

# Transition work for French, German and Spanish A level 2021 –

## How to be a confident language learner

There is a large amount of learning for you to do in order to start the A level course as a **confident language learner**. Start with the work needed to complete your GCSE studies and then move on to the introductory work for Unit 1 of the A level course.

### Work to complete your GCSE course

#### **1. Completing the GCSE course**

If you were taught at St Aidan's, or if your school used the Pearson textbook, log in to the Activelearn site and complete any module tasks that you didn't study in school.

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

Students from other centres may have access to other online learning sites or have a textbook to refer to. If you do not have a suitable coursebook to access please contact 6<sup>th</sup> form admin for advice.

You can also look at the textbook and go through any units that were not completed. You might have identified a weakness in a particular topic when you were starting your exam revision.

Make sure you revisit these sections and attempt all necessary tasks.

Sharpen your exam skills by completing as many past paper reading, writing and listening exams as you can. Make a list of each paper that you do and record your scores to see if you can improve with each extra paper taken:

a. GCSE Spanish: <https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/languages/gcse/spanish-8698/assessment-resources?f.Sub-category%7CF=Sample+papers+and+mark+schemes>

b. GCSE French: <https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/languages/gcse/french-8658/assessment-resources?f.Sub-category%7CF=Sample+papers+and+mark+schemes>

c. GCSE German: <https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/languages/gcse/german-8668/assessment-resources?f.Sub-category%7CF=Sample+papers+and+mark+schemes>

#### **2. GCSE Vocabulary**

You must have full command of the GCSE vocabulary. This is the basic building block for A level learning. Access the full GCSE vocab lists that can be found in section 3.5 of the AQA exam board specifications.

French: <https://filestore.aqa.org.uk/resources/french/specifications/AQA-8658-SP-2016.PDF>

Spanish: <https://filestore.aqa.org.uk/resources/spanish/specifications/AQA-8698-SP-2016.PDF>

German: <https://filestore.aqa.org.uk/resources/german/specifications/AQA-8668-SP-2016.PDF>

Create vocab sets for topics using Quizlet, Memrise, Seneca, Linguascope Intermediate or perhaps by making your own flashcards. Draw posters with linked sections of vocabulary or create mind maps for sub-sections of a topic. This is at least a 10 hour task!

### 3. GCSE Grammar

When you start your A level course you will be expected to understand a wide range of grammatical terms and be able to give examples of these in your target language. These include the following, (note that this is not a full list – you can add on any number of extra grammatical terms):

The present tense; The past tenses; The future tenses

The conditional form; The imperative form

Negative structures

Comparatives and superlatives

Adverbs and Adjectives

Time phrases

The use of accents/capital letters

Go to [www.languagesonline.org.uk](http://www.languagesonline.org.uk) and [www.lightbulblanguages.co.uk](http://www.lightbulblanguages.co.uk) in order to practise each of these grammar areas. This will take you at least 10 hours! Once you feel greater confidence with our grammar, write up notes on each area or make a poster. One of your first tasks on the A level course is to give a presentation about a grammar point. You might like to get ahead and make some Power Point presentations to help your learning.

### 4. Speaking skills

These are the hardest skills to develop on your own but are vital to success at A level. If you are lucky enough to have a friend or family member who speaks the language you are learning then try to set up a weekly chat either online or in person.

Working on your own you can use the GCSE speaking test questions as the basis for conversation work. Use your phone or other device to record yourself asking and answering the sets of questions that you had prepared for the GCSE speaking test. Listen to your recordings and give yourself realistic feedback on your **accent, intonation and pronunciation**.