

FRENCH AND GERMAN at AS/A2 LEVEL

EXAMINATION BOARD: WJEC

WHY STUDY A FOREIGN LANGUAGE?

Only 6% of the world's population speaks English as a mother tongue. Experts reckon we could double our trade with Europe if we overcame language barriers. Nearly three-quarters of the British public think everyone should speak a foreign language, but only one third actually does. 60% of British trade is with non-English speaking countries. One in five companies is losing business because it needs an international communication plan. Internet users are 3 times more likely to buy when addressed in their mother tongue!

Advanced language skills are a useful commodity in today's employment market. Consequently unemployment amongst language graduates nationally is extremely low. Unemployment amongst non-Modern Language UK graduates 5.5%, amongst Modern Language graduates 4.3%. Multi-national companies actively seek employees able to function in at least one other language.

French and German are two of the three major languages of the European Union. By studying these languages you will develop critical insights into and contact with the contemporary society, cultural background and heritage of countries where French and German are spoken. (Statistics courtesy of HESA)

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

Students must **have followed the higher level GCSE syllabus**, as this contains the essential grammar and vocabulary required to deal with the A level course. Additionally, students ought to have gained cultural knowledge and understanding, and have developed a wide range of language skills. **A grade B at higher level GCSE is a minimum requirement**, together with a proven commitment to the study of the language.

The most successful students are those with a genuine interest in and enthusiasm for the language and the culture of the country. A willingness to spend some holiday time in France / Germany is important. Pupils and parents should seek the advice of the Head of MFL before a decision is made to discuss the suitability of the course for the particular individual.

COURSE SPECIFICATION

AS (2 units)

Unit 1 - 20% 12 - 15minutes 60 raw marks

Oral

General Conversation

Examiner- led discussion of topics

Unit 2 - 30% 2 hours 30 minutes 100 raw marks

Listening, Reading and Responding

Listening and Responding

Reading and Responding

Grammar tasks
Translation Target Language - English
Essay

A 2 (the above plus a further 2 units)

Unit 3 - 20% 15-20 minutes 60 raw marks

Oral

Structured Discussion

Expose

Unit 4 - 30% 3 hours 100 raw marks

Listening, Reading and Writing

Listening and responding

Reading and Responding

Translation English - target language

General Essay

Guided Studies Essay

WHAT WILL YOU STUDY?

Varied contemporary themes and topics are studied in depth. These include: issues that affect young people today, the media, the environment, political and social issues, education and leisure (of the target language country).

HOW WILL YOU STUDY?

The transition from GCSE is a challenge. Through varied teaching and learning the four skills of Listening, Reading, Writing and Speaking are gradually extended with the help of contemporary source materials.

Structured help with examination skills and technique is provided throughout the course and students are encouraged to develop independent research methods culminating in a course work project for those who continue to A2.

HIGHER EDUCATION AND CAREER CHOICES

At university the study of languages and linguistics can be combined with non-language subjects. e.g. Law with a language, business and computer studies with a language, a science subject with a language, to name but a few.

Graduates can take up a wide variety of careers, including accountancy, marketing, sales, personnel, journalism, management, teaching, the civil service, the media, interpreting and translation

FURTHER INFORMATION:

Students or parents requiring any further details are most welcome to contact Mrs I Chidlow, Head of Modern Foreign Languages.