

# AS and A level Chinese, Italian and Russian

Languages for all

Discover our new qualifications for 2017



# Edexcel AS and A level Chinese, Italian and Russian 2017

This guide gives an overview of our new Edexcel AS and A level qualifications in Chinese, Italian and Russian.

We will outline how our specifications will inspire your students and address changes to the qualifications, and we'll also tell you about the high-quality support you can expect.

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## What's happening and when?

	Spring 2017	Summer 2017	Autumn 2017	Summer 2018	Summer 2019
What's happening	Accredited specifications and sample assessment materials available	Subject guide available	Start teaching new AS and A levels	First AS assessments take place	First A levels assessments take place
What you can do	Attend a free Getting Ready to Teach event or recording	Attend a free Getting Ready to Teach event or recording	Download free support	Download free support	

# Languages for all

Whether your students are studying languages as a stepping stone to university or to enhance their career prospects, our qualifications will help them to use language independently and deepen their understanding of the target language and culture.

## Encouraging motivation

Our approach encourages motivation by appealing to a wide range of students' interests, with a variety of popular topics, texts and films all linked to the culture of the target language communities. Our assessments have been designed to allow students to demonstrate their knowledge and skills to the best of their ability, and our mark schemes reward them for it.

## High-quality support

Alongside the qualifications, we will provide you with a wide range of free materials, face-to-face and online support to help you enable your students to achieve their potential.

## Next steps ...

- Once you've read through this guide, turn to the back page for details of how to:
- Sign up to teach, get updates and **free support materials**.
  - Book on to a free **Getting Ready to Teach** event.

## Support to help you to teach literature alongside language

We'll provide a range of free online and face-to-face support, to help teachers take a holistic approach to incorporating culture and literature into the AS and A level courses.

- 🌐 We'll offer support to integrate literature and film into the classroom, including ideas on how to choose which works to use, ways to motivate learners and approaches to analysing texts and films.
- 🌐 Support to teach the independent research project, including topic ideas and ways to develop research techniques.
- 🌐 Getting Ready to Teach events, with further guidance on implementing the changes.

### Free support materials

Free support will be available to help you plan ahead. Visit our website to download ideas for text and film analysis, topic ideas for the independent research project, and mapping documents to compare our new AS and A level to previous specifications. More support, including Schemes of Work, will be coming soon.

**[quals.pearson.com/alevellanguages2017](https://quals.pearson.com/alevellanguages2017)**

## Cultural content that will motivate your students and an unrivalled choice of texts and films

Our specifications include popular and relevant themes with strong links to the target language communities, and a variety of texts and films to appeal to a wide range of student interests.

- 🌐 Broad yet manageable content, covering the politics, society, artistic culture and history of the target language country.
- 🌐 Cultural content that is relevant and engaging for students of all disciplines, that supports their language learning and demonstrates the integration of language and culture.
- 🌐 A range of directors and authors.
- 🌐 Contexts are set in realistic scenarios to show how language is used in authentic situations.
- 🌐 Cultural stimuli in assessments relates clearly to themes that have been studied and provides familiar context for students.

# Edexcel AS and A level Chinese 2017

## Themes and topics

AS / Year 1	<b>Theme 1 - Social Issues and trends: Changes in contemporary Chinese society</b>
	<b>Family</b> – family structure and the generation gap; family planning and ageing population.
	<b>Education</b> – school life and student issues.
	<b>The world of work</b> – work opportunities and work-life balance.
	<b>Theme 2 - Political and/or intellectual and/or artistic culture in Chinese society</b>
	<b>Traditions</b> – Festivals (Spring festival, Dragon boat, Mid-autumn, Qing Ming) and customs.
Year 2	<b>Cultural activities</b> – Film, TV, music and reading.
	<b>Theme 3 - Social Issues and trends: Evolving Chinese society</b>
	<b>Communications and technology</b> – internet and social media.
	<b>Economy and environment</b> – economic developments; environmental protection.
	<b>Theme 4 - Political and/or intellectual and/or artistic culture:</b>
	<b>The impact of ‘Reform and openness’ policies of 1978</b>
	<b>Changes brought by ‘reform and openness’</b> – the gap between rich and poor; development of super cities; urban migration.
	<b>China and the UK since ‘reform and openness’ policies</b> – trade; cultural and educational exchanges.

