



## Modern Languages Department

### A Guide to A Level Languages

#### The course:

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We follow the AQA syllabus for A level teaching the full A Level and we use the 'Dynamic' online learning platform with an e-textbook from Hodder.

There are hardcopies of the textbook in school that we use in lessons and you have the e-textbook for work at home. If you wish to buy your own hard copy these are the books we use - you do not have to buy them from Hodder, you could look to buy a second hand copy online:

Spanish textbook hard copy - [https://www.hoddereducation.co.uk/subjects/languages/products/16-18/aqa-a-level-spanish-\(includes-as\)](https://www.hoddereducation.co.uk/subjects/languages/products/16-18/aqa-a-level-spanish-(includes-as))

#### Exams:

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The course is exam based and you will have three papers at the end of the two-year course:

Paper 1 - listening, reading and translation

Paper 2 - literature and film essays

Paper 3 - speaking exam

#### Topics:

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We follow our own scheme of work and in each of Years 12 and 13 you will cover some Year 1 and Year 2 topics from the specification. A copy of the overview of the topics will be given to you however some examples of the areas you will study are: Politics, Immigration, Changing nature of families, History and Culture. You will also study one book and one film. Grammar is taught throughout the course.

#### The Languages Department:

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Ms Lonsdale and Ms Gilmour will teach your A Level course and are based in C10 and C8 respectively. In lessons you will also make use of the CLR (the Cross Languages Room) which has 6 computers for the Languages department.

#### What you will need:

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You will need a file with file dividers and the initial sections needed will be grammar, topic for Ms Gilmour, topic for Ms Lonsdale. As you progress through the course you will need more topic sections. You will use your file for any worksheets, notes sheets and any work on A4 paper. You will be given an exercise book to use for each teacher. Keep your file up to date and organised so that you can easily find what you need. There will be file checks at certain points through the course. You are expected to have your current topic notes and a pen for every lesson.

#### In lessons:

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You must attend all lessons and if absence is unavoidable you must catch up on missed work. There are trays for each teacher in the CLR where you can hand in and pick up work. In lessons you must be punctual and prepared with notes and a pen. You must note down new vocabulary items during lessons as well completing the exercises set.

### Homework and Independent Study:

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You will receive regular homework tasks. These could be learning vocabulary/ grammar, completing online exercises to submit electronically, completing exercises such as translations/ grammar exercises, research, preparing ahead, practising speaking work, or (later in the course) writing essays.

In addition to homework tasks you must regularly revise over work that you have done and complete extra practice, whether grammar, listening or vocabulary. This is essential to achieving your target grade. You will need to read around the topics studied so that you have opinions and an understanding of the themes.

### The library:

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The library has a wide range of resources that you can use - there is a general language section which has grammar resources, revision materials, and older style textbooks (which still cover the grammar needed and many of the current topics) and there is a separate Sixth Form area which has foreign language DVDs and some novels translated into English. Reading novels set in other countries whose language you are studying is beneficial in many ways - you will gain knowledge of points in history, extend your cultural awareness, and continue to improve your English. Ask Mrs Ambrose, the librarian, for help or ask one of the language teachers to recommend a book or film.

### Additional Activities:

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You will have the chance to attend film showings at Fact Cinema in Liverpool where suitable films are screened, and we aim to have a restaurant visit at the end of the year.

There are opportunities for you to show engagement and leadership qualities in the department by helping younger students as a support in Year 7 lessons, offering one to one speaking practice to GCSE students as a mentor, or helping out at Sixth Form Open Evening as a subject ambassador - ask for more details if you are interested.

The University of Leeds offers a 'Linguastars' residential event which is free and offers overnight accommodation. This is a great opportunity to have experience of life on campus. The 2020 dates are 30 June & 1 July 2020 - places are limited so apply early. There is a leaflet in the Sixth Form Handbook folder which gives more details or check out the website - <https://artsoutreach.leeds.ac.uk/whats-on-offer/linguastars-residential/>

On the last page of this document are suggestions for courses/ work experience. These are best when organised in advance and the more interesting placements take more time to organise, so thinking ahead will be beneficial. Some students may like to consider work experience abroad or a language study course abroad in the work experience week or in the holidays. There are many organisations- the Halsbury company has been recommended for work experience by a student who used their services. In the Sixth Form handbook folder there is a 'Summer schools' document which lists suggestions for courses abroad for Spanish as used by the University of Liverpool for their undergraduate students. There are also some courses offered in England and for Spanish it is recommended to look at the Summer programme from the Cervantes Institute in Manchester.

