

GCSE

French & Spanish



What is GCSE French/Spanish?

The GCSE **French/Spanish** course aims to develop students' **linguistic skills** and **cultural awareness** through the **four key language skills: listening, speaking, reading, and writing**.

Students will build confidence in **communicating effectively** in a range of real-life situations while developing their ability to express **opinions, describe experiences, and engage with authentic materials** in the target language.

Through a variety of engaging topics, students will enhance their understanding of **different cultures and perspectives**, fostering **global awareness and intercultural competence**.

The study of **French/Spanish** provides a **strong foundation** for further language learning and opens doors to a wide range of career opportunities in sectors such as **business, tourism, translation, and international relations**.



Course Overview and Structure

AQA GCSE French and Spanish

Lessons and assessments are set in the context of **three** themes:

- **Theme 1:** People and lifestyle
- **Theme 2:** Popular culture
- **Theme 3:** Communication and the world around us

Exams in all **4** skills areas at end of Year 11:

- **Paper 1** - Listening (25% of GCSE)
- **Paper 2** - Speaking (25% of GCSE)
- **Paper 3** - Reading (25% of GCSE)
- **Paper 4** - Writing (25% of GCSE)



AQA GCSE

French

Higher

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 Pearson

AQA GCSE

Spanish

Higher

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Assessment

French/Spanish is a GCSE award graded from **1-9**.

The assessments measure how students have achieved the following objectives:

- **AO1:** understand and respond to spoken language in speaking and in writing
- **AO2:** understand and respond to written language in speaking and in writing
- **AO3:** demonstrate understanding and accurate application of the grammar and vocabulary prescribed in the specification.

Assessment objectives (AOs)	Component weightings (approx %)				Overall weighting (approx %)
	Paper 1: Listening	Paper 2: Speaking	Paper 3: Reading	Paper 4: Writing	
AO1	22.5	12.5			35
AO2		7.5	25	12.5	45
AO3	2.5	5		12.5	20
Overall weighting of components	25	25	25	25	100



Topics explored

Through **French/Spanish** students will explore the following topics:

- **Travel and Holidays:** Students will discuss holiday preferences and travel plans in a variety of tenses. We will also talk about festivals and celebrations within the French/Spanish - speaking world.
- **Free time:** Students will talk about sports and free time activities, as well as their life online. We also focus on making plans to go out and using role-play skills crucial to the speaking exam.
- **Families and Relationships:** Students will describe people in detail, discussing their friendships, relationships and problems. Students will practise describing photocard tasks, a key element in the speaking and writing papers.
- **My Lifestyle:** Students will describe their daily routines, comparing old and new habits regarding diet and exercise. Students will also make future plans with regards to their health and wellbeing.



Topics explored

Through French/Spanish students will explore the following topics:

- **My life at school:** Students will discuss and give opinions on life at school, as well as considering how they would change their school for the better. Students will also use the past tense to describe a recent school trip.
- **My local area:** Students will describe where they live, how it has changed over the years and discuss the pros and cons of their town/city. Students will use comparatives to give preferences on where they live.
- **The future of the planet:** Students will discuss climate change and actions we do and should take in order to help our environment. Students will also discuss ways in which they can help in their local community.
- **The world of work:** Students will talk about their career intentions as well as their future plans socially. Students will also discuss the importance of learning a language and the impact of artificial intelligence.



Key Career Skills

- **Effective Communication**
- **Risk-taking**
- **Problem Solving**
- **Adaptability and Resilience**
- **Empathy and Cultural Agility**

Future career opportunities

Studying **French** or **Spanish** can lead to a career in a wide range of areas, including:

- **Diplomatic Services, Law and Government**
- **Armed Forces**
- **Finance**
- **Automotive Industry**
- **Petrochemical Industry**
- **Media and Journalism**
- **ICT and Video Gaming**
- **Education**
- **International Sport**
- **Interpretation and Translation**
- **Travel and Tourism**
- **Humanitarian Aid**

Learning **French** or **Spanish** at **GCSE** is your chance to unlock new and exciting opportunities, whether that means **travelling the world**, **boosting your communication skills**, **getting ahead in your education**, or **making global connections** and **improving your employability**.

Future study opportunities

Studying **French/Spanish** can lead to further study in;

- Any relevant subject at Level 3 (A level), for example at **NSG** we offer:
 - **A Level French**
 - **A Level Spanish**
- **GCSE French/Spanish** also has strong links with other A Level courses, such as **English Language, English Literature and History.**

Research also shows that learning a language enhances your understanding of English and improves your performance in other subjects. **French and Spanish** counts as a core subject in the **English Baccalaureate**, which is **highly valued by top colleges, universities and employers.**