



AS and A2 – Modern Foreign Languages: Spanish, French and German

Key features of the specification.

Edexcel GCE in Modern Foreign Languages is a two year course offered by Edexcel that:

- ❖ Offers students and teachers a clear learning focus and control of assessment.
- ❖ Has a reduced number of units (four).
- ❖ The Advanced Subsidiary (AS) level provides a logical progression from GCSE with:
 - discrete skills-specific testing
 - a focus on language
- ❖ The A2 level offers a realistic progression from AS that:
 - Rewards advanced research/reading skills
 - Features integrated skills assessment
 - Acknowledges the importance of knowledge and understanding of the target language culture
 - Facilitates literary study

With minimal prescription and maximum choice, this specification aims to engage students so that they enjoy Advanced Level Modern Foreign Languages learning and achieving their full potential.

Requirements:

- GCSE

SPECIFICATION

AS. Unit 1: Spoken Expression and Respond in the target language		
❖ Externally assessed	30% of the total AS marks	15% of the total GCE marks
❖ Availability; January and April/May		

Content summary:

This unit rewards students for their ability to converse in the target language on a general topic area that they have chosen in advance. Students will need to demonstrate that they can engage in a discussion in the target language that relates to a chosen general topic area and allied subtopics.

Students will be expected to give relevant and appropriate information, convey opinions, interact and respond to a range of questions. They must choose **one** of the following general topic areas:

- Youth culture and concerns
- Lifestyle: health and fitness
- The world around us: travel, tourism, environmental issues and the target language-speaking world
- Education and employment.

Assessment:

8-10 minute assessment in **two** sections.

Section A requires students to respond to four Edexcel-set questions on a stimulus related to the student's chosen general topic area.

Section B requires the teacher/examiner to engage the student in a discussion that, although still relating to the same general topic area and its linked subtopics, moves away from the main focus of the stimulus.

Centres will need to record the full assessment of all students on either cassette or CD.

All students for this unit will be assessed by Edexcel.

AS. Unit 2: Understanding and Written Response in the target language		
❖ Externally assessed ❖ Availability; January and April/May	70% of the total AS marks	35% of the total GCE marks

Content summary:

This unit requires students to understand and convey their understanding of the target language texts and recordings. In addition, students will need to produce an essay to demonstrate an ability to manipulate the target language in continuous writing.

Students will be expected to recognise and use the target language in a variety of contexts and in relation to a prescribed range of general topic areas.

The unit draws upon **four** general topic areas:

- Youth culture and concerns
- Lifestyle: health and fitness
- The world around us: travel, tourism, environmental issues and the target language-speaking World
- Education and employment.

Assessment:

2 hour 30 minute paper in **three** sections.

Section A requires students to listen to a range of authentic recorded target language material and to retrieve and convey information given in the recording by responding to a range of target-language questions.

Section B requires students to read authentic target-language printed materials and to retrieve and convey information by responding to a range of mainly target language test types.

Section C requires students to write 200-220 words in the form of a letter, report or article in target language based on a short printed target-language stimulus.

All students for this unit will be assessed by Edexcel.

A2. Unit 3: Understanding and Spoken Response in the target language		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Externally assessed ❖ Availability; January and April/May 	35% of the total A2 marks	17.5% of the total GCE marks

Content summary:

This unit requires students to demonstrate the effectiveness of their target-language skills by presenting and taking a clear stance on any issue of their choice. They will be expected to interact effectively with the teacher/examiner, defend their views and sustain discussion as the teacher/examiner moves the conversation away from their chosen issue.

They will be expected to use the language of debate and argument to discuss the issue and will also be assessed for understanding as well as communication and quality of spoken language.

Assessment:

11-13 minute assessment

Students first outline their chosen issue for about **one** minute, adopting a definite stance towards the issue. They should then defend and justify their opinions for up to **four** minutes. The teacher/examiner will then initiate a spontaneous discussion in which a minimum of **two** further unpredictable areas of discussion will be covered.

Centres will need to record the full assessment of all students on either cassette or CD.

All students for this unit will be assessed by Edexcel.

A2. Unit 4: Research, Understanding and Written Respond in the target language		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Externally assessed ❖ Availability; January and April/May 	65% of the total A2 marks	32.5% of the total GCE marks

Content summary:

This unit requires students to demonstrate skills in advanced-level target language writing (discursive or creative essay) and translation from English into the target language. The unit also requires students to demonstrate evidence of independent, advanced-level target language reading and research of a chosen text, play, film or topic area that links to the culture and/or society of a target language-speaking country, countries or community. The content of this unit will be linked to the following general topic areas:

- Youth culture and concerns
- Lifestyle: health and fitness
- The world around us: travel, tourism, environmental issues and the target language-speaking world
- Education and employment
- Customs, traditions, beliefs and religions
- National and international events: past, present and future
- Literature and the arts.

Assessment:

2 hour 30 minute paper in **three** sections.

Section A: A short written translation exercise to test students' ability to transfer meaning from English into the target language effectively.

Section B: A target-language essay in response to one from a choice of seven questions, linked to the prescribed general topic areas, that invite either discursive or creative writing.

Section C: A research-based essay in the target language (240-270 words) to reward students for target language-language research skills linked to an area of interest to the student that relates to the culture and/or society of a target language-language country, countries or community. They have freedom to determine the content of their research (potentially in negotiation with their teacher) but it must relate to the four research-based essay topic areas for this unit.

All students for this unit will be assessed by Edexcel.

Students are not permitted to take any books, dictionaries or texts into the examination room.