

Course Tier Information (where appropriate):

GCSE French has a Foundation tier (grades 1–5) and a Higher tier (grades 4–9)

Course Assessment: Each skill (Listening, speaking, reading and writing) counts for 25%

Each student must enter at the same tier for all four skills (either Foundation or Higher)

General Course Information:

Overview of the course

What will I learn?

You will be developing your skills of communicating in another language through four skill

areas: listening, speaking, reading and writing. Topics covered are: Theme 1: People and lifestyle, Theme 2: Popular culture, Theme 3: Communication and the world around us.

All skills are assessed at the end of year 11 in exam conditions.

Paper 1: Listening

Written exam: 35 minutes (Foundation tier), 45 minutes (Higher tier)

40 marks (Foundation tier), 50 marks (Higher tier)

25% of GCSE

Each exam includes 5 minutes' reading time at the start of the question paper before the listening material is played and **2 minutes at the end of the recording for students to check their work.**

Questions

Section A – listening comprehension questions in English, to be answered in English or non-verbally (32 marks at Foundation tier and 40 marks at Higher tier)

Section B – Dictation where students transcribe short sentences, including a small number of words from outside the prescribed vocabulary list (8 marks at Foundation tier and 10 marks at Higher tier)

Paper 2: speaking

Non-exam assessment (NEA)

7–9 minutes (Foundation tier) + 15 minutes' supervised preparation time

10–12 minutes (Higher tier) + 15 minutes' supervised preparation time

50 marks (for each of Foundation tier and Higher tier)

25% of GCSE

Questions

Role-play – 10 marks (recommended to last between 1 and 1.5 minutes at both tiers)

Reading aloud task and short conversation – 15 marks (recommended to last in total between 2 and 2.5 minutes at Foundation tier and between 3 and 3.5 minutes at Higher tier)

Reading aloud task: minimum 35 words of text at Foundation tier and 50 words at Higher tier

Short unprepared conversation

Photo card discussion – 25 marks (recommended to last between 4 and 5 minutes in total at Foundation tier, and between 6 and 7 minutes in total at Higher tier)

Response to the content of the photos on the card (recommended to last approximately 1 minute at Foundation tier and approximately 1.5 minutes at Higher tier)

Unprepared conversation (recommended to last between 3 and 4 minutes at Foundation tier and between 4.5 and 5.5 minutes at Higher tier)

Paper 3: Reading

Written exam: 45 minutes (Foundation tier), 1 hour (Higher tier)

50 marks (for each of Foundation tier and Higher tier)

25% of GCSE**Questions**

Section A – reading comprehension questions in English, to be answered in English or non-verbally (40 marks)

Section B – translation from French into English, minimum of 35 words at Foundation tier and 50 words at Higher tier (10 marks)

Paper 4: Writing

Written exam: 1 hour 10 minutes (Foundation tier), 1 hour 15 minutes (Higher tier)

50 marks (for each of Foundation tier and Higher tier)

25% of GCSE**Questions*****Foundation tier***

Question 1 – student produces five short sentences in response to a photo (10 marks)

Question 2 – student produces a short piece of writing in response to five compulsory bullet points, approximately 50 words in total (10 marks)

Question 3 – student completes five short grammar tasks (5 marks)

Question 4 – translation of sentences from English into French, minimum 35 words in total (10 marks)

Question 5 (overlap question) – student produces a piece of writing in response to three compulsory bullet points, approximately 90 words in total. There is a choice from two questions (15 marks)

Higher tier

Question 1 – translation of sentences from English into French, minimum 50 words in total (10 marks)

Question 2 – student produces a piece of writing in response to three compulsory bullet points, approximately 90 words in total. There is a choice from two questions (15 marks)

Question 3 – Open-ended writing task (student responds to two bullets, producing approximately 150 words in total). There is a choice from two questions (25 marks)

Useful resources/ways to improve:

French (Expo AQA GCSE Higher) **ISBN 978-0435720605**

Spanish (Mira AQA GCSE Higher) **ISBN 978-0435395933**

We also advise that students purchase a quality revision guide for AQA.

Contact: ala@hws.haringey.sch.uk

and lsh@hws.haringey.sch.uk

As well as providing courses in French and Spanish the MFL department also supports students with proficiency in other languages to gain relevant GCSE qualifications.

Community Language	Exam board
French GCSE	AQA
Spanish GCSE	AQA
Turkish GCSE	Edexcel
Arabic GCSE*	Edexcel
Hebrew GCSE*	Edexcel
Japanese GCSE*	Edexcel
Chinese (Mandarin) GCSE*	Edexcel
Russian GCSE*	Edexcel
Danish GCSE*	Edexcel
Dutch GCSE* (possibly reinstated this year, to be confirmed)	Edexcel
German GCSE*	Edexcel / AQA
Italian GCSE*	Edexcel / AQA
Polish GCSE*	Edexcel
Portuguese GCSE*	Edexcel
Spanish A level	Edexcel
French A' Level	Edexcel

Students must be fluent (in speaking, writing and reading) in their chosen language and make arrangements with the MFL Department well in advance

There are no lessons taught in these languages, though general advice will be given if requested. and Students will not have to pay entry fees for language exams that they are entered for by Highgate



“By failing to prepare you are preparing to fail.” **Benjamin Franklin**