



French FAQs

How do I prepare for GCSE French?

It is important that you leave year 9 with great knowledge of the KS3 vocabulary and mastering the following tenses: present, perfect, imperfect, near future and simple future.

Using past papers is probably the most effective way of preparing for your GCSE French exam. Becoming familiar with the content of past papers helps you mentally prepare yourself for the reading and writing elements of your examination. You can go on the AQA GCSE French website to check resources.

Nevertheless, the best way to practise the language is by listening to French songs and watching TV series and/or films in French with English subtitles on platforms such as Netflix. It is also advisable to practise reading French articles and speaking French out loud when alone.

How hard is GCSE French?

French is not hard if you commit yourself to revising for 15 minutes on a daily basis. If you are on track with the grammar, learning the tenses and the vocabulary, you will find it easy and more enjoyable.

Is French GCSE harder than Spanish?

French tenses and conjugation are easier than Spanish. However, Spanish is much easier to spell than French.

I think I prefer French but I get better results in Spanish, what should I do?

Regardless of your results in year 9, you should choose the language that you like the most. Modern Foreign Language GCSEs involve hard work and commitment so you want to make sure that you enjoy spending time on the language that you choose.

I really like both languages the same way. I do not know which one to choose.

If you are talented in languages and would like to pursue languages in the future, remember that it is possible to choose both French and Spanish for GCSE.

Do I need to study a language if I do a GCSE in a community language such as Polish?

If you decide to do a GCSE in your community language you don't need to choose Spanish and/or French to meet EBacc requirements but you can if you want to.

Will I be taught in ability sets?

No. All classes are mixed ability. Students will be put in new, mixed groups.

Will there be a trip to France in GCSE?

It has been tradition to take our Year 8 students on a one day trip to Boulogne-sur-Mer and we ran a GCSE residential trip to Nice in 2019. Unfortunately, we were unable to repeat the trip to Nice last year and we will not be able to organise a residential trip until Covid-19 rules allow and it is safe to travel abroad with students.