### Extensive choice of Chinese literary texts and films

The Edexcel AS and A level specifications offer a diverse range of contemporary and classical Chinese titles, from authors and directors such as Wenxuan, Xun, Xiaoshuai, Chen, Haiyin and more.

AS students must study one text OR film, and A level students must study either one text AND one film, OR two texts. Many of the works have links to the themes shown above and can be studied by AS and first-year A level students together to enable co-teaching.

Visit [quals.pearson.com/alevelchinese2017](https://www.pearson.com/alevelchinese2017) to download the full list of Chinese texts and films.

# Edexcel AS and A level Italian 2017

## Themes and topics

AS / Year 1	<b>Theme 1 - Social Issues and trends: Changes in Italian society</b>
	<b>Family</b> – changes in attitudes towards marriage and couples; family life.
	<b>Education</b> – the school system and issues facing students.
	<b>The world of work</b> – equality; unemployment; family businesses; new working patterns.
	<b>Theme 2 - Political and/or intellectual and/or artistic culture: Political and artistic culture in the Italian-speaking world</b>
	<b>Music</b> – changes and developments; impact on popular culture.
Year 2	<b>Media</b> – freedom of expression; printed and online press; impact on society and politics.
	<b>Cultural heritage</b> – festivals; customs; traditions.
	<b>Theme 3 - Social Issues and trends: Evolving Italian society</b>
	<b>The positive impact of immigration</b> – contributions of immigrants to the economy and culture.
	<b>Facing the challenges of migration</b> – marginalisation and alienation; integration; the impact of emigration.
	<b>North/South Divide</b> – travel between the North and South; the role of Italian industry; socio-cultural differences; crime.
	<b>Theme 4 - Political and/or intellectual and/or artistic culture: Fascism and beyond</b>
	<b>The rise of Mussolini</b> – the birth of the Fascist Party.
	<b>Fascism in World War Two</b> – the government of Mussolini and dictatorship; life under Mussolini during the war.
	<b>From dictatorship to democracy</b> – the fall of Mussolini; the liberation; the six nations.

### Extensive choice of Italian literary texts and films

The Edexcel AS and A level specifications offer a diverse range of contemporary and classical Italian titles, from authors and directors such as Calvino, Sciascia, Pirandello, Giordana, Sorrentino and more.

AS students must study one text OR film, and A level students must study either one text AND one film, OR two texts. Many of the works have links to the themes shown above and can be studied by AS and first year A level students together to enable co-teaching.

Visit [quals.pearson.com/alevelitalian2017](https://www.pearson.com/alevelitalian2017) to download the list of Italian texts and films.

# Edexcel AS and A level Russian 2017

## Themes and topics

AS / Year 1	Theme 1 - Development of society in Russia
	Life of young Russians – health; leisure; new technologies
	Education – education system; Russian pupils’ life
	World of Work – Attitudes to work; opportunities for young Russians; equality
	Theme 2 - Political and artistic culture in the Russian-speaking world
	Media – freedom of expression; printed and online press; influence on society and politics
	Popular culture – music; circus; dance
	Holidays, festivals and traditions – festivals; public holidays; customs; traditions
Year 2	Theme 3 - Changes in the life of a big Russian city – Moscow OR Saint-Petersburg
	Population change – life in the city; life in the suburbs
	Social issues – homelessness; crime
	Environment – urban redevelopment, pollution
	Theme 4 - The final years of the USSR – M.S. Gorbachev (1985-1991)
	Perestroika – origins of policy of perestroika; economic reforms; outcomes
	Glasnost’ – origins of policy of glasnost’; social reforms; outcomes
	1991 – problems for the USSR by 1991; the August putsch; the end of the USSR

### Extensive choice of Russian literary texts and films

The Edexcel AS and A level specifications offer a diverse range of contemporary and classical Russian titles, from authors and directors such as Pushkin, Gogol, Chekov, Sjepitko, Zvyagintsev and more.

