



OXFORD
HIGH SCHOOL

GDST
GIRLS' DAY SCHOOL TRUST

A-Level Russian

А Б В Г Д Е
Ё Ж З И Й
К Л М Н О
П Р С Т У Ф
Х Ц Ч Ш Щ
Ъ Ы Ь Э Ю Я

Why Study Russian at A-Level?

1. Enjoyment!
2. Interactive 21st century approach
3. Continuous record of outstanding results
4. A very well balanced curriculum
5. **Superb higher education opportunities**
6. Excellent prospects of future employment as well as work experience
7. Excellent teaching and learning opportunities
8. Regular sessions with the native speaker
9. Understanding Russian culture
10. Breaking the myths about the stern Russians

Extra Curriculum Activities?

- The Russian Exchange
- The 6th Form Russian Conference
- Links with other schools, including Eton, Harrow and St.Paul's Girls School
- Cultural events
- Olympiads and competitions
- Work experience in Russian companies



Structure of the course

- Continuation of the four GCSE skills
- Broadening of subject content, acquiring more advanced and sophisticated vocabulary
- Opportunity to develop speaking skills through regular conversational classes
- Literary analysis - perfect opportunity to acquire deeper knowledge of literature and poetry
- Targeted preparation for top universities offering Russian



Topics to be covered

- Russian society: Youth, education, work
- Political and cultural life in Russian speaking countries: media, culture, traditions and festivals
- Moscow and St.Petersburg and life in the city: population, social issues, environment
- Last years of the USSR, Gorbachev; perestroika, glasnost, 1991

Spoken expression and response in target language

Students develop their ability to converse in Russian on a variety of topics showing the knowledge and understanding of the target language culture. Students will learn to engage in a discussion in Russian giving relevant and appropriate information, convey opinions, interact and respond to a range of questions; they will present and take a clear stance on an issue; interact effectively with the teacher, defend their views and sustain a discussion. The students will complete an independent research project at A level which will be assessed within the Speaking and writing exams.

Understanding and written response in target language

- Students will develop skills to understand and convey their understanding of Russian language texts and recordings; produce essays and demonstrate an ability to manipulate the Russian language in continuous writing.
- Students will learn to recognise and use the Russian language in a variety of contexts and in relation to a range of general topic areas.
- Students will also develop skills in advanced-level Russian writing (discursive or creative essay) and translation from English into Russian and vice-versa, showing evidence of independent, advanced-level Russian language reading and research of a prescribed text, play, film or topic area that links to the culture and/or society of a Russian-speaking country, countries or community.



Literature and Film Component

- Students have an opportunity to study in-depth and in the target language one of the prescribed texts and films. Most recent books included:
 - A. Pushkin “Dame of Spades”
 - “Burnt by the Sun” film by Nikita Mikhalkov
- Exposure to literature is done throughout the course and the students are encouraged to read the works of Russian authors on their own;
- Set literature (choice of text or film in the first year) is assessed through a target language essay

How is the subject taught?

Currently

- 9 lessons a week with regular grammar, film and literature lessons
- Regular sessions with a native speaker
- Individual learning (DVDs, exchanges, extra reading, extra-curricular activities.)
- Individual sessions with teacher

Frequently asked questions

- * Q: What about linguistic ability?
- * A: A very smooth transition from GCSE, however a minimum of a 7 is advisable for a successful completion of the A level course
- * Q: How does the teaching differ from the GCSE course?
- * A: More independence is given for vocabulary learning and drilling, as well as Grammar. More subject related reading is encouraged outside of lessons.
- * Q: Are there oral lessons?
- * A: Yes, we have a very experienced Russian assistant who has a splendid grasp of Russian and enthuses the girls with more passion for the language and allows their speaking abilities to flourish
- * Q: What about the results?
- * A: Russian has an outstanding track record of results and our girls achieve 100% A*-A year to year.