

## 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
- Dictation – Students transcribe short sentences

### Speaking exam 25%

*Foundation* 7 - 9 mins (50 marks) (15 mins prep time)

*Higher* 10 -12 mins (50 marks) (15 mins prep time)

Consists of a role play, reading aloud task with short unprepared conversation and a photo card discussion. 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* 70 mins (50 marks)

*Higher* 75 mins (50 marks)

Students respond to 5 different questions at Foundation and 3 at Higher, in Spanish, one of which is a translation from English into Spanish

### Reading exam 25%

*Foundation* 45 mins (50 marks)

*Higher* 60 mins (50 marks)

Students read a variety of texts and respond in English or non-verbally. There is also a translation into English to complete. (35 words at F and 50 words at H)



There are 3 main themes:

- **Theme 1 – People & Lifestyle** (identity & relationships with others, Healthy living & lifestyle, Education & work)
- **Theme 2 – Popular Culture** (Free time activities, Customs, festivals & celebrations, Celebrity culture)
- **Theme 3 – Communication & the world around us** (Travel & tourism, including places of interest, Media & Technology, The environment and where people live)

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.

## Pre-public exam info (PPEs)

In the first wave of PPEs (**Monday 17<sup>th</sup> Nov to Fri 28<sup>th</sup> Nov**) students will sit the **Listening, Reading & Writing** papers at either Higher or Foundation tier.

The **speaking** PPEs will take place on the **week beginning 26<sup>th</sup> Jan**.

Students do not sit any MFL exams in the second wave of PPEs.

## 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](http://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....

***Revision guides / workbooks will be able to be purchased on Scopay soon.***

## Useful websites for additional practice

[www.linguascope.com](http://www.linguascope.com) (intermediate section) Username: hellesdon *For the password, speak to your class teacher*

[www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/levels/z98jimp3](http://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/levels/z98jimp3) - Choose either French AQA or Spanish AQA

[www.languageskills.co.uk](http://www.languageskills.co.uk) French section 'Zut' Login: 1469 *For the password speak to your class teacher*

[www.quizlet.com](http://www.quizlet.com) Students can sign up and search for AQA Spanish or French topics

[www.memrise.com](http://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.senecalearning.com](http://www.senecalearning.com) Students will be set regular HL on this website but can also do independent practice here too

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### 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.