



Parents' Guide to Preparing for Examinations in GCSE Spanish/French



Speaking a foreign language is incredibly rewarding and a useful life skill, and we want all our students to achieve their full potential in Spanish/French. Please see below for an outline of the course content, skills covered and suggestions in how you can support your child with their revision for MFL.

Please note that we are teaching a new MFL GCSE specification with first exams Summer 2026, therefore course content, past papers and revision guides may differ slightly from previous years.

We cover vocabulary, grammar and phonics across the following topics:

Theme 1: People & Lifestyle (*identity and relationships, healthy living and lifestyle, and education and work*)

Theme 2: Popular culture (*free-time activities, customs, festivals and celebrations, and celebrity culture*)

Theme 3: Communication and the world around us (*travel and tourism, media and technology, and the environment and where people live*)

Students will sit exams in all 4 skill areas covering content from all the above themes. The MFL GCSE is tiered, and students will sit either Higher or Foundation tier for all papers.

Speaking exam – The AQA speaking exam window is between 7th April and 15th May. The specific date and time of each student's exam will be confirmed in due course.

The speaking exam comprises of 3 parts: a role play, a read aloud + short conversation, and a photo description + general conversation.

Practice exam technique for the role play, read aloud and photo descriptions using the past paper resources on TEAMS. There is an emphasis on accuracy of verbs and giving opinions in the mark scheme, so students are advised to create flashcards of key verbs in different tenses as well as opinions.

The general conversation is worth the most marks in the speaking exam, so students should dedicate an appropriate amount of time to revising for this part of the exam. Students have been provided with a list of sample questions that they could be asked in the exam, and should regularly practice answering these questions with an extended answer containing tenses, opinions and a variety of language. Parents and carers could test students by reading out a question and allowing them time to answer.

Reading & Listening exam – Wednesday 20th May 2026 (French) and Tuesday 9th June (Spanish)

Vocabulary learning is the key to success! Revise vocabulary using flashcards, mind-maps, quizlet or memrise. Spend around 10 minutes each day practicing your vocabulary – little and often is most effective.

Students should also revise and practice their reading and listening exam technique by completing past paper questions, following the strategies their teacher suggests in class.

Writing exam – Thursday 4th June 2026 (French) and Tuesday 16th June (Spanish)

Students will be required to write extended responses on a variety of topics from each theme, and must include a range of language, opinions and a variety of tenses in their work.

Students should regularly revise complex structures, a variety of connectives and time phrases, opinion phrases and adjectives, and key verbs across the present, past and future tenses by using flashcards or mind-maps. It is also very important to practice writing 50/90/150 word task answers using this vocabulary.

We recommend the use of the following resources to support revision:

Knowledge organisers – Students have been given a knowledge organiser for each Module starting in Year 10. These are essential for revision as they contain vocabulary lists covering all vocab on the specification, grammar points and a list of phonics. If students no longer have their copies, they can be found on the Year 11 Revision TEAMS site.

TEAMS – There are a range of revision resources saved on the Year 11 Revision TEAMS page, including past papers/exam style questions. Teachers will provide guidance around how to get the most out of past papers as our GCSE specification has changed for examinations in 2026.

Kerboodle – This is an online version of the course textbook we use which students can access at home to complete practice reading and listening questions and complete grammar practice activities.

Memrise/Quizlet – Vocabulary learning is the key to success in MFL and will help students to be successful in all MFL exams. Search 'AQA French/Spanish 2026' on Memrise or Quizlet to find vocabulary lists covering all three themes.

Mock exam feedback – All students were provided with feedback sheets following their Year 10 mock exams outlining strengths and areas to develop with suggestions on how to improve their performance, and more, detailed feedback will follow the Year 11 mock exams.

The MFL Department are here to support students throughout Year 11 and with their revision. For any questions or further information, students should see their class teacher or Mrs Robertson, Curriculum Leader for MFL.

Bonne chance / buena suerte!