

How to be successful in the Reading and Listening examinations, each worth 25% of the GCSE.

The exams will cover material from all topic areas taught over the three year course.

Students who do the best in these exams typically...

- * Revise effectively – little and often is the key.
- * Don't leave blank spaces on the exam paper—an intelligent guess could gain valuable points. Blank answers gain no points!
- * Try various learning methods until they find the one that suits them.
- * Have low absence rates – missing lessons can mean losing out on valuable input for a whole topic area!
- * Are well organised – it's easier to revise from a neat and tidy exercise book.

Have a positive attitude.

Most students...

- * Find the exams challenging
- * Get nervous
- * BUT they try their best and usually do well if they have put in the required effort.

TOPIC AREAS:

These are the topics on which all exams will be based.

Theme 1: Identity and culture:

Me, my family and friends
Technology in everyday life
Free-time activities
Customs and festivals in Spanish-speaking countries/communities

Theme 2: Local, national, international and global areas of interest:

Home, town, neighbourhood and region
Social issues
Global issues
Travel and tourism

Theme 3: Current and future study and employment:

My studies
Life at school/college
Education post-16
Jobs, career choices and ambitions

Useful websites:

Both French and Spanish:

www.languagesonline.org.uk www.quizlet.com
www.memrise.com www.bbc.co.uk/schools/gcsebitesize/

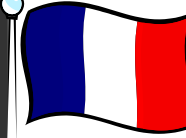
For French:

<http://www.fluentu.com/french/blog/french-podcasts/>

For Spanish:

<http://www.fluentu.com/spanish/blog/spanish-podcasts/>

If you have any questions about KS4 languages or the GCSE syllabus feel free to contact Ms Lopez, Head of Modern Languages, on the following email address: vlopez@jogschool.org



A Parents' Guide to GCSE Spanish and French

Including:

How can parents help their son or daughter through GCSE French or Spanish?

The four skills and how to help your child do their very best in each of them.

How to learn vocabulary successfully.

Useful websites

Online translators

Extra-curricular opportunities

Asking for help and advice.

The GCSE at a glance:

Writing exam 25%

Speaking exam 25%

Listening exam 25%

Reading exam 25%

NO coursework or Controlled Assessments.

All exams are sat in May of year 11.

SEE INSIDE FOR FULL DETAILS

How can parents help their child through GCSE French or Spanish?

It doesn't matter if the parent has never studied a language before – in fact this can be an advantage as many children enjoy being better at something than their parents!

- Take an interest in what your child is learning. Ask if you can help in any way.
- Ask your child to teach you some of the vocabulary that has been covered in recent lessons.
- Ask your child what the word is for (basic things like days of the week, numbers, colours etc).
- Encourage your child to test himself / herself regularly in **writing**, using the fan method. (See opposite).
- Encourage them to check their work for errors and redraft written pieces
- Encourage them to read through their notes and prepare questions to ask their teacher for clarification of concepts not understood
- Provide a bilingual dictionary for helping with work at home and at school. (We recommend the Collins Easy Learning edition).
- Encourage your child to take part in an exchange. This is the best way to improve their confidence as well as their comprehension and speaking skills.

How to be successful in speaking exams, worth 25% of the GCSE.

Students who do the best in speaking exams typically...

- * Spend time regularly revising and extending their vocabulary knowledge.
- * Make the effort to practise regularly with a friend, having conversations in Spanish / French on topics they have covered in class.
- * Use online resources such as Quizlet and the text-to-speech tools to improve their pronunciation and accent.
- * Have low absence rates – missing lessons can mean losing out on valuable input!
- * Are well organised – a neat and tidy exercise book leads to fewer errors being made when it comes to referring back to material or learning from the student's own written work.
- * Have a positive attitude.
- * Try various learning methods until they find the one that suits them.

Most students...

- * Think they'll never manage it
- * Get very nervous
- * BUT they try their best and usually do well if they have put in the required effort.

Online translators

We set homework tasks which are directly related to material covered in lessons and which therefore should be very straightforward for our students to complete on their own without additional help.

It is very obvious when an online translator has been used, for two reasons:

- 1) The vocabulary and language used bear no relation to what has been covered in lessons.
- 2) The translated material is usually full of errors and makes no sense.

Please do not encourage your child to use online translators! Thank you.

Learning vocabulary using the fan method.

- * Fold a piece of paper into fairly wide (approx 3cm) columns, as if making a fan.
- * In the first column, write the list of words in English.
- * In column 2, write the words in Spanish or French.
- * Fold the paper so that only column 1 is visible.
- * Try writing the Spanish or French in the next empty column.
- * Unfold the paper and check your answers. Tick those you got right next to the English in column 1.
- * Cover the second and third columns and try again with those words you didn't get right previously.
- * Keep going until you can get the whole list right. This may take more than one piece of paper for some students.
- * Finally, test yourself again with the entire list.

This really works so make sure you use this method every time you have vocabulary to learn.

How to be successful in written exams, worth 25% of the GCSE.

In writing exams, students are expected to write as accurately as possible, using grammar competently and a variety of vocabulary.

Students who do the best in these tests typically...

- * Work hard on written homework tasks during their course, reflecting on feedback from their teachers to ensure that misunderstandings are overcome.
- * Learn their tenses (past, present, future, conditional as a minimum) and can form them confidently.
- * Practise their spelling and learn basic grammar points such as gender and adjective agreement so they can apply this consistently.
- * Are well organised – it is easier to refer to a neat and tidy vocabulary book when revising.
- * Catch up on any work they miss due to absence.
- * Have low absence rates to avoid missing valuable input for a coursework topic.
- * Have a positive attitude.
- * In the exam—Make sure that they cover all the bullet points in the title.
- * Check their spelling and grammar thoroughly.

Most students...

- * Find written exams challenging.
- * BUT they try their best and usually do well if they have put in the required effort.

Extra-curricular opportunities

> We have partner schools in Spain and France and have run exchanges every year, alternating between the two countries. This can only happen if there is enough demand!

> Each MFL teacher offers after-school support sessions for KS4 students who want help with any aspect of their French / Spanish work. Please encourage your son/ daughter to speak to their teacher to arrange one-to-one support as soon as difficulties become apparent.

> We actively look out for other opportunities to offer our students to help them to enjoy and achieve in their MFL studies.