

MFL Summer Preparation for A Level French / German / Spanish

Welcome to the MFL Department at Watford Girls!

You have chosen an exciting course where you will be exploring the culture and society of the countries in which your chosen language is spoken, including literature and film. We have put together a few ideas for you to start investigating the country and language you will be studying – these are not compulsory, but they'll be useful preparation. This should be an enjoyable task and is very much based on your personal interests. Use the review template provided for your language, as well to help you structure your ideas.

- A scrapbook containing target language articles / research / annotated reading about:
 - 2 or more events in politics or society in France/Germany/Spain that are of interest to you. Please include a 50-word comment in target language and a new vocabulary list for each.
 - 2 or more cultural aspects of a country that speaks the target language: that could be a certain trend, a museum, a painter, fashion etc. Please include a 50-word comment in the target language and a new vocabulary list.
 - 2 or more short reviews of a target language song / poem / novel / article / tv programme etc. in the target language. Spotify playlists are a good place to start for finding target-language music!
 - Watch a film in the target language and write a 3 paragraph review in the target language.
- It would be a good idea to keep up with political developments in France/Germany/Spain – this will really help next year – it's interesting, too! Watch the news and read online newspapers (e.g. Libération, El Pais or Die Zeit) – following target-language news platforms on social media is also a good idea.

To revise the main grammar points you have studied so far and for use during the course, please refresh your knowledge of the grammar and translation book listed below for your language:

German: Present tense, Perfect tense, Future tense

French: Present tense, Perfect tense, Future tense

Spanish: Present tense, Simple future tense (I will), Preterite tense

Should you wish to delve a little deeper into grammar, here is the book we would suggest you could get. This is not compulsory, but is a nice book to use for reference.

J. Klapper and T. McMahon, *Aktion Grammatik! :New Advanced German Grammar*, Banbury, Hodder Education, 2006.

P. Turk and G. Garcia Vandale, *Action Grammaire!: New Advanced French Grammar*, Banbury, Hodder Education, 2006.

P. Turk and M. Zollo, *¡Acción Gramática!: New Advanced Spanish Grammar*, Banbury, Hodder Education, 2006.

Websites such as languagesonline.org.uk for all three languages, BonjourdeFrance.com, StudySpanish.com, [Deutsche Welle Learn German](http://DeutscheWelle.com) (<https://www.dw.com/en/learn-german/s-2469>) are helpful interactive resources too – they're free courses that you can do. For the French and German websites, start with levels B1/B2 and see how it goes! More general practice can be found in all languages on the BBC/languages website, including TV channels, or newsinslow.

Your GCSE book has pages on volunteering, which is also an A-Level topic (p168-69 of Studio AQA GCSE French Higher; p171 & 173 of Viva AQA GCSE Spanish Higher and p172-73 of Stimmt AQA GCSE Higher), so

going over these pages and the vocab would be a good idea. Do not worry about the grammar points introduced: you only need to recognise the structures for now but will need to learn to use at A-Level.

If you want some literature, here is the list of texts and films studied at A-Level.

- French film : Au revoir les Enfants by Louis Malle
- French book: No et moi by Delphine de Vigan
- Spanish film: Volver by Pedro Almodovar
- Spanish book: Como agua para chocolate by Laura Esquivel
- German film: Almanya by Yasemin Samdereli
- German book: Der Besuch der Alten Dame by Friedrich Dürrenmatt

We will study the film in Year 12 and the book will be studied in Year 13. However, we would not recommend you read this now, as there will be plenty of time over the summer 2026/2027. Instead, read something by the same author if you want to (or a translation of a book you've already read in English – Harry Potter books, for example, are widely available in all three languages!). The main point is to pick something that is of interest to you and read just for pleasure! Use a dictionary, but don't look up every single word. If you can follow the plot, that's great. It might be difficult to get hold of books right now, but you might be able to download something from Amazon onto an e-reader.

We very much look forward to welcoming you to our Sixth Form!!

Bonnes vacances!

¡Felices vacaciones!

Schöne Ferien!