

# GCSE French & Spanish

# What will I study?

<b>Theme 1: People and Lifestyle</b>
Identity and relationships with others
Healthy living and lifestyle
Education and work

<b>Theme 2: Popular Culture</b>
Free-time activities
Customs, festivals and celebrations
Celebrity culture


<b>Theme 3: Communication &amp; World Around Us</b>
Travel and tourism, including places of interest
Media and technology
The environment and where people live

# How will I be assessed?

There are four exams at the end of the course, in Listening, Speaking, Reading and Writing. Each exam is worth 25% of your overall grade. You are entered for the same tier, Foundation (F) or Higher (H), for all four papers.



Listening: (2 tasks) listening comprehension (answer in English), dictation



Speaking: (3 tasks) role play, reading aloud, photocard discussion



Reading: (2 tasks) reading comprehension (answer in English), translation from French / Spanish to English



Writing Foundation: (5 tasks) write 5 sentences to describe a photo, 50-word writing task, 5 grammar questions, translation (English to French/ Spanish), 90-word writing task

Writing Higher: (3 tasks) translation English to French / Spanish (50 words), 90-word writing task, 150-word writing task

## Paper 1: Listening

### What's assessed

- Understanding and responding to spoken extracts comprising the defined vocabulary and grammar for each tier
- Dictation of short, spoken extracts

### How it's assessed

- Written exam: 35 minutes (Foundation tier), 45 minutes (Higher tier)
- 40 marks (Foundation tier), 50 marks (Higher tier)
- 25% of GCSE

Recording controlled by the invigilator with built-in repetitions and pauses.

Each exam includes 5 minutes' reading time at the start of the question paper before the listening material is played and 2 minutes at the end of the recording for students to check their work.

### Questions

- Section A – listening comprehension questions in English, to be answered in English or non-verbally (32 marks at Foundation tier and 40 marks at Higher tier)
- Section B – dictation where students transcribe short sentences, including a small number of words from outside the prescribed vocabulary list (8 marks at Foundation tier and 10 marks at Higher tier)

## Paper 2: Speaking

### What's assessed

- Speaking using clear and comprehensible language to undertake a Role-play
- Carry out a Reading aloud task
- Talk about visual stimuli

### How it's assessed

- Non-exam assessment (NEA)
- 7–9 minutes (Foundation tier) + 15 minutes' supervised preparation time
- 10–12 minutes (Higher tier) + 15 minutes' supervised preparation time
- 50 marks (for each of Foundation tier and Higher tier)
- 25% of GCSE

### Questions

The format is the same at Foundation tier and Higher tier, but with different stimulus materials for the Role-play and the Reading aloud task. For the Photo card task, the same photos are used at both tiers.

- Role-play – 10 marks (recommended to last between 1 and 1.5 minutes at both tiers)
- Reading aloud task and short conversation – 15 marks (recommended to last in total between 2 and 2.5 minutes at Foundation tier and between 3 and 3.5 minutes at Higher tier)
  - Reading aloud task: minimum 35 words of text at Foundation tier and 50 words at Higher tier
  - Short unprepared conversation
- Photo card discussion – 25 marks (recommended to last between 4 and 5 minutes in total at Foundation tier, and between 6 and 7 minutes in total at Higher tier)
  - Response to the content of the photos on the card (recommended to last approximately 1 minute at Foundation tier and approximately 1.5 minutes at Higher tier)
  - Unprepared conversation (recommended to last between 3 and 4 minutes at Foundation tier and between 4.5 and 5.5 minutes at Higher tier)

### Paper 3: Reading

#### What's assessed

- Understanding and responding to written texts which focus predominantly on the vocabulary and grammar at each tier
- Inferring plausible meanings of single words when they are embedded in written sentences
- Translating from French into English

#### How it's assessed

- Written exam: 45 minutes (Foundation tier), 1 hour (Higher tier)
- 50 marks (for each of Foundation tier and Higher tier)
- 25% of GCSE

#### Questions

- Section A – reading comprehension questions in English, to be answered in English or non-verbally (40 marks)
- Section B – translation from French into English, minimum of 35 words at Foundation tier and 50 words at Higher tier (10 marks)

## Paper 4: Writing

### What's assessed

- Writing text in the language in a lexically and grammatically accurate way in response to simple and familiar stimuli
- Translating from English into French

### How it's assessed

- Written exam: 1 hour 10 minutes (Foundation tier), 1 hour 15 minutes (Higher tier)
- 50 marks (for each of Foundation tier and Higher tier)
- 25% of GCSE

### Questions

#### Foundation tier

- Question 1 – student produces five short sentences in response to a photo (10 marks)
- Question 2 – student produces a short piece of writing in response to five compulsory bullet points, approximately 50 words in total (10 marks)
- Question 3 – student completes five short grammar tasks (5 marks)
- Question 4 – translation of sentences from English into French, minimum 35 words in total (10 marks)
- Question 5 (overlap question) – student produces a piece of writing in response to three compulsory bullet points, approximately 90 words in total. There is a choice from two questions (15 marks)

#### Higher tier

- Question 1 – translation of sentences from English into French, minimum 50 words in total (10 marks)
- Question 2 (overlap question) – student produces a piece of writing in response to three compulsory bullet points, approximately 90 words in total. There is a choice from two questions (15 marks)
- Question 3 – open-ended writing task (student responds to two bullets, producing approximately 150 words in total). There is a choice from two questions (25 marks)

# Internal Assessment:

There will be regular assessments of progress throughout the course. Following assessment, students are advised on which areas to focus their efforts.

Term 5 of year 10 students sit internal exams in all skills.

November of y11 students sit internal exams and again in March of y11 students – internal speaking exams once in y11.

N.B. external speaking exams can be as early as April



# Study suggestions

- All students must work their way through the topic vocabulary
- Most students should practise additional listening or reading comprehensions; PLC links to quizlet, BBC bitesize and GCSE pod
- Some students could watch films / programmes in French on All4 / Netflix etc