GCSE French, German and Spanish

An introduction

You should know

- This GCSE specification is new.

- It has been re-worked in order to make it more accessible to you and to help you enjoy your language GCSE experience even more.

- That means the GCSE exams you sit in French/Spanish/German will not be the same as any older friends or family members you know.

- The first exams for this GCSE are in 2026.

- This GCSE has a Higher Tier (Grades 4-9) and a Foundation Tier (Grades 1-5). You must take all papers at the same tier.

What will I learn about?

- The thematic contexts of this course are:

  My personal world
  Lifestyle and wellbeing
  My neighbourhood
  Media and technology
  Studying and my future
  Travel and tourism

- More specifically, you will be able to speak and write about a variety of subjects (see image).

family	friends	relationships	equality
physical well-being	mental well-being	food and drink	sports
places in town	shopping	transport	the natural world
environmental issues	social media and gaming	future opportunities (e.g. work, travel)	school
music	TV and film	accommodation	tourist attractions

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What are the papers?

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4 PAPERS – WORTH 25% EACH (Reading, writing, speaking and listening)

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Paper 1 - Speaking

- Worth 25% of the overall grade

- Tasks include:

  A reading aloud task
  A transactional role play
  A picture description and follow on conversation

- Important to know:

  In addition to your silent preparation time in another room, you will have a minute before the exam starts to practice the reading out loud, if you would like to.

  The role plays are all transactional like booking hotels, buying clothes, going to the doctors so they're useful in real life situations.

  You will have a choice of two thematic contexts for your picture description and follow on conversation a few weeks in advance so you can be really prepared and confident.

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Paper 1 - Speaking

- Students will have at least 2 mock exams in their time at TCS – one in year 10 and one in year 11.

- The speaking exam will take place with the student's MFL teacher so that they are familiar and comfortable with them.

- Students will complete a speaking booklet throughout the course to support them to be prepared for the types of questions required for the general conversation.

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Exams of speaking assessment tasks...

Read out the text below to your teacher.

Je suis très active.

Je vais au collège à vélo.

Je fais du sport avec mes amis.

Le samedi, je marche beaucoup avec mon chien.

Je mange souvent des légumes et je bois de l'eau.

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Source: Image no AL1286811 / Pearson Asset Library

Source: Image no AL1000726 / Pearson Asset Library

Describe **ONE** of these pictures. You will tell your teacher which one you have chosen to describe.

Your description must cover:

- people
- location
- activity.

When you have finished your description, your teacher will ask you two questions relating to your chosen picture. You are expected to say a few words or a short phrase/sentence in response to each question. One-word answers will not be sufficient to gain full marks.

You will then move on to a conversation on the broader thematic context of **My personal world.**

Paper 2 – Listening and Understanding

- Worth 25% of the overall grade

- 5 minutes reading time at the start of the paper.

Section A: Listening - multiple-choice, multiple-response and short-answer open response questions. All questions set in English.

Section B: Dictation

- Each extract will be played 3 times so that you can listen, respond and then check.

- The extract will be spoken at a moderate pace and there will be gaps built in to give you time to answer.

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Food and drink

2   Emma is at her local French restaurant.

Which items does she mention?

Listen to the recording and put a cross ⊠ in each one of the **three** correct boxes.

☐	A	pasta
☐	B	water
☐	C	fish
☐	D	cake
☐	E	coffee
☐	F	cheese

(3)

(Total for Question 2 = 3 marks)

Family and relationships

5   Rachid is talking about his family.

What does he say?

Listen to the recording and complete the sentences by putting a cross ⊠ in the correct box for each question.

(a) Rachid gets on well with his ...

☐	A	mother.
☐	B	sister.
☐	C	aunt.

(1)

(b) Rachid's brother is ...

☐	A	difficult.
☐	B	tall.
☐	C	hardworking.

(1)

Paper 3 – Reading and Understanding

- Worth 25% of the overall grade

  Section A: Reading - multiple-choice, multiple-response and short-answer open response questions. All questions set in English.

  Section B: Translation into English

- There will be some **pictures** and **glossed words** (proper nouns like place names) to help you understand **cultural topics**.

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3 Read the extract from a tourist brochure.

La ville est vieille et très belle. Nous avons un parc naturel et tout le monde adore le château historique.

Il n'y a pas de supermarché mais il y a une petite *épicerie*.
C'est pratique pour faire les courses.

(a) Complete the sentences below.

Put a cross ⊠ in the correct box for each question.

(i) The town is ...

☐	A	new.
☐	B	beautiful.
☐	C	busy.

TV and film

10 Translate the following sentences **into English**.

(a) J'aime les comédies à la télévision.

....

(b) Mon frère est acteur dans une série.

....

(c) Je déteste les tragédies, je préfère les films d'action.

....

(d) Hier, j'ai regardé les informations.

....

(e) Si j'ai le temps, je vais au cinéma.

....

(Total for Question 10 = 10 marks)

Good to know about our reading and listening papers

- The **same question types** will be in the **same place** for the **same number of marks every year** – so once you're used to the past papers you know exactly how your exam will look.

- **Instructions are all in English**, so you'll always know what is expected of you.

- The reading texts and listening extracts have been broken down into **smaller chunks** so they are more **manageable** for you and not a burden on your **working memory.**

- The papers will only use names from a set list, so you aren't confused by a French/Spanish/German name you've never seen before.

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Paper 4 - Writing

- Worth 25% of the overall grade.

Picture description task (foundation only)

Two open response writings (Foundation = 40-50 words & 80-90 words. Higher = 80-90 words and 130-150 words) with a choice of two for each so you can pick the one you feel more confident with.

Translation into French/Spanish/German – 5 sentences for Foundation, a short paragraph for higher.

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(Source: Pearson Asset Library AL1517457)

Describe the photo. Write four short sentences **in French**.

2   (a)   Write a review of a café for a website.

You **must** include the following points:

- where the café is
- your opinion of the food
- when you will next visit the café.

Write your answer **in French**. You should aim to write between 40 and 50 word

(14

4   Translate the following five sentences **into French**.

(10)

(a) I love school.

....

(b)   My favourite subject is History.

....

(c)   The teacher is interesting and I learn a lot.

....

Can I find out more?

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Additional resources

- [2024 MFL GCSEs: Qualification at a glance (pearson.com)](pearson.com)

- [Languages GCSEs: What do students want? (pearson.com)](pearson.com)

- [4 Things to Know About Our New MFL Qualifications (pearson.com)](pearson.com)

- [Preparing for Options Evening (pearson.com)](pearson.com)

Homework:

All homework will be set via class charts, as per school policy. Your support in checking that your child is regularly accessing class charts and completing homework is appreciated.

1. www.thisisschool.com - listening, vocabulary and other tasks will be set weekly from this site.

2. Pearson revision guide and workbook – tasks will be set from these weekly and are an essential part of learning. Available to buy from student reception this evening OR purchase via Scopay and collect from reception.

3. Other resources used include module workbooks, sentence builder booklets and speaking booklets. These are provided by the teacher. They may also use the following site from time to time:

www.sentencebuilders.com