

Russian

A level

What will I study and learn?

You will study four broad topics: the development of Russian society; political and artistic culture in the Russian-speaking world; Moscow or St Petersburg – changes in the life of a large Russian city and the last years of the USSR; and Gorbachev. With the exception of the second topic, all the topics are set in the context of Russia only. You will also undertake a study of one work of literature and one film, both in the target language. Ahead of the oral exam, you will complete an independent research project based on one of the themes or on your own subject of interest related to Russian-speaking society and culture.

How will I be assessed?

You will sit three papers:

Paper 1 (40%)
Listening, Reading and Translation
Paper 2 (30%)
Writing on literary text and film
Paper 3 (30%)
Speaking

What skills should I have and what will be developed?

The skills developed at GCSE will be built upon during this two-year course, and you will develop your language skills of speaking, listening, reading

and writing to a much higher level. By the end of the course, you will be able to read increasingly longer texts, hold a conversation at normal speed, be able to write analytical essays in Russian, and have sound translation skills.

We will cover the necessary new grammar, as well as revise what you have already done for GCSE and encourage you to undertake the systematic and regular learning of new vocabulary. You can expect to be taught in a small group. You will have much more opportunity to contribute in lessons and will play an active role in discussion. You will also have regular slots with our native Russian Assistant for more speaking practice.

A level/IB

The IB and A level courses prepare you for a degree-level study of Russian, whether as a single honours subject, a dual honours subject with another language, or an unrelated subject. The range of university courses offering a language as one element is extremely broad, encompassing law, business, management, finance, computing and engineering to name but a few.

Russian will certainly be a rewarding choice and you will be able to take part in our trip to Estonia or Latvia which we run every two years. As former countries of the USSR, Estonia and Latvia have a sizeable Russian population and our trip contains some time in a language school where pupils will be immersed in the language. We also often organise cultural trips locally relating to Russian, such as films, exhibitions and theatre trips.

Entry requirements

You should gain at least a grade 7 at GCSE or equivalent. You should also be keen to communicate in Russian and want to learn more about the culture of Russia and Russian-speaking countries.



IB

What will I study and learn?

The IB Russian course will enable you to discuss, both orally and written, topics of local, national and global importance. The IB syllabus provides opportunities to study five prescribed themes: identities, experiences, human ingenuity, social organisation, and sharing the planet. HL students will also study two works of Russian literature.

How will I be assessed?

There are two papers that are externally assessed at both SL and HL plus an internal oral assessment.

Paper 1 (25%)	Paper 2 (50%)	Internal Assessment (25%)
One written task of 450–600 words (HL) or 250–400 words (SL).	Listening and reading comprehension.	A conversation with the teacher based on either a visual stimulus (SL) or an extract from one of the literary works studied (HL).

What skills should I have and what will be developed?

The course looks to provide you with the best opportunities to succeed in the acquisition of key communicative skills; you will finish it ready to engage in reasoned debates on issues affecting your own country as well as others globally. You will develop an ability to accept or reject other people's opinions, giving informed and reasoned responses in a range of registers.

An IB student develops their analytical skills in both English and Russian, and gains a unique insight into the cultures of more than 260 million people who speak Russian as their mother tongue; indeed Russian is the second most widespread language on the internet after English.

Want to know more?

Mr Richard Hawkins
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Exam Board:
www.qualifications.pearson.com
(Edexcel)
www.ibo.org

“We are very lucky to have such an amazing Russian department at BGS. Discovering the culture, learning about current affairs and how to communicate with others on a daily basis are a big part of this course.

Megan Keeley, OB 2020
Courses: Russian, Mathematics and Further Mathematics