



Upton Court
GRAMMAR SCHOOL

MFL Department

Starting your
GCSEs

Why learn a language

tolerance friends
empathy enjoyment
influence awareness
empowerment
pleasure
insight understanding
pride adaptability
advantages
scope
employability
opportunities
perspective
confidence
memories
freedom

MFL

Preparing for your GCSEs Exam board: AQA

This is an exciting time for our department, as exam requirements are changing and we believe this will better equip our learners with more genuine language skills which will enable them to take their place in a multi-lingual global society and develop new ways of seeing the world.

We follow the AQA specification for French and Spanish and Edexcel for Mandarin: both provide a balanced curriculum addressing the four key skills with equal weighting: listening, speaking, reading and writing. Students also learn about the customs and traditions of the target language country, as well as learning about how to communicate in both leisure and vocational contexts. The resources that we provide to enhance students' learning are imaginative, creative and challenging.

Achieving your Potential

Students at UCGS are very fortunate to trial all three languages in year 7 and choose the one they want to carry on at GCSE: this gives you four exciting years to build up on your knowledge and skills and achieve the best you can! Here are some tips:

- be familiar with all the language websites
 - zut.org.uk
 - linguscope.com
 - memrise.co.uk
 - duolingo
 - GoChinese
- Purchase revision materials suggested by the Department.
- Regularly revise the vocabulary (including grammar points and questions)
- Create termly revision resources such as cue cards, quizzes, powerpoints or booklets in order to consolidate learning
- Join us in our yearly study visit abroad to immerse yourself in the language and the culture of the country studied!

If you talk
to a man in
a language he
understands,
that goes to his head.
If you talk
to him in his
own language,
that goes to his heart.

Nelson Mandela

In order to succeed in the study of Languages, students will need to have an extensive vocabulary, a good grasp of grammar and the knowledge to communicate in a variety of contexts with confidence, fluently and spontaneously.



Extending Learning

The MFL Department offers a multitude of opportunities for students to enrich learning at KS4! Some of these include:

- Foreign visits with an emphasis on developing cross-curricular learning skills through visits to art galleries, places of worship, partner schools and other historical monuments.
- Numerous links with schools abroad with letter exchanges and visits from our partner schools
- Various fun and homework clubs at lunchtime
- Booster sessions for exam classes

Strategies for Learning

Consolidating Learning



Research shows that reviewing information soon after it has been learnt allows students to remember much more. Returning to the learning from a lesson later in the same day will allow you to be much more successful.

Organising Learning



You will complete a significant amount of classwork, homework, independent work and other activities in preparation for your GCSE exams. Successful students find ways to organise their time and learning effectively so that it is of use to them.

COPE Strategies:

- Create flash cards after each lesson or at the end of each week covering key content/vocab/grammar
- Revise key vocabulary on an ongoing basis.
- Use Linguascope and Memrise regularly.
- Review class notes within 24 hours of the lesson.

COPE Strategies:

- Write a blog to share your learning with others.
- Support KS3 students to strengthen your skills.
- Create a homework timetable.
- Title and date your work clearly.
- Complete exam questions in timed conditions.
- Highlight all questions covered in class
- Participate as much as you can in class and don't hesitate to share your ideas.

Preparing Revision Materials

Successful students prepare for revision and revise earlier topics throughout the year – this means creating revision materials throughout the year in preparation for the exam period. They will also revise constantly so they do not become rusty on earlier topics. They use in class assessments and Pre-Public exams to perfect their revision strategies.



Exam Practice

Ultimately, your success will be measured in the public exams at the end of Year 11. Successful students practise many past papers, find effective ways to monitor and improve their exam technique, and are very familiar with the mark scheme and how it will be applied.



Structure of exams

Paper 1: Listening - 25% of GCSE

Understanding and responding to different types of spoken languages

How it is assessed:

- Written exam:
 - 35 mins (Foundation Tier) 40 marks
 - 45 mins (Higher Tier) 45 marks

Questions:

Section A: questions in English to be answered in English

Section B: Questions in Spanish/French to be answered in Spanish/French

Paper 2: Speaking - 25% of GCSE

Communicating and interacting effectively in speech for a variety of purposes

How it is assessed:

- *Role-play (15 marks) 2 mins Found + Higher T
- * Photo card (15 marks) 2 mins Found + 3 mins Higher T
- *General conversation (30 marks) 3-5 mins F
5-7 mins H

Paper 3: Reading – 25 % of GCSE

Understanding and responding to different types of written language

How it's assessed:

- *Written exam (60 marks)
 - 45 mins Foundation Tier
 - 1h Higher Tier

Questions:

Section A: questions in English to be answered in English

Section B: Questions in Spanish/French to be answered in Spanish/French

Section C: translation from Spanish/French into English

- minimum 35 words for Foundation Tier
- 50 words for Higher Tier

Paper 4 Writing – 25% of GCSE

Communicating effectively in writing for a variety of purposes

How it's assessed:

- *Written exam
 - 1h Foundation Tier 50 marks
 - 1h15 mins Higher Tier 60 marks

Questions:

Foundation Tier

- Q1:** student produces 4 sentences in response to a photo
- Q2:** students writes approx. 40 words in response to 4 brief bullet points
- Q3:** Translation from English to Spanish /French (minimum 35 words)
- Q4:** structured writing task (90 words)
Choice from 2 questions.

Higher Tier

- Q1:** structured writing task (90 words)
Choice from 2 questions.
- Q2:** open ended writing task = students writes approx. 150 words in response to 2 detailed bullet points.Choice of 2 questions.
- Q3:** Translation from English to Spanish /French (minimum 50 words)

Useful Websites

The AQA and Edexcel website provide useful information on the specification, practice papers and mark schemes for all four skills in MFL.

DODDLE The **Doddle** website is monitored by teachers. It contains a range of resources and quizzes to support students' learning and teachers use this to set work for classes and individual students to help them improve.

<http://www.doddlelearn.co.uk>

Please do also refer to the list of websites mentioned above.

You should also make regular use of resources on BBC Bitesize and complete all vocab sections from Memrise within the four year course.

Recommended activities for the summer holidays

- Consolidate your knowledge of all tenses covered, by creating a verb table on A3 that will summarise all formation rules
- Get in touch with your school pen-friend through new technologies to talk, listen and have conversations in the target language!
- Borrow some books from the school library or the department; We have an extensive selective of fantastic short stories which will help you expand on your range of vocabulary and idioms.
- Start to watch your favourite TV series or programmes in the target language or simply put subtitles on!
- If you are lucky to travel abroad, impress your family by using your knowledge as much as possible, ordering food and drinks, asking questions and guiding your family around the town.....!