

A MODERN FOREIGN LANGUAGE AT GCSE

Why choose a modern foreign language at GCSE?

The study of a modern foreign language will broaden your horizons, develop cultural knowledge and understanding and foster transferable skills such as confidence, communication, problem solving and creativity. A GCSE in a modern foreign language will also provide you with a solid foundation for future language study.

A GCSE in a modern foreign language will enable you to:

- develop your ability to communicate confidently and coherently with native speakers in speech and writing
- express and develop thoughts and ideas spontaneously and fluently
- listen to and understand clearly articulated, standard speech
- deepen your knowledge about how language works and enrich your vocabulary in order for you to increase your independent use and understanding of extended language in a wide range of contexts
- acquire new knowledge, skills and ways of thinking through the ability to understand and respond to a rich range of authentic spoken and written material, including literary texts
- develop awareness and understanding of the culture and identity of the countries and communities where the language is spoken
- be encouraged to make appropriate links to other areas of the curriculum to enable bilingual and deeper learning
- develop language learning skills both for immediate use and to prepare for further language study and use in school, higher education or in employment.

What will I study?

The context for learning the language is organised under **three broad themes**:

- Identity and culture
- Wales and the World - areas of interest
- Current and future study and employment

Each broad theme is divided into sub-themes including technology and social media, holidays and tourism and employment.



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How will I be assessed?

There are four assessments at GCSE which can be taken at either Foundation or Higher Tier. Each assessment is worth 25% of the qualification. A combination of tiers can be taken.

- Unit 1 is an oral test with three tasks (role play, photo card discussion and a conversation).
- Unit 2 is a listening exam (written) lasting 35 or 45 minutes, depending on the tier. The exam will involve responding to different types of spoken language including conversations, interviews and announcements. Some of the responses will be in the assessed language.
- Unit 3 is a reading exam (written) lasting 1 hour or 1 hour 15 minutes depending on the tier. The exam will involve responding to different types of written language including advertisements, newspaper articles, emails and letters. There is also a short translation from the assessed language into English/Welsh.
- Unit 4 is a writing exam (written) lasting 1 hour 15 minutes (Foundation Tier) and 1 hour 30 minutes (Higher Tier). This will involve writing three pieces of text for Foundation Tier, for example completing a form, writing an email or a message and writing an article for a magazine. The fourth task will be a translation of sentences from English/Welsh into the assessed language. At Higher Tier, the exam will involve two tasks such as writing an article for a magazine and a website. The third task will be a translation of a short passage from English/Welsh into the assessed language.

What skills will I develop?

You will develop skills in:

- speaking
- listening
- reading
- writing in the modern foreign language.

You will also develop confidence in communicating and an awareness and understanding of other cultures.

Careers with modern foreign languages?

Studying a modern foreign language can lead to many different careers that directly require the use of languages such as translating, interpreting and teaching, but can also open the door to an array of career paths such as journalism, international aid/development work, marketing, sales and logistics.