AS students must study one text OR film, and A level students must study either one text AND one film, OR two texts. Many of the works have links to the themes shown above and can be studied by AS and first year A level students together to enable co-teaching.

Visit [quals.pearson.com/alevelrussian2017](https://quals.pearson.com/alevelrussian2017) to download the list of Russian texts and films.

## Manageable content and gradual progression from GCSE

- Our Edexcel AS and A levels are designed to smooth the transition from GCSE and support the progression of students’ skills, with accessible assessments and clearly defined, familiar content.
- Gradual progression from skills learned at GCSE helps ensure the step up to AS assessment is not too wide - for example the Summary is written in English.
  - Our AS papers also provide structured practice to aid progression for A level candidates during year 1.
  - Manageable amount of content with clearly defined, familiar themes and topics that teachers have told us they enjoy.

### Making it simple: co-teaching AS and A level

Our course content is designed to help you to teach AS and first year A level students at the same time. As shown in the tables on pages 6-8, the themes and topics for AS and the first year of A level are the same, and many of the texts and films in the Edexcel specifications can be taught for both AS and A level. All four skills will be assessed at both AS and A level, and both qualifications feature a three-paper structure.

#### Why? What’s changed?

As part of Ofqual’s changes to the qualifications, AS levels will be de-coupled from A levels and become stand-alone qualifications no longer contributing to an A level grade. A levels will now be fully linear, with students sitting their exams at the end of the two-year course.

For a summary of the other changes to AS and A levels in Chinese, Italian and Russian, please see page 14 or visit our website at: [quals.pearson.com/alevellanguages2017](https://quals.pearson.com/alevellanguages2017)

## Guidance on the standards required for assessments

We'll ensure you have clear guidance on what is expected in the new assessments, so that you can be confident in preparing your students and help them achieve what they are capable of.

- 🌐 Clarity around mark schemes, with exemplification to help you understand the standards expected.
- 🌐 Mark schemes that allow students to demonstrate their skills and knowledge to the best of their ability.
- 🌐 Exemplar essays marked with commentaries.
- 🌐 Clear instructions and teacher training on conducting the speaking exam.

## Qualifications that support transferable skills and offer elements of student choice

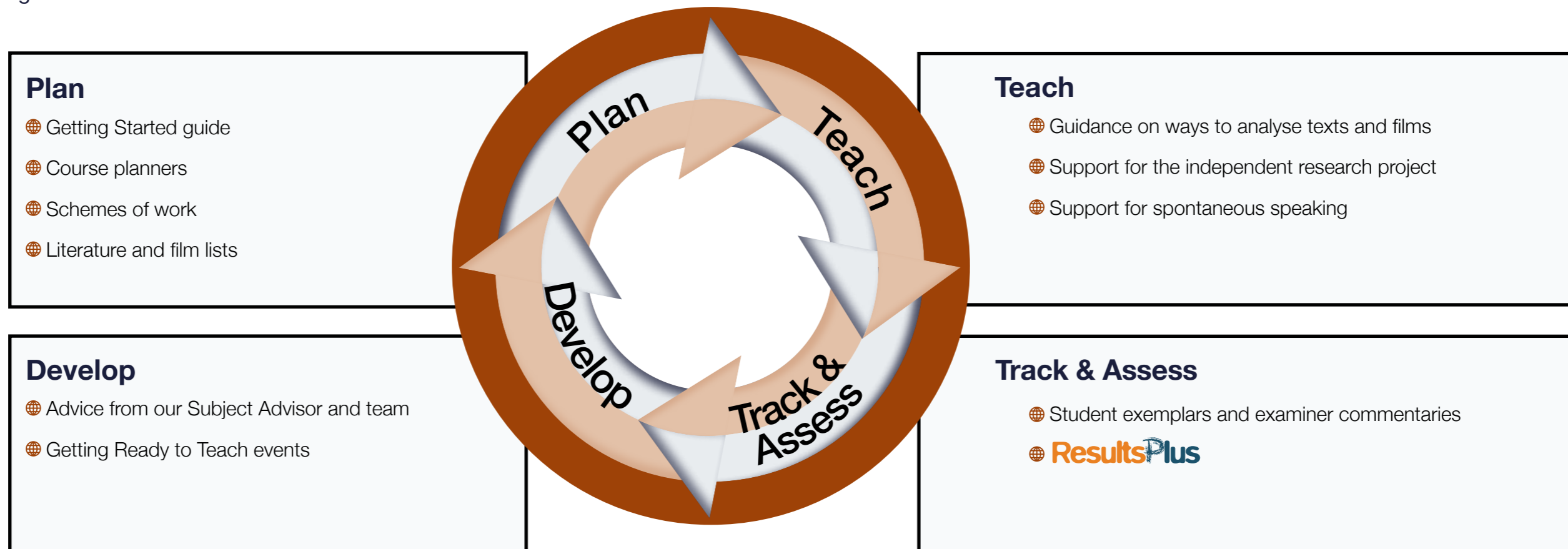
Students can focus on areas that interest them through the independent research project in the A level speaking assessment, while developing important transferable skills that they will use in other subjects.

