

# MODERN FOREIGN LANGUAGES



THE LADY  
ELIZABETH  
SCHOOL



# INTERNATIONAL ADVANCED LEVEL Modern Foreign Languages (French, German, Spanish)

edexcel 



## Why study the Pearson Edexcel IAL in Modern Foreign Languages?

This course will try to give you the skills and understanding to:


- be an effective communicator
- speak and write the language in a range of different situations and for different purposes
- use the language to express facts and ideas
- use the language to present explanations, opinions and information.


## What do I need to know, or be able to do, before taking this course?

This is an advanced level course in French, German or Spanish so you are expected to have already undertaken some study of the language you have chosen. Most students who take this course will have completed the International GCSE/GCSE course usually at grade C or above or CEFR A2 or an equivalent qualification.

You will be interested in different cultures and keen to use a different language to understand and to communicate your own ideas and opinions to others on different topics and issues. You will enjoy reading, speaking, writing and listening. You will need to acquire an increased knowledge and understanding of language structures in your chosen language and show that you can apply these effectively when speaking or writing in the language.

## What will I learn?

During this course you will read and listen to authentic target language materials and will study aspects of the contemporary society, cultural background and heritage of a country where the language is spoken. You will have opportunities to develop your understanding and awareness of spiritual, moral, ethical, environmental, health and global issues. 

You will extend and develop your knowledge of the grammar and vocabulary of the target language and will use this to speak, write, read and listen to the language. At IA2 you will also learn how to develop an argument and to analyse and evaluate, in speech and in writing. 

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## Modern Foreign Languages



### Specification overview

The IAL in Modern Foreign Languages (French, German and Spanish) is structured into 4 units with 4 externally marked examinations.

Unit 1 - Spoken Expression and Response

Unit 2 - Understanding and Written Response

Unit 3 - Understanding and Spoken Response

Unit 4 - Research, Understanding and Written Response

### Assessment overview

The course will be assessed by examination only and will be externally marked by Pearson although teachers will conduct the IAS and IA2 oral examinations.

#### Unit 1

External assessment: Speaking

Total marks: 40

Weighting:

30.8% of the total IAS marks

15.4% of the total IAL marks

Examination time: 8-10 minutes (plus 15 minutes' preparation)

#### Unit 2

External assessment: written examination Total marks: 90

Weighting:

69.2% of the total IAS raw marks

34.6% of the total IAL marks

Examination time: 2 hours 30 minutes

#### Unit 3

External assessment: Speaking

Total marks: 40

Weighting:

30.8% of the total raw IA2 marks

15.4% of the total IAL raw marks

Examination time: 12 minutes

#### Unit 4

External assessment: written examination

Total marks: 90

Weighting:

69.2% of the total IA2 raw marks

34.6% of the total IAL marks

Examination time: 2 hours 30 minutes



## General topic areas

There are seven General Topic Areas (GTAs) for students to explore, four at IAS and an additional three at IA2. These GTAs should be considered as different contexts in which students can write and understand the Target Language (TL). Specialist and/or technical TL vocabulary or detailed specialist knowledge of the GTAs are not required. Students will be assessed on their knowledge of the GTAs to discuss authentic texts produced by native speakers of the TL.

General Topic Area	Sub topics
Youth matters	Family relationships and friendships Peer pressure and role models Music and fashion Technology and communication
Lifestyle, health and fitness	Food and diet Sport and exercise Health issues Urban and rural life
Travel and environment	Tourism, travel and transport Natural disasters and weather Climate change and its impact Energy, pollution and recycling
Education and employment	Education systems and types of schooling Pupil/student life Volunteering and internships Jobs and unemployment
Technology in the TL-speaking world	Scientific advances Technological innovations Impact on life and environment
Society in the TL-speaking world	Migration Equality Politics Customs
Ethics in the TL-speaking world	Beliefs Law and order Moral issues (e.g. euthanasia, adoption, genetic modification)

## Choice for centres

A wide range of students will choose to study a Modern Foreign Language at advanced level - not only will their learning styles vary greatly but their ability as they embark on the course may range enormously, from those with very recent International GCSE/GCSE experience to native or near-native speaker standard.

The IAL specifications in MFL have therefore been developed to offer students and teachers the maximum choice of topic areas to explore, to meet students' interests and provide opportunities for an enjoyable and engaging language learning experience.

## The General Topic Areas

The General Topic Areas are designed to be wide-ranging and up-to-date, offering students opportunities to reflect their areas of interests whether in the Arts, politics or history. They will be able to use and understand a foreign language in different and appealing contexts.





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### Set topics, texts and films for IA2 Unit 4 IA2

Unit 4 offers students the opportunity to research an area of study which is directly linked to the culture and/or society of the TL country or community. They must choose one from the following four areas of study:

#### Geography

Students are required to undertake wide research of an area where the target language is spoken, and become aware of and demonstrate understanding of the following:

- key people, events and issues (e.g. demographic, environmental, economic, social, political) that have impacted or are having an impact on the area
- customs, traditions, beliefs and religions For French Burgundy or Québec would be suitable, for German Berlin or Tyrol, for Spanish Andalucía or Lima, Peru.

#### History

Students are required to undertake wide research, consider and demonstrate understanding of the following:

- a specific period of history of particular relevance to the chosen country
- key people, events and issues from the period chosen The period of history must relate to a country where the target language is spoken e.g. for French The French Revolution, for German The reunification, for Spanish The Spanish Civil War.

#### Literature and films

Students are required to undertake in-depth study of one of the set texts or films. They would need to consider and demonstrate understanding of the following:

- different characters
- key themes/issues
- social and cultural setting
- styles/techniques employed

### What can I do after I've completed the course?

With an IAS you can:

- move on to study the IA2 course
- communicate with people from other countries
- work in a country where the language is spoken
- work for a company with international links
- have more fun when travelling abroad

### With an IAL you can:

- apply to university to study the language
- study this language and take up a second language at university
- combine a language with another subject (e.g. business) at university
- communicate with people from other countries
- work in a country where the language is spoken
- work for a company with international links
- have more fun when travelling abroad



Throughout the course you will also be practising transferable skills e.g. problem solving, critical thinking and communication, which will help you both personally and professionally.