

Spotlight on: A level speaking assessments

For Chinese, French, German, Italian, Russian and Spanish A levels

In this resource, you will find everything you need to know to support you in preparing for A level speaking assessments.

Whether you need guidance on supporting students with their independent research project (IRP), have queries about mock oral exams or need clarification on the conduct and administration of the speaking component, you are in the right place.



Rapid refresh

If you're short of time, watch this [12-minute video](#) on how to conduct the speaking exam and download [timings and tips](#) for teachers.

Please note that speaking recordings must now be submitted digitally via Learner Work Transfer (LWT) – instructions are provided in the [LWT guide](#) and in this [video](#).

Quick questions

Find the answers to frequently asked questions about speaking assessments in our [FAQ resource](#). Our [guide to the A level speaking assessments](#) also offers answers to key queries.

Exam examples

Download speaking exemplars of past candidates in action, with recording, marks and examiner commentaries.

Available for [French](#), [German](#) and [Spanish](#) A level.

Mock orals

When preparing for mock speaking exams please read [this guidance](#) on how to help students practise the skills needed for Task 2 - the IRP presentation and discussion.

Admin support

The [administrative support guide](#) includes all the key information, such as dates, assessment options, preparation and conduct of the exam, paperwork and digital submission via the online LWT portal.

Essential forms

Candidates must complete the [IRP form](#) (RP3) and provide it to the teacher-examiner no later than three weeks before the speaking window dates.

The IRP form and the [candidate speaking authentication sheet](#) (form CS4) must be submitted online with the speaking recordings using [LWT](#).

IRP ideas

Get some ideas of what would be suitable as an IRP title:

[French](#) | [German](#) | [Italian](#) | [Russian](#) | [Spanish](#)

Take a look at the [exemplar IRP](#) presentation and discussion in English, including the written sources for research and a completed RP3 form.

Examiner reports

Read the feedback our examiners gave on past speaking assessments to glean top tips from the experts.

Examiner reports are provided on our website with the past papers:

[Chinese](#) | [French](#) | [German](#) | [Italian](#) | [Russian](#) | [Spanish](#)

Spec essentials

Don't forget to read the specification for the course, which sets out exactly what the speaking exam covers, including the timings for each task and the mark schemes.

Choose your language:

[Chinese](#) | [French](#) | [German](#) | [Italian](#) | [Russian](#) | [Spanish](#)

Stimulus cards

Practise speaking with your students using the past exam materials available on our website:

[Chinese](#) | [French](#) | [German](#) | [Italian](#) | [Russian](#) | [Spanish](#)

Sample assessment materials are also available:

[Chinese](#) | [French](#) | [German](#) | [Italian](#) | [Russian](#) | [Spanish](#)

Student support

Help your students [develop the research skills](#) they need to do well in their preparations for the IRP.

Share these student [timings and tips](#) with your candidates so they know exactly what to expect.

Live training

We offer free CPD on conducting the speaking exam in the autumn and spring terms through the [Professional Development Academy](#).

Recorded exam training on [conducting the speaking exams](#) is also available for French, German and Spanish.

We also have training materials relevant to [all languages](#).