- 🌐 The independent research project allows students to study an area that interests them.
- 🌐 Encourages students to use skills they will be developing in other subjects, such as applying critical analysis skills to cultural content, developing ideas and arguments with justification and carrying out independent research.
- 🌐 The development of transferable skills supports students who see languages as a skill to enhance career or travel prospects, as well as those who want to continue to study languages at a higher level.



# Support to understand the new assessments and to teach the skills required

We've put together a package of FREE support to help you **plan** and **teach** our new qualification, **track** and **assess** students' progress, and **develop** your own professional knowledge and skills.



## Getting Ready to Teach events

Free events where you can join our experts to:

- discover more about the structure, content and assessment of our new qualifications
- explore possible teaching and delivery strategies
- share ideas with other teachers.

Face-to-face and online events are taking place during summer 2017 at locations across the country: book your place online at

[quals.pearson.com/alevellanguages2017](https://quals.pearson.com/alevellanguages2017)

## Support whenever you need it

If you have any questions, get in touch with our Subject Advisor **Alistair Drewery**. You can sign up to receive emails from Alistair and be kept up-to-date about training events, news and government announcements, deadlines and much more.

Visit online: [quals.pearson.com/alevellanguages2017](https://quals.pearson.com/alevellanguages2017)

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Alistair Drewery  
Languages Subject Advisor

## Key facts: AS and A level 2017 Chinese, Italian and Russian

The following changes apply to the specifications.

- 🌐 Standalone AS qualification (no longer counting towards the A level).
- 🌐 Set literature at A level (choice of text or film at AS). All assessed through a target language essay.
- 🌐 Independent research project at A level assessed within the speaking exam.
- 🌐 Compulsory themes: social issues and trends; political and/or intellectual and/or artistic culture.
- 🌐 New Assessment Objective around knowledge and understanding of the target language culture - students will need to demonstrate this in the Edexcel AS and A level specifications in the speaking and writing components.

## Also new for 2017:

### Edexcel GCSE (9–1) Chinese, Italian and Russian

Chinese, Italian and Russian GCSEs are changing in 2017 and, as with our AS and A levels, we have developed our qualifications with a 'languages for all' approach, designed to enable all students to reach their potential.

Our new GCSEs in Chinese, Italian and Russian include cultural content that motivates and brings languages to life, familiar themes and defined, manageable topic areas. We will offer guidance on the new assessments, and high-quality support to teach the skills required.

Find our accredited GCSE specifications, sample assessment materials, a range of free support and information about the changes at **[quals.pearson.com/gcselanguages2017](https://quals.pearson.com/gcselanguages2017)**



# Next steps...

## **Edexcel AS and A level Chinese, Italian and Russian**

You can visit our website now to see the free support already available and if you're interested in teaching our new qualifications, let us know so you receive important specification and support updates.

### **Sign up at:**

**[quals.pearson.com/alevellanguages2017](https://quals.pearson.com/alevellanguages2017)**

### **Book a free Getting Ready to Teach event**

Book your space on a free face-to-face or online Getting Ready to Teach event to find out more about our qualifications:

**[quals.pearson.com/alevellanguages17GRTT](https://quals.pearson.com/alevellanguages17GRTT)**