

AS and A2 Modern Languages

Board and Syllabus: OCR

Objectives

The aim of the AS and A2 level courses in French, German and Spanish is to enable our pupils to communicate competently and accurately in the foreign language, both orally and in writing, and to understand the written and spoken word. We seek to foster a positive interest in the culture of each country. Good linguistic and study skills are nurtured and the courses are designed to be academically challenging and enjoyable as well as practical.

Course Content

The AS course covers a wide range of materials drawn from broad topic areas to include media, advertising, the arts, daily life, food and drink, sports and pastimes, transport, travel, holidays and human interest news items.

The skills of Speaking, Listening, Reading and Writing will be assessed via a range of tasks within situations of a general nature and no specialised knowledge is required.

The A2 course incorporates subject areas such as social issues, the environment, education, law and order, politics and technology and scientific advances.

Subject areas of both courses are firmly rooted in the culture of the target-language country.

In order to study a foreign language at this level, candidates should normally have acquired the knowledge, understanding and skills for GCSE at higher tier in the relevant language.

Examination Arrangements

The AS is assessed in three units covering the four skills Speaking, Listening, Reading and Writing – at the end of the first year with the option of repeating any of the units the following January.

The A2 examination consists of three further units also covering the four skills Speaking, Reading, Listening and Writing, as well as written coursework.

Teaching

Students have seven or eight periods a week. Each A level language is taught by two members of the Department in order to give both variety and balance. The Modern Languages Society meets regularly and may include visits to theatres, galleries and cinemas, as well as talks by speakers on a range of topics, and shared meals. We also run a Foreign Film Club for all members of the Sixth Form.

Students are encouraged to undertake a period of study or work experience in the target country.

General

The Department has four full-time and three part-time members of staff and a French Assistant. The resources include a brand new language laboratory which incorporates the use of internet, email, satellite, video conferencing and tutorials to suit the interests of the individual. The School Library offers a well-stocked section of fiction, non-fiction and periodicals.