

The background features a white area with several colorful speech bubbles in shades of orange, green, blue, and purple. A dark blue abstract shape overlaps the right side of the white area. The text is overlaid on the white area.

GCSE Languages


French

German


French or German is part of the compulsory curriculum for 2025-2027

Students may choose French or German as a second modern foreign language.

Latin is also available as an option subject.



If you have not studied French or German before, we recommend this course to students wishing to study a second foreign language alongside GCSE German or French. In this case, students must be committed to the challenges of learning a new language in two years.



GCSE French/German

This is a two year course which incorporates all the topics, vocabulary and grammar which you have already learnt in Years 7 to 9 in your French or German lessons. Remember that if you have not studied the language in Years 7 to 9, you will still have to do the same course with the same content.

You will expand and consolidate your prior knowledge using the four skills - listening, reading, writing and speaking - which you have already been using at KS3.

The four skills will be tested in four separate question papers.

The specification covers three distinct themes. These themes apply to all four question papers.

Theme 1

People and lifestyle

- **Topic 1:**

Identity and relationships with others

- **Topic 2:**

Healthy living and lifestyle

- **Topic 3:**

Education and work

Theme 2

Popular culture

- **Topic 1:**

Free-time activities

- **Topic 2:**

Customs, festivals and celebrations

- **Topic 3:**

Celebrity culture

Theme 3

Communication and the world around us

- **Topic 1:**

Travel and tourism, including places of interest

- **Topic 2:**

Media and technology

- **Topic 3:**

The environment and where people live



How is the exam made up?



How is the exam made up?



- There are 4 exams - listening, speaking, reading and writing.



- Each exam is worth 25% of the total GCSE mark.



- All exams are taken at the end of Y11. There are no controlled assessments or coursework.



- You can either do all foundation papers (grades 1-5) or all higher papers (grades 4-9).

Paper 1

Listening

Written exam

- 35 minutes for Foundation Tier, 40 marks.
- or
- 45 minutes for Higher Tier, 50 marks.

- No dictionaries allowed.
- 5 minutes reading time of the question paper before the listening stimulus is played.
- 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 in French/German, including a small number of words from outside the prescribed vocabulary list (8 marks at Foundation tier and 10 marks at Higher tier)
- 2 minutes at the end of the recording for students to check their work.

Paper 2

Speaking

Oral exam

- 7 to 9 minutes for Foundation Tier plus preparation time.

or

- 10 to 12 minutes for Higher Tier plus preparation time.

- 50 marks for each Foundation Tier and Higher Tier.

- No dictionaries allowed.
- Role-play
- Reading aloud task and short conversation
 - Reading aloud task: minimum 35 words of text at Foundation tier and 50 words at Higher tier
 - Short unprepared conversation
- Photo card discussion
 - Response to the content of the two photos on the card
 - Unprepared conversation related to the themes of the photos.

Paper 3 Reading

Written exam

- 45 minutes for Foundation Tier.

or

- 60 minutes for Higher Tier.

- 50 marks for each Foundation Tier and Higher Tier.

- No dictionaries allowed.
- Section A – reading comprehension questions in English, to be answered in English or non-verbally
- Section B – translation from French/German/ into English

Paper 4

Writing

Written exam

- 1 hour 10 for Foundation Tier
- or
- 1 hour 15 minutes for Higher Tier.

- 50 marks for each Foundation Tier and Higher Tier.
- No dictionaries allowed.

- **Foundation:**
- Question 1 – student produces five short sentences in response to a photo
- Question 2 – student produces a short response to five compulsory bullet points, approximately 50 words in total
- Question 3 – student completes five short grammar tasks (5 marks)
- Question 4 – translation of sentences from English into French/German
- Question 5 (overlap question) – student produces a response to three compulsory bullet points, approximately 90 words in total. There is a choice from two questions.

- **Higher:**
- Question 1 – translation of sentences from English into French/German
- Question 2 – student produces a response to three compulsory bullet points, approximately 90 words in total. There is a choice from two questions
- Question 3 – Open-ended writing task (student responds to two bullets, producing approximately 150 words in total). There is a choice from two questions.