



St Gregory the Great Catholic School – Secondary Phase

French and German (KS4)

Examination Board: AQA GCSE French/German: **Specification**



Course Description:

The new GCSE French and German specification is a linear two-year course consisting of 3 broad themes of study:

1. Identity and culture
2. Local, national, international and global areas of interest
3. Current and future study and employment

Each theme contains a number of topics. All 3 themes will involve the students developing their skills in the following areas:

- 1) Reading and understanding (including translating from the foreign language into English)
- 2) Listening and understanding
- 3) Speaking
- 4) Writing (including translating from English into the foreign language)

Grammar and structure are also key features in language teaching and learning.

This will build on the skills taught throughout Years 7-9 and will allow students to enhance and refine their skills at a more advanced level.

Assessment:

This qualification is assessed through four exam papers. Each paper is worth 25% of the total marks for the GCSE qualification. Each exam paper assesses one of the following four skills.

- 1) Reading and understanding (including translating from the foreign language into English)
- 2) Listening and understanding
- 3) Speaking
- 4) Writing (including translating from English into the foreign language)

Paper 1: Listening

What is assessed: Understanding and responding to different types of spoken language.

How it is assessed:

- A written exam: 35 minutes (Foundation Tier), 45 minutes (Higher Tier)
- 40 marks (Foundation Tier), 50 marks (Higher Tier). (Each exam includes 5 minutes' reading time of the question paper before the listening stimulus is played.)

Paper 2: Speaking

What is assessed: Communicating and interacting effectively in speech for a variety of purposes through role-play, a photo card and general conversation.

How it's assessed:

- Non-exam assessment
- 7–9 minutes (Foundation Tier) + preparation time
- 10–12 minutes (Higher Tier) + preparation time
- 60 marks (for each of Foundation Tier and Higher Tier)

Paper 3: Reading

What is assessed: Understanding and responding to different types of written language.

How it is assessed:

- A written exam: 45 minutes (Foundation Tier), 1 hour (Higher Tier)
- 60 marks (for each of Foundation Tier and Higher Tier)

Paper 4: Writing

What is assessed: Communicating effectively in writing for a variety of purposes.

How it is assessed:

- A written exam: 1 hour (Foundation Tier), 1 hour 15 minutes (Higher Tier)

50 marks at Foundation Tier and 60 marks at Higher Tier

There is **no** coursework for this qualification.

Why Study French or German?

- **Languages give you choices**
- In most careers nowadays language abilities are highly valued and there is a particular shortage of people with languages in Engineering and Finance. At the moment many UK engineering companies have to recruit from France and Germany! The UK loses £25 billion of business each year because of the lack of language skills in the workforce.
- Languages are also valued in the areas of Media, Politics, Travel & Tourism, Hospitality, Export... and more! 60% of UK employers say that they are not happy with the language abilities of young people today, and 30% say that they would specifically hire people for their language skills.
- **Languages are essential to live and work in a global community.**
- **Languages are essential to increase your multi-cultural awareness: one cannot learn a language without exploring new cultures.**
- Further information on GCSE French and German can be obtained from Mrs Akeh – Modern Foreign Languages Faculty leader.

