

Modern Languages

AS and Advanced Level

Bedford School offers French, German and Spanish at AS and A2. It is possible to study any of our foreign languages in isolation, or to combine French with either German or Spanish.

Course codes:	French AQA 5651	6651
	German AQA 5661	6661
	Spanish AQA 5696	6696

Structure and content of the course

The AS course is a wide-ranging one which engages students in many different listening, reading, speaking and writing activities. It rewards these skills more or less equally. At both AS and A2 Levels, there are three papers. The first is devoted to listening and reading; the second is the essay paper; the third is the oral test.

Teaching, including language work, is based on the study of topics. At AS, these will include various aspects of everyday life in France, Germany or Spain, such as education, the world of work and immigration. At A2, the range of topics will expand to include major issues arising from the foreign culture. These may include social and moral questions, such as crime and punishment, the study of a period of modern history and some literature. Content – detailed knowledge of the topic in its foreign language context – is rewarded in addition to the quality of language.

The teaching for each set is shared by two members of staff. All AS and A2 students have a weekly lesson with a native speaker, the language assistant.

Aims

The AS and A2 courses encourage maximum use of the foreign language. Lessons are normally conducted in the foreign tongue. Anyone choosing to study a language may expect to achieve a practical language skill. At the same time, the course will offer an intellectual challenge: we develop the skills of analysing and expressing ideas and arguments coherently and accurately in essays and projects.

Requirements

Realistically, anyone hoping to take a modern language should be of GCSE grade B standard *at least*, although experience suggests that a grade A knowledge of grammar and vocabulary is a significant advantage. We encourage our linguists to visit the foreign country whenever possible and expect them to listen and read outside lessons.

Companion subjects and careers

A language can be combined successfully with almost any other subject. The modern world increasingly values knowledge of a language besides the mother tongue in a broad range of careers.