

BBC Learning English – Ask About Britain

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Student Second Language 学生第二外语

John: Hello and welcome to Ask About Britain, the programme where we answer your questions about British life and culture. I'm John.

Feifei: 大家好，我是冯菲菲。如果各位想了解英国生活的各个方面，有任何问题，在这个节目当中，我们都会为您作出解答。

John: Shu Tao from Tian Jin wants to know what languages do English school students learn as their second language.

Feifei: 来自天津的 **Shu Tao** 问我们英国的学生在学校通常学习的第二外语是什么，second language 第二外语。

John: So we spoke with Ann Mawer, the Head of Modern Languages at the Royal Russell Secondary School.

Feifei: Modern language 现代语言，尤其是指欧洲语言，如法语，德语或西班牙语。我们就这个问题请教了伦敦 **Royal Russell** 学校负责现代语言教学的 **Ann Mawer**。

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All our students have to study a language for GCSE, all of them are going to be taught French and Spanish in year seven up to year nine; and at the end of year nine they choose which one they want to carry on or both if they wish to.

Feifei: Ann says all students have to study a language for GCSE. What's GCSE John?

John: It's the General Certificate of Secondary Education, it's the first basic set of exams that everyone aims for.

Feifei: GCSE 是英国中级普通教育证书考试，这个考试是所有学生想要通过的第一个重要考试。All the students are taught French and Spanish in year seven up to year nine, does year seven mean the students are age seven?

John: No, year seven is the beginning of secondary school, students are usually eleven years old. So when they are thirteen which is year nine, they have to choose which language to study for their GCSE exams, or both of the languages if they wish to.

Feifei: So what languages do students often choose at the end of year 9?
Here's Ann again.

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At the moment, French is still the most popular one, mainly because French was actually taught since the prep school as well, Primary school, so they feel a bit more confident; however, now we've introduced Spanish as well in the prep school, I'd imagine most of them would go probably 50-50 or towards Spanish as well – I'm pretty sure that the figures are going to change soon.

John: So French is still the most popular language students choose.

Feifei: French 法语。法语作为现代语言里一个很受欢迎的语种仍然是大多数学生首选的第二外语。

John: Students choose French because they have studied French since prep school or Primary school so they feel a bit more confident.

Feifei: Prep school short of preparatory school 私立小学, primary school 小学。Ann also says Spanish has been introduced in her prep school now so more students are likely to choose Spanish. But why do schools offer these languages but not others?

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So on the market French is obviously much more developed in terms of resources and everything; and in terms of teachers as well, there are more of them than you would find for Chinese for example who can speak English, so that's our prime reason; also to see that it's an European language, it should be near them, they should be more inclined to do so. So French and Spanish are both languages that we decided to carry on.

John: Ann says French is much more developed in terms of resources and everything.

Feifei: Resources 资源。Ann 说法语这门外语的资源在市场上很容易找到，所谓的资源就是师资力量。

John: Yes, there are more teachers of French than teachers of Chinese in Britain.

Feifei: 会说英语的法语老师比会说英语的中文老师更容易找到，所以大多数学校会选择教授法语。French is a European language and students are more inclined to study it. Inclined to do something 有某种倾向，很有可能做某事。

John: Ann says a lot of parents help their children to choose their second language for various reasons.

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Either because they have a house in Spain, either because they know the language already and they can help them, it's quite rare that parents leave free hands to the students actually.

John: So parents choose second languages for their children because they might have a house in that country or because they know the language already and they can help their children with it.

Feifei: 很多家长都会帮自己的孩子选择他们的第二外语，如果家长在西班牙有一套房子他们就会让孩子学习西班牙语，或者是让他们的孩子学习他们会说的一门外语，以便以后帮助孩子们辅导功课。What did you choose to study when you were a student John?

John: I learnt French because that was the only language available. What about you Feifei?

Feifei: I learnt English at school and it was also because there weren't other choices. I'm so jealous of the English students.

John: Well, hope we have answered your question Shu Tao. If you have any questions about British life and culture, send us an email at chinaelt@bbc.co.uk

Feifei: 如果大家想了解更多关于英国生活和文化以及英语学习的方方面面，都可以登陆我们的网站 www.bbcchina.com.cn Thanks for listening and see you next time.

John: See you!

Glossary

second language 第二外语	GCSE 英国中级普通教育证书考试
modern language 现代语言	French 法语
Spanish 西班牙语	resources 资源
Chinese 汉语	primary school 小学
preparatory school 私立小学	inclined to do something 有某种向， 很有可能做某事。