



Ideas for the independent research project

A level Russian speaking

Requirements

The DfE A level MFL subject content states that A level specifications in a modern language must require students to:

- develop research skills in the language of study, demonstrating the ability to initiate and conduct individual research on a subject of personal interest, relating to the country or countries where the language is spoken
- identify a key question or subject of interest and select relevant information in the language of study from a range of authentic sources, including the internet
- use information to illustrate knowledge and understanding of the research subject
- analyse and summarise research findings, elaborating on key points of interest, as appropriate, through oral presentation and discussion

Teachers and candidates should be aware of the mark scheme for the IRP (Task 2) section of the exam, to ensure that the chosen topic will allow candidates to access all bands of the mark scheme. In particular, to access the top band (10–12) of the mark grid for “Knowledge and understanding of Russian-speaking society and culture” (AO4), candidates must demonstrate the ability to offer:

- information / examples / references, consistently focused on the Russian-speaking cultural and social context
- analysis of the Russian-speaking cultural and social context demonstrated by consistently developed and justified arguments and viewpoints, drawing convincing conclusions.

It is important that candidates choose an appropriate topic for the IRP, and that they phrase the title of and treat the topic in a way which will allow them to access all bands of the mark scheme. In order to be able to demonstrate the ability to “develop and justify arguments and viewpoints”, it may be helpful to phrase the topic as a question, for example “Why did...?” or “To what extent...?”

Ideas

Here are some ideas for the independent research project:

- Did the Soviet Union win the “Space Race”?
- To what extent did Yurii Luzhkov’s reforms improve Moscow?
- Was the October Revolution inevitable?
- The Emancipation of the Serfs – success or failure?
- Why did Russia annex the Crimea in 2014?
- Is Makhar Vaziev a successful director of the Bolshoi Ballet?
- Why do so many Russian footballers choose to play abroad?
- Should Russian athletes have been banned from the Rio Olympics?
- What is the future of the Russian Orthodox Church?
- Is it too late to save the Caspian Sea?