



# Modern languages: French, German or Spanish



## STUDY LEVEL

**A level**

## CONTACT DETAILS

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As a student studying French, German or Spanish you'll have the very best facilities at your fingertips including interactive language software, a language laboratory, a private study area with PCs and a fantastic virtual learning environment (VLE).

As well as offering greater opportunities to work or study abroad, learning languages encourages you to meet people from different countries and cultures, develop excellent communication skills and be confident in public.

### What will I study?

Whether you are learning French, German or Spanish the Sir John Deane's Modern Languages Department is a great place to study.

All three languages offer a variety of topics, including family, modern technology, regional culture and heritage, cinema, music and literature. Throughout your chosen course you will get the chance to improve your reading, writing, translating and listening skills and will use the digital language laboratory, as well as take part in conversation classes. Assessment is through written examination as well as oral tests.

### Co-curricular activities?

On Wednesdays, you will be given the opportunity to join an enrichment course in Italian or Chinese.

In March 2017 we ran a highly successful study visit to Berlin and another visit is planned for 2019. Students also have the opportunity to take part in work experience schemes in France, Germany and Spain where they can improve their linguistic skills and sample the food and general culture first hand.

You may have the chance to take part in a conference at a local university or visit Manchester for foreign language taster sessions in film and culture.

### Where might it lead?

Language graduates are the third most employable after doctors and lawyers. It goes without saying that you will be able to work in a multinational company or even abroad with your language skills. A large number of universities encourage students to continue their language studies alongside their main discipline. You will be in a stronger position to get a job in companies with international links and also find it easier to learn other languages later in life.

## Course Breakdown

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### Course Summary

- Exam board is AQA

Paper	Content	Marks	Duration	Weighting
Paper 1	Listening, Reading & Writing	100	21-23 min (incl. 5 min preparation time)	50%
Paper 2	Writing	80	2 hours 30 minutes	20%
Paper 3	Speaking	60	2 hours	30%

### Summary of Content

#### Social issues and trends

The changing nature of family; The 'cyber-society';  
The place of voluntary work.

#### Artistic culture

A culture proud of its heritage; Contemporary francophone music; Cinema: the 7th art form.

#### Aspects of French-speaking society: current issues

Positive features of a diverse society ; Life for the marginalised; How criminals are treated.

#### Aspects of political life in the French-speaking world

Teenagers, the right to vote and political commitment;  
Demonstrations, strikes – who holds the power?;  
Politics and immigration.

Students must also study one film "La Haine" by M Kassovitz and one book "L'Etranger" by A Camus.

### Opportunities in the Subject

The department regularly visits Manchester Metropolitan University to attend workshops and study days designed specifically for year 12 and year 13 language students.

Students also have the opportunity to take part in work experience schemes with the organization "Halisbury" in France where they can improve their linguistic skills and sample the food and general culture first hand.

### Suggested Preparation for September

Students are encouraged to revise tenses using the website: [www.languagesonline.org.uk](http://www.languagesonline.org.uk)

Students can also create a Memrise account and find our AS Higher Level Connectives and Phrases vocab course, which provides the type of connectives that we use to prepare the writing and speaking examinations and they will definitely help you to prepare for your studies.

To sign up, visit: [www.memrise.com/join](http://www.memrise.com/join)

To access our vocab course: [www.memrise.com/course/790349/les-connecteurs-7](http://www.memrise.com/course/790349/les-connecteurs-7)

# Course Breakdown

### Course Summary

- Exam board is WJEC/Eduqas

Paper	Content	Marks	Duration	Weighting
Paper 1	Speaking Exam	60	21– 23 min (incl. 5 min preparation time)	30%
Paper 2	Listening, Reading and Translation	100	2 hours 30 minutes	30%
Paper 3	Writing: Two essays One on the novel “Der Vorleser” and the second on the film “Goodbye Lenin”	40	2 hours	40%

### Summary of Content

At A level, students consider topics relevant to their age group and to their experience and lifestyle. They will also study political, intellectual and artistic culture.

Being a young person in German-speaking society  
Family structures, traditional and modern values, friendships/relationships, citizenship; Youth trends, issues and personal identity; Educational and employment opportunities

#### Understanding the German-speaking world

Regional culture and heritage in Germany, German-speaking countries and communities; Germany, Austria and Switzerland in a European context; Literature, art, film and music in the German speaking world

#### Diversity and difference

Migration and integration; Cultural identity and marginalisation; Cultural enrichment and celebrating difference; Discrimination and diversity.

#### The making of modern Germany: 1989 onwards

Initial and subsequent process of reunification; Social cohesion in present-day Germany; The economic impact of a united Germany.

#### Film and literature

Discussion of the film “Goodbye Lenin” by Wolfgang Becker; Discussion of a literary work “Der Vorleser” by Bernhard Schlink.

### Opportunities in the Subject

We run a popular, cultural visit to Berlin for all German language students, which ties in well with our topics. Students will have the opportunity to experience the German language and culture in the German capital. We also regularly visit Manchester Metropolitan University to attend workshops and study days designed specifically for A level language students. Our students also have the opportunity to take up work experience in German speaking countries through the Halsbury Travel company. Furthermore, each language student gets speaking practice in smaller groups in conversation classes and we also offer grammar and skills workshops for consolidation and practice.

### Suggested Preparation for September

The best preparation for the start of the course is to revise vocabulary and grammar topics you have learned. Please also take a look at the following link, which provides grammar resources to help you to prepare for your studies: [www.nthuleen.com/teach/grammar.html](http://www.nthuleen.com/teach/grammar.html). You should also start immersing yourself in German by exploring this website: [www.dw.com/de/deutsch-lernen/deutsch-xxl/s-12376](http://www.dw.com/de/deutsch-lernen/deutsch-xxl/s-12376).

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### Summary of Content

#### YEAR 1 TOPICS

Cyberspace; Modern and traditional values; Idols; Regional Identity; Cultural Heritage; Gender Equality

#### Cultural topic: El laberinto del fauno

In 1944 Spain young Ofelia (Ivana Baquero) and her ailing mother (Ariadna Gil) arrive at the post of her mother's new husband (Sergi López), a sadistic army officer who is trying to quell a guerrilla uprising. While exploring an ancient maze, Ofelia encounters the faun Pan, who tells her that she is a legendary lost princess and must complete three dangerous tasks in order to claim immortality.

#### YEAR 2 TOPICS

Immigration; Integration; Racism; Young people; Monarchies, dictatorships and republics; Protests

#### Cultural topic: La casa de Bernarda Alba

Following the gangland execution of her husband, the formidable matriarch Bernarda Alba will do anything to safeguard her family's dubious fortune and the future of her five daughters. A deal is struck – a marriage of convenience between her eldest girl and the son of a business rival.

All Bernarda has to do is ensure that the wedding happens, and quickly. Five headstrong daughters cooped up in the family home in an emotionally charged atmosphere of bitter rivalry and repressed sexuality make that an epic challenge.

One of the most celebrated European dramas of the 20th century, the play was finished by Lorca shortly before he was executed in Spain for his left-wing politics.

### Opportunities in the Subject

Students will get the opportunity to spend some time in Spain doing work experience abroad through a well reputed organisation called "Halsbury".

We also regularly visit Manchester Metropolitan University to attend workshops and study days designed specifically for AS and A2 language students.

### Suggested Preparation for September

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To access our vocab course: [www.memrise.com/course/459059/essay-phrases-alevel](http://www.memrise.com/course/459059/essay-phrases-alevel)