

## **Additional Self-Study Options: GCSE Home Heritage and Community Language**

The following is an independent, self-study option for students who already speak another language within their home or community. This is not a timetabled option and therefore does not take up one of the options choices. Because of this, it is an independent course that students would pursue at home and with support of parents/carers.

### **Examination Board and Syllabus**

Bengali – AQA / 8638  
Mandarin - AQA / 8673  
French - AQA / 8658  
German - AQA / 8668  
Modern Hebrew - AQA / 8678  
Italian - AQA / 8633  
Polish - AQA / 8688  
Panjabi - AQA / 8683  
Spanish - AQA / 8698  
Urdu - AQA / 8648

Arabic - Pearson Edexcel / 1AA0  
Cantonese - Pearson Edexcel / 1CN0  
Greek - Pearson Edexcel / 1GK0  
Gujarati - Pearson Edexcel / 1GU0  
Japanese - Pearson Edexcel / 1JA0  
Persian/Farsi - Pearson Edexcel / 1PN0  
Portuguese - Pearson Edexcel / 1PG0  
Russian - Pearson Edexcel / 1RU0  
Turkish - Pearson Edexcel / 1TU0

### **Forms of Assessment**

All GCSE language courses are now linear, which means that you will be assessed on all four skills. There is a higher and foundation option for:

- Listening (25%) – you will need to demonstrate that you can understand and respond to different types of spoken language.
- Reading (25%) – you will need to demonstrate that you can understand and respond to different types of written language.
- Speaking (25%) – you will need to communicate and interact effectively in speech for a variety of purposes.
- Writing (25%) – you will need to communicate effectively in writing for a variety of purposes.

### **Course Content**

Knowing multiple languages has many benefits and should be celebrated. Taking a GCSE in your home/heritage/community language shows how much you value this language. You will be shown where you can find past papers and the exam specification, but you won't take lessons in school to learn this language. This means that if you decide to take this GCSE in one or more of the languages listed above, you should already be able to understand, speak, read, and write in the language.

**You have a huge amount of existing knowledge which you can bring to this GCSE not only from your own languages.** You may have already studied a language to GCSE level in Year 9 and understand the structure of the exam, the different papers and questions. This is why, **the majority of students who take a HHCL GCSE get very good results.**

The topics covered in the exams are broadly as follows:

- Theme 1: People and lifestyle
- Theme 2: Popular culture
- Theme 3: Communication and the world around us

### *Life after Laurus*

**Whatever you want to do in life, knowing more languages will grant you more opportunities.** As a scientist, you may want to collaborate with Universities around the world; as a journalist, you might want to interview people in different countries; or as an engineer, you might get the chance to work on a major international project. Whatever job you are applying for, speaking multiple languages could put you ahead of all the other candidates. Even as a native speaker of a language, a qualification like the GCSE will show future employers formally that you are of a certain standard and well qualified to use this language in the world of work.

**Students who are hoping to go to University will benefit particularly from a HHCL GCSE.** Universities know that languages are demanding, academic subjects; that they improve your ability to speak and write in English; and that they help you recognise patterns and crack codes more quickly than others do. Having extra GCSE languages can therefore mark you out as particularly talented, whatever course you may be applying for.

**If you are thinking of studying a language at University, having another language will really help.** It will improve your abilities in languages generally, and it will therefore improve your ability in the language(s) that you wish to pursue at A level or University. It will also help you to apply for top University places.

However, of course, it is not all about jobs and courses. Some of the biggest social problems we face today come from a lack of understanding and respect between people from different parts of the world. Learning languages helps you to understand people from other cultures, and to make yourself understood to them too – so, by learning more of them, you could become part of the force that solves these problems for good.