and Spanish at Shelley College. All students have 9 hours of lessons per fortnight with one additional compulsory speaking lesson with our French and/or Spanish FLA, every week.

A Level Spanish

Students study the following themes over the two year A Level course:

- Aspects of Hispanic society
- Multiculturalism in Hispanic society
- Artistic Culture in the Hispanic world
- Aspects of political life in the Hispanic world.

A Level French

Students study the following themes over the two year A Level course:

- Aspects of French-speaking society: current trends
- Aspects of French-speaking society: current issues
- Artistic culture in the French-speaking world
- Aspects of political life in the French-speaking worlds

All A Level French/Spanish students must also study **either** one text and one film or two texts, as decided by their class teacher.

In Year 13 students will carry out an individual research project, on a subject or key question which interests them and relates to one of the countries where French/Spanish is spoken. Students are assessed on this in their final speaking exam in Year 13.

Grammar: All students will study the grammatical system and structures of French/Spanish during the two year course.

Homework: Completion of regular homework is essential at A Level. Students are set 3-4 hours of homework every week. They are also expected to carry out independent learning of vocabulary at home and prepare for FLA lessons.

Assessment

There are three exams at A Level French/Spanish: **Paper 1, Paper 2 & Paper 3.**

Paper 1: Listening, Reading and Writing

50% of A Level.

Written exam : 2 hours 30 minutes

100 marks

Listening Section

Candidates listen & respond to spoken passages from a range of contexts and sources.

Questions will target main points, gist and detail. Students will have individual control of the recording.(30 marks)

Reading Section

This section comprises reading and responding to a variety of texts written for different purposes, drawn from a range of authentic sources.(50 marks)

Writing Section

Translation into English; a passage of 100 words minimum. (10 marks)

Translation into French/Spanish; a passage of 100 words minimum. (10 marks)

No access to a dictionary during the assessment.

Paper 2: Writing

20% of A Level

Written exam: 2 hours

80 marks

Candidates are assessed on:

- One literary text and one film **or** 2 literary texts from the set lists
- Grammar

This paper consists of :

- **Either** one essay in French/Spanish on a set text from a choice of two questions and one essay in French/Spanish on the film, **or** 2 essays in French/Spanish on set literary texts from a choice of two questions.
- All essay questions will require a critical response to aspects such as plot, characterisation, imagery and other stylistic features, as appropriate to the work studied.

No access to texts, films or a dictionary during the assessment.

Students are advised to write approximately 300 words for each essay.

Paper 3: Speaking

30% of A Level

Oral exam: 21-23 minutes (including 5 minutes preparation time)

60 marks

Candidates will be assessed on an individual research project and one of the sub-themes from the specification.

In the speaking exam students will take part in a discussion of a sub-theme, with the discussion based on a stimulus card (5-6 minutes). This will be followed by a presentation & discussion of the individual research project.
(Approximately 12 minutes)