In Sixth Form enrichment time we offer a Polyglots Connect programme for anyone who has other languages that they speak to a possible GCSE or A Level qualification level. Email Ms Lonsdale on [tlo@formbyhighschool.com](mailto:tlo@formbyhighschool.com) for more details if this applies to you.

## Applying for University:

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There are many interesting combinations of **courses with languages**. It's always worth browsing on the internet - type in 'Degree in ..... with.....' to see what comes up. Ex-students have, for example, studied French with Politics or Spanish with Portuguese and Latin American Studies, or Spanish with Linguistics. You can combine most subjects eg. Chemistry and a language or Geography and a language. Use a variety of headings when browsing eg. Spanish/ Hispanic Studies/ Latin American studies/ with a Modern Language/ International. You can also see what the ratings are for courses you may be interested in, such as the Guardian's league tables:

<https://www.theguardian.com/education/ng-interactive/2018/may/29/university-league-tables-2019>

If you need extra support in order to apply to university, you may meet the criteria for the **social mobility** fund - details below:

<https://www.socialmobility.org.uk/criteria-programmes/>

<http://www.studentladder.co.uk> - this site is not very language friendly but it does offer general advice and some suggestions for both work placements and applying for university for maths/ science subjects.

## Careers with Languages:

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Languages are an asset to any career. There are some suggestions in the 'Careers with languages' document in the Sixth Form Handbook.

**Good luck with your course - enjoy the challenge and make the most of it!**

**Where will your languages take you?**

## Courses/ Work Experience Links

Note: If any courses refer to CEFR (Common European Framework of Reference for Languages) there is a reference document in the Handbook folder - as an idea we would aim for B1 level for a student at the end of Year 12.

### Manchester/Liverpool Courses:

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[https://manchester.cervantes.es/en/courses\\_spanish/general\\_information/spanish\\_courses.htm](https://manchester.cervantes.es/en/courses_spanish/general_information/spanish_courses.htm)

<https://www.thelanguagehouse.co.uk/>

### Courses/ Work Experience Abroad:

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<https://www.halsbury.com> There is a powerpoint presentation from Halsbury in the Sixth Form Handbook folder with more details and leaflets available in the department.

<https://www.oxbridgeprograms.com>

[www.studytravel.com](http://www.studytravel.com)

[https://www.donquijote.org/?utm\\_expid=.HGWRxbfQTWCaPBFRlaWcAQ.0&utm\\_referrer=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.donquijote.org%2Fstudy-spanish-in-latin-america-or-spain%2F](https://www.donquijote.org/?utm_expid=.HGWRxbfQTWCaPBFRlaWcAQ.0&utm_referrer=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.donquijote.org%2Fstudy-spanish-in-latin-america-or-spain%2F)

<https://ifspanish.com/en/home-en/>

In the Sixth Form Handbook folder there is an extra list of suggested study courses abroad for Spanish that is from the University of Liverpool Hispanic Studies Department and which contains suggestions they pass on to their undergraduate students.

Please note that none of the courses or companies above are specifically recommended or vetted by Formby High School. Choices are made at your own discretion. It is always recommended to choose a company that has official recognition.

### Work Experience in England:

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The following are suggestions only - we do not know that they take students for work experience:

<https://www.lingotot.com/centre/north-liverpool>

<https://www.lingotot.com/centre/childwall>

<http://www.holacarolina.co.uk/venues-fees.html>

<https://www.lse.uk.net/courses/work-experience/>

or contact a tourist/ Liverpool city centre destination and highlight your language skills eg. Liverpool Central Library/ Museums/ Art Galleries.

The Cervantes Institute in Manchester may also consider a work placement. <https://manchester.cervantes.es>