

Advice for GCSE students aiming to take A level languages in Sept 2022

To make sure you are prepared for beginning an A level in any language, do make sure that you are practising your key skills (listening, reading, writing, translation and speaking if possible) regularly. If you have a GCSE revision guide, work through it and try to address any gaps using online resources.

The CGP revision guides are very comprehensive: <https://www.cgpbooks.co.uk/secondary-books/gcse/languages>

Vocabulary

Learn and review all the vocabulary you have been given by your GCSE teacher. It is better to do this little and often: 3-4 times a week for 20 minutes or so.

At Callywith, we use Memrise (the website works better than the App. You will need an account in September, so get ready by opening one now – it's free). You can search for GCSE vocab lists, like these: <https://www.memrise.com/course/52220/aqa-gcse-french-vocabulary/>
<https://www.memrise.com/course/953348/aqa-2016-onwards-gcse-german-vocabulary/>
<https://www.memrise.com/course/193647/aqa-gcse-spanish-vocabulary-10/>
Alternatively, you can search by topic, e.g famille, to fill any gaps you might have.

Grammar

Regularly practise using the grammar points you have been taught at GCSE. These websites are brilliant, free and cover all three languages (and more!):

www.languagesonline.org.uk
<https://conjuguemos.com/>

Reading

Read regularly, it doesn't really matter what. If you have a Twitter account, start following the news outlets (especially those aimed at young people) of the countries whose language you are learning. Read short articles, look up and learn vocabulary and try and summarise what you have learnt in your own words.

This magazine for French teenagers is nice: <https://www.okapi.fr/magazine/feuilleter-mag>
This is a German news magazine for young people: <https://www.spiegel.de/deinspiegel/>
And here's one in Spanish: [Noticias para jóvenes | Gonzoo | 20minutos.es](https://www.gonzoo.com/noticias-para-jovenes/)

Listening

Find some podcasts, listen to radio from the country via Apps, listen to music from the country, watch TV programmes and films with subtitles on (Netflix and YouTube are brilliant for this) ...

This is a daily German news programme for young people: <https://www.zdf.de/kinder/logo>
This is a daily podcast with the German news spoken slowly: <https://www.dw.com/de/deutsch-lernen/nachrichten/s-8030>
And this is a light-hearted soap for people learning German: <https://www.dw.com/de/deutsch-lernen/telenovela/s-13121>
Search for @AprendemosJuntosBBVA on Facebook – they have a huge collection of videos on all kinds of topics, in Spanish with Spanish subtitles.

These Spanish series on Netflix are popular with young people: La Casa de Papel & Élite

Here is a page of French short films (make sure you check they are suitable): <https://www.filmdoo.com/french/page/1>

This page suggests French content on Netflix and how to find other options: <http://foreignlanguagecollective.com/the-13-best-french-movies-on-netflix-in-2020/>

Current Affairs

Much of the A level course requires you to have views about common social or cultural issues in the country whose language you are learning. Reading the news in English will help you to keep up with what is going on in the world and form opinions about it. Use reliable sources such as reputable broadsheets like The Independent or BBC news.

Remember, everyone will have been in the same boat and your lecturers will make sure that we fill any gaps in your knowledge that are relevant to A level study. Have a good summer and see you in September!