



A Level Languages: Arabic, French, German or Spanish

Exam Board: Edexcel

You may think that languages aren't really relevant to today's modern world; everyone speaks English, right? Wrong. Languages are all around us; they are used in so many situations whether at work, on holiday or just casually in day-to-day life - we live in a multilingual global society.

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Learning a language is a never-ending process; languages are constantly changing, bringing in new words and getting rid of old ones. This is one of the great things about learning languages, you're always up to speed with the world! You may just want to turn your back on languages after doing them for two years at GCSE, but don't! The skills and qualifications that you gain from studying a language at A-level are incredibly important tools to have under your belt.

What is the A-level course like?

A-level languages build upon your existing knowledge gained at GCSE, giving you a sound understanding of using your language in a variety of contexts and situations - at home, abroad, with friends or in the workplace. The emphasis of the A-level language course focuses on improving communication in your foreign language through different means as well as being able to use it in a variety of situations, developing your key skills areas and most importantly to encourage you to fall in love with learning languages.

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The A-level modern language course is structured so that you'll study four modules each year which will form the basis of the reading, writing and listening exams and also the speaking test. You may even get to do a spot of translating during the course, depending upon your exam board. There is no coursework for this A-level, but this isn't a bad thing as you'll gain all the skills and knowledge you need to ace the exams over the two years of study. With around five hours of class time a week dedicated to learning your language this is a fast pace environment with noticeable improvements. You'll have to do exams in both years of study but you have the option to re-sit the AS (first year) exams. The topics that you'll cover are really varied so you not only greatly improve your language speaking ability, use of grammar, different tenses, and know tonnes more vocabulary - but you'll also learn about culture, history, literature, society, the environment and lifestyle.

The aim of the A-level modern language course is to help you to develop an interest in speaking a foreign language, to gain awareness of the need to speak foreign languages, to appreciate the nature and diversity of different cultures and people and to acquire knowledge, skills and understanding for practical use, further study and employment.

An A-level language complements a whole variety of subjects. You may need languages for all sorts of career destinations- doctors, psychologists and physiotherapists need language skills to communicate effectively with patients whether they work in the UK or overseas; businessmen, bankers and entrepreneurs all need language skills to make deals and sell products on the global market. Politicians, historians, geographers and holiday reps all need language skills to get to know the people and area that they are passionate about. Basically the only A-level subject that will complement and enhance your other studies to no end is the foreign language A-level.