

Q	Which exam board to you use?
A	We follow the AQA exam board specification (8658)
Q	Is there coursework?
A	No. This qualification is linear; students sit all of their exams at the end of the course.
Q	How does the exam tier system work?
A	At GCSE, when the students are in Year 11 they are entered to either take the Foundation or Higher Tier papers. Students do all exams at the same tier. Foundation Tier covers grades 1-5 and Higher Tier covers grades 4-9.
Q	How big are the GCSE classes?
A	There are two classes in Year 9 who study French and so GCSE classes tend to be smaller. Historically, there has been one GCSE class and the number of students over the last few years has steadily increased. The current GCSE classes have 17 and 21 students, which makes for a lovely atmosphere within the classroom.
Q	What are the exam results like?
A	Each year the French GCSE results have been excellent, with almost all of our students achieving the top two grades.
Q	Do you follow a particular text book or course?
A	Yes. We mostly use the 'AQA GCSE French' course by Oxford University Press along with the online Kerboodle subscription. The text books and grammar work books are all provided by the department. We occasionally use other materials alongside this text book.
Q	Is there a lot of homework?
A	Like all subjects, homework is set regularly. Just as in Year 9, learning vocabulary is key and there tends to be weekly spelling tests. In addition, a second piece during the two-week timetable will be set and this could be either research, a reading, listening, writing or a speaking preparation task.
Q	Is there a lot of new grammar to learn? What if I cannot remember the grammar I have learned in Year 9?
A	By the end of Year 9, the students will have covered all of the essential grammar and tenses required by the GCSE course. At GCSE we go back over all of the grammar and tenses that have already been studied in Year 9. There is frequent revision of key grammar points over the two years and a small amount of additional grammar is introduced at GCSE which is aimed at extension to achieve the highest grades.
Q	Is it possible to get a good GCSE in French, when I've only studied French in Year 9?
A	Yes. The exam results speak for themselves and show that it is possible. Throughout Year 9, we cover the essential grammar needed and the topics that are studied match up with those that are covered at GCSE.

Q	Is it difficult studying two languages? What if I mix up French and Spanish?
A	<p>Learning two languages not only develops your linguistic skills but also broadens your horizons with greater insights into other cultures.</p> <p>French and Spanish follow the same exam board and so the structure of the exams and the topic areas are the same. How you approach the exams and the strategies and techniques that you learn are the same too, so this helps with exam preparation. Learning French will help with your Spanish because of the close links between the languages. Every now and again you might use Spanish in your French lesson and vice versa, but this is fine and not an issue. However, by the end of the course, as you approach your final exams, you will find that using Spanish in French lessons is very rare.</p>