

AQA GCSE Spanish / French

Listening exam 25%

Foundation 35 mins (40 marks)

Higher 45 mins (50 marks)

Students listen to recordings (twice) and answer questions in English in Section 1 and Spanish in section 2

Speaking exam 25%

Foundation 7 - 9 mins (60 marks)

Higher 10 -12 mins (60 marks)

Consists of a role play, photo card & general conversation questions. This is conducted 1:1 with their class teacher

All GCSE exams take place at the end of Y11. The speaking exam will be first, at around April / May time

Writing exam 25%

Foundation 60 mins (60 marks)

Higher 75 mins (60 marks)

Students respond to 4 different questions in Spanish, one of which is a translation from English into Spanish

Reading exam 25%

Foundation 45 mins (60 marks)

Higher 60 mins (60 marks)

Students read a variety of texts and respond in English in section 1 & in Spanish in section 2. There is also a translation into English to complete.



There are 3 main themes:

- **Theme 1 – Identity & Culture** (me, my family and friends; technology in everyday life; free time activities; customs & festivals)
- **Theme 2 – Local, national, international and global areas of interest** (home, town, neighbourhood and region; social issues (charity, voluntary work, healthy lifestyles); global issues (environment, poverty, homelessness); travel & tourism)
- **Theme 3 – Current & future study & employment** (my studies; life at school/college; education post-16; jobs, career choices and ambitions)

It is really important that students complete independent learning as well as classwork and home learning tasks. They should dedicate some time each week to learning and consolidating vocabulary.

Here are some ideas of how parents can help (even if you don't speak the language!):

- Get involved in vocabulary quizzing; take a vocab list from the AQA website and see how many words they can remember on a given subtopic in a set amount of time or read the English vocab for your child to translate
- Ask them some of the general conversation questions for the speaking exam to practise their interaction and responding naturally to questions (if they have to correct your pronunciation this is even better practice for them!)
- Watch a film / TV series in another language together – many DVDs and streaming services allow you to change the audio language, even if the original is in English
- Ask your child to teach you something they have learned that week
- Download interactive learning apps and games and use them as a family e.g. Duolingo. A bit of family competition is always good
- Look for most popular singers and bands from other countries and play music in the foreign language at home; it's amazing how much language you can pick up from remembering song lyrics
- Encourage your child to use dictionaries (We recommend www.wordreference.com) rather than translators. Online translators will give you the most common translation of a word without considering the context or any alternative meanings. For example "book" can mean different things: a literary composition that is published or intended for publication, an action of reserving a flight or hotel, to record the foul made by the player by the referee, a set of stamps or tickets....

Pre-public exam info (PPEs)

In the first wave of PPEs (**Monday 13th Nov to Fri 24th Nov**) students will sit the **Listening** and **Reading** papers at either Higher or Foundation tier.

The **speaking** PPEs will take place between **Mon 15th Jan to Fri 19th Jan**

In the second wave of PPEs (**Mon 12th Feb to Fri 16th Feb**) students will sit the **Writing** paper at either Higher or Foundation tier

How can my child revise specifically for each exam?

Listening – Get them to as much target language as they can e.g. radio or podcasts so they can get used to listening to the language. Use the audio recordings that accompany past papers on the AQA website. They'll have access to the transcript on the website too so use this afterwards and note down anything they may have missed or misunderstood. Use the revision guide we recommend as it has practice questions and audio files on a linked website along with answers to check afterwards. Websites we subscribe to, such as www.thisislanguagel.com are also an excellent way to improve listening skills (Your child has

been given their own individual login so ask them to contact their class teacher if they have forgotten it)

Speaking – Use the list of general conversation questions we provide and make sure they plan an answer for each question. As a minimum they should know what every question means as soon as they hear it and have some key structures in the past, present and future that they can use confidently to create an answer. Listen to them and ask them some questions regularly. They can also record answers on their phone and listen back as part of their revision.

