



## **Independent Learning**

Homework is set every week and typically involves learning vocabulary, writing or translation practice in preparation for writing assessments, reading exercises or preparation for speaking assessments. Learning Booklets are often used to practise, with students submitting their work on paper for checking.

In addition we have listed below some useful language learning websites. Students can choose their own topic and practise listening, reading and writing skills. Many exercises are self-marking. Even 10 minutes on-line can benefit effective revision. Students are also encouraged to create their own study / revision resources, such as flashcards, Quizlet tasks, mind maps, etc.

[senecalearning.com](http://senecalearning.com)

[www.languagesonline.org.uk](http://www.languagesonline.org.uk) = good grammar exercises (tenses, verbs, word order)

[www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize](http://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize) = contains Foundation and Higher Level exercises

<https://zut.languageskills.co.uk> = use “gut” for German and Oye for Spanish

[www.dict.cc](http://www.dict.cc) (a fabulous online dictionary)

<https://www.duolingo.com> a popular website where students can sign up and do extra learning and can also download the app to learn on the go!

**The AQA website also contains past papers and mark schemes for reading and listening as well as sample speaking / writing material. [www.aqa.org.uk](http://www.aqa.org.uk)**

We provide resources containing guidance and practice materials for specific aspects of the GCSE Speaking Test: Nominated Topic, Role Play and Photo Card.

## **Intervention Classes:**

Week 1 Tuesday 3.00-3.30pm    French / Spanish / German    MFL classrooms

Week 2 Tuesday 3.00-3.30pm    French / Spanish / German    MFL classrooms

Higher and Foundation support available.

## **Assessments**

GCSE French/German/Spanish has a Foundation Tier (grades 1–5) and a Higher Tier (grades 4–9).

Students must take all four question papers at the same tier. Four skills are assessed; Listening, Reading, Speaking and Writing.

Each skill = 25%. Candidates are required to translate from the MFL into English and vice versa.

**Exam Dates**    These have not yet been published, however as a guide:-

GCSE Speaking tests will take place after Easter. All other MFL examinations will take place in May or June. Please visit the AQA MFL website for assessment details relating to GCSE Listening and Reading. The site also contains assessment information for Speaking and Writing. Below please find a summary for these two skills.



## Paper 2: Speaking

### What's assessed

Communicating and interacting effectively in speech for a variety of purposes

### How it's assessed

- Non-exam assessment
- 7–9 minutes (Foundation Tier) + preparation time
- 10–12 minutes (Higher Tier) + preparation time
- 60 marks (for each of Foundation Tier and Higher Tier)
- 25% of GCSE

### Questions

#### Foundation Tier and Higher Tier

The format is the same at Foundation Tier and Higher Tier, but with different stimulus questions for the Photo card and different stimulus materials for the Role-play. The timings are different too:

- Role-play – 15 marks (2 minutes at Foundation Tier; 2 minutes at Higher Tier)
- Photo card – 15 marks (2 minutes at Foundation Tier; 3 minutes at Higher Tier)
- General conversation – 30 marks (3–5 minutes at Foundation Tier; 5–7 minutes at Higher Tier)



## Paper 4: Writing

### What's assessed

Communicating effectively in writing for a variety of purposes

### How it's assessed

- Written exam: 1 hour (Foundation Tier), 1 hour 15 minutes (Higher Tier)
- 50 marks at Foundation Tier and 60 marks at Higher Tier
- 25% of GCSE

### Questions

#### Foundation Tier

- Question 1 – message (student produces four sentences in response to a photo) – 8 marks
- Question 2 – short passage (student writes a piece of continuous text in response to four brief bullet points, approximately 40 words in total) – 16 marks
- Question 3 – translation from English into German (minimum 35 words) – 10 marks
- Question 4 – structured writing task (student responds to four compulsory detailed bullet points, producing approximately 90 words in total) – there is a choice from two questions – 16 marks

#### Higher Tier

- Question 1 – structured writing task (student responds to four compulsory detailed bullet points, producing approximately 90 words in total) – there is a choice from two questions – 16 marks
- Question 2 – open-ended writing task (student responds to two compulsory detailed bullet points, producing approximately 150 words in total) – there is a choice from two questions – 32 marks
- Question 3 – translation from English into German (minimum 50 words) – 12 marks

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## How students can get the most out of their Learning Booklets:-

- An overview of the GCSE syllabus and topic themes, so it is clear what is being studied.
- Useful GCSE verbs, phrases, opinions and justifications (with the English translation too!) – for high-quality writing and speaking. Variation is so important.
- Key topic vocabulary – keep re-visiting these words!
- Model Tasks and Deliberate Practice The tasks here will give students a good model of typical GCSE assessments and help them to develop each skill. This should improve confidence when tackling similar tasks in actual test / exam situations. Each booklet contains both foundation and higher tier tasks.

If you would like to discuss your son's /daughter's progress in GCSE French/Spanish/German, please do not hesitate to contact their teacher (or MFL Subject Coordinator) as below. Thank you for your support.

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