

# GCSE MFL @ Thamesmead School

## The AQA GCSE

The GCSE in French/Spanish is designed to develop the **communication skills** of students and help them to really understand the **culture and customs** of French/Spanish speaking countries. It builds on topics and grammar students have studied at KS3 and introduces new content such as social issues, cultural festivals and marriage.

## Why study languages?

Please have a look at the Options Video and for further information, click the link below.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Eyj4HjqACF8&t=27s>

## Course content

### Theme 1: Identity and culture

Me, my family and friends – *marriage and relationships*  
Technology in everyday life – *social media/mobile technology*  
Free-time activities – *music, cinema and TV, food/eating out/ sport*  
Customs and festivals

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

Home, town, neighbourhood and region  
Social issues – *charity/voluntary work, healthy and unhealthy living*  
Global issues – *the environment, poverty, homelessness*  
Travel and tourism

### Theme 3: Current and future

My studies  
Life at school/college  
Education post-16  
Jobs, career choices and ambitions



## What are the exams like?

There will be four exams at the end of Year 11 and each skill is worth 25% of the GCSE. There is a **reading**, a **listening**, a **speaking** and a **writing** exam. Students will be entered for either Foundation or Higher tier.

### Reading

Multiple choice questions. 2<sup>nd</sup> section – Q & A in French/Spanish. Short 50 word translation into English

### Listening

Multiple choice questions or short written answers. 2<sup>nd</sup> section – Q & A in French/Spanish

### Speaking

- Short role play
- Describe a photo
- Short conversation on 2 themes

### Writing

- One 90 word essay
- One 150 word essay
- One short translation into French/Spanish

## What are the lessons like?

Students frequently work in pairs and groups and most lessons include elements of the 4 skills. Exam practice tasks are spread throughout the 2 year course and we recommend a revision guide and workbook to support spaced learning and revision. All students are provided with a **Pearson ActiveLearn** account to practise exam style questions and we also use **thislanguage.com** to access videos to listen to native speakers. Students have many opportunities to discover more about the festivals, food, music and people of French/Spanish speaking countries and get to know the culture.