Reading – Revision for the reading exam should focus on vocabulary and grammar areas such as tenses. Ensure that they're able to confidently identify sentences in the past, present and future and that they're familiar with all question types, i.e. what, why, who, when, how etc. Using past papers as a revision tool will help to familiarise with the words and phrases related to each topic. The revision guide also has practise reading questions. In general, the more target language texts they read, the better they'll be at identifying words and phrases. Many of the useful websites listed further on are great for acquiring and practising new vocabulary.

Writing – Here students are required to demonstrate accurate grammar use. They need to have a bank of key verbs and time phrases in the 3 main tenses along with a selection of 'fancy phrases' that they can use in any given topic. Students should practise with past papers once again and ensure they can correctly identify which bullet points in each question require past, present, future and/or opinion answers. Foundation students should focus on the first person (singular and plural) whereas higher should be able to demonstrate use of the third person (singular and plural) too. Students can always pass any practice answers to their teacher for them to look over and give feedback.

General revision tips: 'Work smarter, not harder'

- Spread revision out. Make a timetable to ensure they have time for everything. Revise little and often, and not only just before exams
- Plan the time. Work out a manageable time slot, then break it down into 20-minute chunks. Ensure they give themselves short breaks between each chunk of revision
- Get the mood right. Revise where it's quiet, well away from distractions such as TV, computer games, siblings. Quiet music without vocals can help the brain learn more effectively. Save their favourite music as a reward for afterwards.
- The hardest bit of revision to do is the first bit. Once they know what they want to achieve, have the time planned out and sorted out the necessary resources... start!

After October half term there will be weekly revision / practice sessions after school for French and Spanish from 2.55 to 3.45. Week 1 will be Foundation and Week 2 will be Higher. More info to follow on rooming.

Revision guides / workbooks can still be purchased on Scopay for £3.99 each. Please let your child's teacher know if it doesn't appear on Scopay and you haven't already purchased one in Y10.

Useful websites for additional practice

www.linguascope.com (intermediate section) Username: hellesdon Password: mfl2023

www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/levels/z98jmp3 - Choose either French AQA or Spanish AQA

www.languageskills.co.uk French section 'Zut' Login: 1469 Password: barnesberry

Spanish section 'Oye' Login: 1324 Password: barnesberry

www.quizlet.com Students can sign up and search for AQA Spanish or French topics

www.memrise.com Students can sign up and search for AQA Spanish or French topics

<https://uk.language-gym.com/> Students can sign up to this independently or may have been given login details from their class teacher

www.thisislanguagel.com Students have been given individual logins by their class teacher

And finally.... What's the point???

- 1. Languages are a life skill:** knowledge of a foreign language is not just another GCSE grade – it is a concrete and demonstratable life skill, like being able to drive a car or touch-type, and it is a skill highly valued by employers.
- 2. Languages teach you communication skills and adaptability:** Learning how to interact with speakers of foreign languages means you are less likely to be stuck in one mode of thinking. It can help you see things from a range of perspectives, develop your problem- solving skills and make you more adaptable, resourceful and creative.
- 3. Languages teach you cultural awareness:** the ability to operate cross-culturally is becoming as valued by employers as straight language skills
- 4. Languages gives you a sense of achievement:** Learning a language combines the intellectual and practical as no other subject does. You need to be able to think on your feet, but when you can find exactly the right foreign word or phrase, you get a real sense of achievement
- 5. Languages are a social skill:** Languages are very sociable. If you enjoy being with other people and communicating with them, chances are you will enjoy being able to do this in a foreign language too
- 6. Languages give you the edge in the job market:** Today there is a global market for jobs. It is not necessary to be fluent in a foreign language to be an asset to any potential employer.
- 7. Learning languages gives you greater opportunities to travel and work abroad:** There are many opportunities to travel or work with organisations abroad where some knowledge of a language is a clear advantage.