Why study a language?

There is more to studying a foreign language than being able to speak it. It is also about:

- engaging with the global community
- widening cultural understanding and experiences
- developing new perspectives and opportunities
- gaining a competitive edge in the job market
- being able to travel through parts of the world more easily.

What languages can you study?

The languages you can study include:

- Chinese, French, Indonesian, Russian and Spanish (among the most widely spoken in the world)
- Japanese, Korean, Chinese, Indonesian, French and German (crucial to Australia’s ongoing political, diplomatic and economic relationships)
- Chinese, Japanese, German and French (essential for tourism)
- Italian, Modern Greek, Polish and Vietnamese (reflective of Australia’s rich multicultural heritage).

The classical language Latin is also available.

How will this subject help you?

Learning an additional language helps you to live and learn as part of our global community. It gives you insights into other cultures, as well as the language and communication skills to interact with members of local and international communities.

The ability to speak an additional language can be essential in areas such as tourism and hospitality, business, international relations and diplomacy, education and communications. This ability also opens up opportunities to study abroad, and to travel and live in parts of the world that would not have been possible without the local language.

What will you study?

Learning a language also involves learning about people and culture. You will study a wide variety of topics drawn from four key themes:

- leisure, recreation and human creativity
- school and post-school options
- social issues
• family and community.

How will you learn?
Learning a language requires communicating in meaningful and realistic situations. You will use the skills of listening, reading, speaking and writing in activities such as:
• listening to radio broadcasts, television programs, webcasts and podcasts
• viewing videos and films
• communicating with students in other schools and countries
• holding debates or participating in discussions • reading cartoons, short stories, poems and song lyrics
• participating in chat rooms/MSN Messenger and forums.

How will you be assessed?
Languages are assessed by listening, reading, speaking and writing. You may be assessed, for example, by:
• answering questions about spoken and written texts in the language
• engaging in conversations and interviews
• writing letters, emails and articles.
Your ability to communicate is what is being assessed. You will need to show that you can understand and convey meaning in the spoken and written language.

How your parent/s or guardian/s can help
Your parent/s or guardian/s can help by showing interest in what you are learning, and by providing a supportive home environment and encouragement. They can further assist by:
• discussing the culture and related current events with you
• attending cultural events with you
• fostering respect and empathy for people whose first language is not English, and whose customs and beliefs are not the same as yours.

More information
If you would like more information, please email senior.syllabuses@qcaa.qld.edu.au. You can also visit the QCAA website www.qcaa.qld.edu.au and search for ‘Languages’.