

# OPTIONS COURSE

SPANISH

ACCREDITING AUTHORITY | AQA

## QUALIFICATION

GCSE

## FACULTY

**MODERN FOREIGN LANGUAGES**

## STAFF CONTACT

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## WHAT QUALITIES & SKILLS DO I NEED?

You must have studied Spanish at Key Stage 3 (Years 7, 8 and 9), and have a passion for language learning and different cultures.

GCSE languages require both dedication and resilience. You will need to spend time learning vocabulary at home and will be expected to write and speak at length from memory. As well as a love of language, the course requires a large time commitment.

## COURSE FOLLOWED

[AQA Spanish](#)

## WHAT WILL I DO ON THE COURSE?

You will learn about the culture of countries where Spanish is spoken and you will be able to communicate with young people in these countries.

Students study all of the following themes on which the assessments are based.

Theme 1: Identity and culture

Theme 2: Local, national, international and global areas of interest

Theme 3: 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?

You will learn the skills of Listening, Speaking, Reading and Writing. This qualification is linear and this means that students will sit all their exams at the end of the course.

You will be advised by your teacher, based upon your TAG, whether you are taking exams at Higher Tier or at Foundation Tier. Ongoing tracking assessments in all four skills will take place throughout the two years of the course.



# FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

## WHAT USE WILL GCSE'S 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 through developing a high level of accuracy in your writing.

Writing skills: an awareness of 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 Grade 9 to Grade 1. As a general rule, you need to be working at your end of year TAG or above in Spanish to be able to cope with the demands of the course at GCSE.

## 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)

