

MFL teachers' favourite quotes:

Miss Cousens: " A different language is a different vision of life".

Miss Mabile: "You can never understand one language until you understand at least two".

Mrs Isaacs: "One language sets you in a corridor for life. Two languages open every door along the way."

Mrs Stangroom: "Do you know what a foreign accent is? It's a sign of bravery".

Mrs Rodriguez: "Learn a language, and you'll avoid a war".

Mrs Whitmarsh: "To have another language is to possess a second soul."



Course Overview

3.1.1 Theme 1: People and lifestyle

Theme 1 covers the following three topics:

- Topic 1: Identity and relationships with others
- Topic 2: Healthy living and lifestyle
- Topic 3: Education and work

3.1.2 Theme 2: Popular culture

Theme 2 covers the following three topics:

- Topic 1: Free-time activities
- Topic 2: Customs, festivals and celebrations
- Topic 3: Celebrity culture

3.1.3 Theme 3: Communication and the world around us

Theme 3 covers the following three topics:

- Topic 1: Travel and tourism, including places of interest
- Topic 2: Media and technology
- Topic 3: The environment and where people live



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Course Assessment

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)



Why choose a language for GCSE and A level?

It makes you more employable.

Ebacc

It helps you develop many transferable skills.

It enriches your travel experiences.

It's a different learning environment.



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Beyond GCSE and A level

Careers directly linked to languages:

Teacher, lecturer, translator

Careers where having a language for GCSE/A level is highly desirable:

Business, finance, travel and tourism, journalism, media, law etc



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