

Esher High School Home Languages FAQ 2025-26

Q1. How can I check if my Language is available as a GCSE?

A. Email the exams officer with your query and they will be able to confirm (ndavis@esherhigh.surrey.sch.uk)

Q2. Will I be able to 'drop' a subject if I take an additional language GCSE?

A. No, this would be an additional GCSE on top of the subjects in your timetable, you would not get any lesson time for it.

Q3. Will a teacher teach me the content?

A. No, you will have to self study for this GCSE, the head of MFL (Mrs Courtois) will be able to answer any queries you have on the course content and how it is assessed. (acourtois@esherhigh.surrey.sch.uk)

Q4. Is there any cost associated with this GCSE?

A. Yes, we ask for a contribution of £50 towards costs. This helps us cover the cost of invigilators, examiner for the speaking element and entries. If you are pupil premium please do contact the school as we may be able to waive the fee.

Q5. How to do I pay the £50 fee?

A. Online via bank transfer to "Enlighten Learning Trust", sort code 30-94-77, account No. 65307968 reference "EHS4152 + student name + MFL"

Q6. When do I need to pay?

A. Payment should be received by January 20th.

Q7. I have a family friend/ relative who could be the examiner in the speaking exam is that allowed?

A. No, JCQ regulations say that the speaking exam cannot be completed by a family friend or relative, the school will organise the examiner for you.

Q8. Can I sit a PPE (mock exam) at school in my home language?

A. No, unfortunately the school does not have the resources to facilitate this.

Q9. When is the best time to do the extra GCSE?

A. GCSE examinations can be quite stressful and add extra workload. We advise Year 10 as an ideal year to conduct your GCSE languages. If you register your interest at the end of year 9, it gives you a whole year to prepare for them. We do not facilitate this for students in year groups below year 10.

Q10. How can I prepare for this GCSE?

A. As this is an extra GCSE, you will be responsible for your GCSE preparation, outside of school. If a family member can help, this might be a great idea to get them on board!

There are some great revision guides for most languages that you will be able to purchase online. A simple google search “language X GCSE revision guide” will give you several options. Please be aware that some GCSE languages are fairly new, and it is possible that no revision guides exist for them yet.

Search the internet for some general resource websites, and YouTube offers great content as well.

If you know you want to work on your spelling and use of tenses, we recommend getting a book in your native language to read at home.

Q11. How will my GCSE exams be assessed?

A. GCSE languages are 100% exam based. You will be assessed in four skills: reading, writing, speaking and listening. Each skill is worth 25% of your final grade. Have a look at the exams breakdown document for more information.

Q12. Where can I get more information?

A. Once you have confirmed your interest with the Head of Languages, you will receive the exam specifications to go through. Once the exam board is confirmed, you should check their website for extra details and past papers.