



OXFORD  
HIGH SCHOOL

GDST  
GIRLS' DAY SCHOOL TRUST

# A Level Russian

**Sixth Form study options**



# A Level Russian

## 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 a native speaker
9. Understanding Russian culture
10. Breaking the myths about the stern Russians

## Co-curricular activities?

- The Russian Exchange
- The Sixth 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 recently this 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: We ensure a very smooth transition from GCSE, however a minimum of a 7 is advisable for 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.



Sixth Form Russian Conference  
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