

# OPTIONS COURSE

GERMAN

ACCREDITING AUTHORITY | AQA

## QUALIFICATION

GCSE

## FACULTY

MODERN FOREIGN LANGUAGES

## STAFF CONTACT

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## WHAT QUALITIES & SKILLS DO I NEED?

You should have studied German, progressing well through KS3 and have a passion for language learning and different cultures.

## COURSE FOLLOWED

[AQA German](#)

## WHAT WILL I DO ON THE COURSE?

You will learn about the culture of countries where German is spoken and you will be able to communicate with young people in these countries. You will cover three main topics over the two year course: "Identity and Culture", "Local, national, international and global areas of interest" and "Current and future study and employment".

Languages are wanted for all kinds of jobs. Languages open doors in computing, customer services, engineering, finance, marketing, the media... and more.

Languages also open doors – to travel, to meeting people, and to new experiences. Wherever you go and whatever you do, a language can help you get the best out of life. All kinds of people learn languages for pleasure or to further their career – from newsreaders to Premiership football players. In fields such as tourism and retail, knowledge of another language can be really useful. Language skills are useful right here in the UK. UK employers want people who can speak other languages, so they're not just useful for travelling or working abroad.

## HOW IS THE COURSE ORGANISED & ASSESSED?

The way the course is assessed will change from 2016. You will be assessed on listening, reading, writing and speaking by completing assessments at the end of your course. Each skill assessment is worth 25% of your GCSE and you will need to decide with your teacher whether you complete the higher or foundation level of assessments in all skills as mixed tier entry is no longer permitted. You will be tested on understanding and responding to different types of language as well as communicating effectively in writing and speech for a variety of purposes. Each of the main topics listed above consist of sub-topics which relate to the life, culture and interests of a modern day teenager.

All exams are now done at the end of the course. There are no longer any controlled coursework exams. Listening exams last a maximum of 50 minutes and Reading a maximum of one hour, which will include a translation question from German into English. Speaking exams will now require you to complete a role-play task, talk about a photo card and finish with a short conversation. The whole exam will last no more than 12 minutes plus preparation time.



# FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

## WHAT USE WILL GCSEs IN A MODERN FOREIGN LANGUAGE BE?

A GCSE in a language is seen as a Quality Mark and evidence that you possess particular learning and working skills, as well as good communication skills.

Whether you travel for pleasure or business, most of you will go abroad at some time in your life. Merely having the skill to work out the meaning of a few words or phrases in a completely new language can make things easier for you.

MFL GCSEs also count as more than one entry on your C.V.; firstly as a qualification, and secondly as a separate skill or ability.

## WHAT EXTRA KEY SKILLS DO I GAIN?

Language learning develops a broad range of skills, which can be used in a wide variety of working environments.

Communication skills: be it through speaking or developing a high level of accuracy in your writing.

Writing skills: an awareness grammar gained through the study of a foreign language will assist you in your other subjects.

Coping strategies and problem-solving skills: the ability to work effectively when challenged and to persevere when the meaning of something is not immediately obvious.

Cultural knowledge and understanding: becoming more open-minded and less likely to make assumptions – a very useful skill when meeting new people for the first time.

Confidence: success in a foreign language gives you the confidence to meet the challenges of the modern workplace.

## WHICH SUBJECTS COMBINE WELL WITH MODERN LANGUAGES?

Any subject can be combined successfully with modern languages. Many universities offer combined degrees with a language, whilst some offer language modules and the opportunity to either study or do work experience abroad. Many UK companies welcome employees with language skills even if their qualification is not in the language they actually need as the skills they have are transferrable.

## WHAT LANGUAGES CAN I DO?

You can take a GCSE in the language you have studied.

## AM I CAPABLE OF DOING GCSE?

The GCSE course caters for a wide range of ability from level 1 to level 9. This is a new grading system which replaces the A\*-G lettering system previously used. Level 4 is considered a similar standard to the old grade C and this would be a good yardstick when measuring relevant progression through KS3.

## DO I DEFINITELY NEED A GCSE LANGUAGE TO GET INTO UNIVERSITY?

Universities are now looking at GCSE qualifications in addition to 'A' levels as a way of selection. Not having a GCSE language will not prevent you going to all universities, but some of the more competitive ones already state that a GCSE language is either essential or preferred for some of their non-MFL courses, e.g. studying English at York University. You can access this sort of information at [www.ucas.ac.uk](http://www.ucas.ac.uk)

