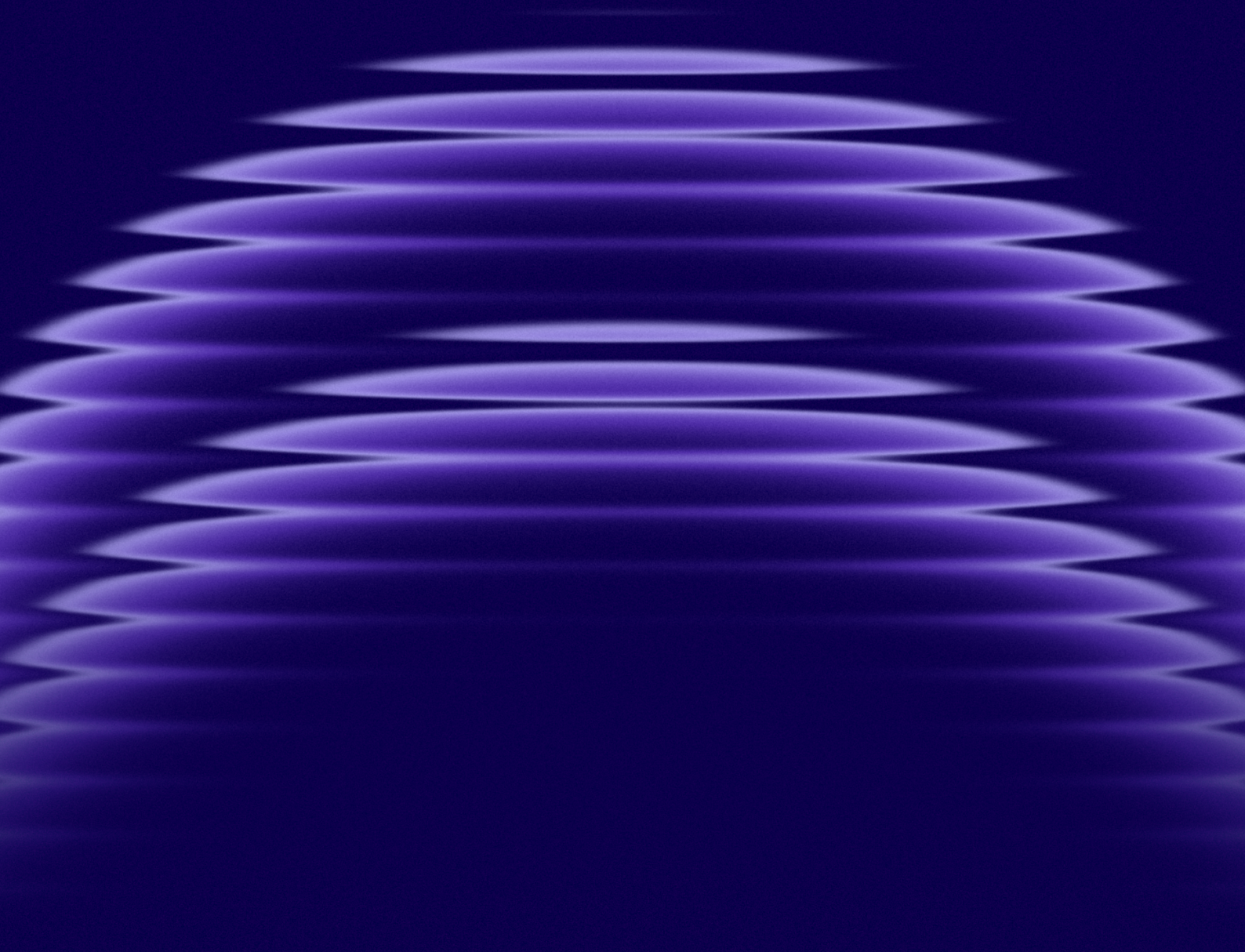




AQA to Pearson Edexcel GCSE French, German and Spanish specifications (2024)

Mapping Guidance



AQA (2024)

Paper 2: Foundation Speaking
(7–9 mins + 15 mins prep)
25% of GCSE

Role-play (1 – 1.5 mins) – **10 marks**
Read aloud and unprepared short conversation (2 – 2.5 mins) – **15 marks**
Photo card discussion – **25 marks**

- Response to the content of the photos on the card (approx. 1 min)
- Unprepared conversation (between 3–4 mins)

Total marks: **50**

Paper 2: Higher Speaking
(10–12 mins + 15 mins prep)
25% of GCSE

Role-play (1 – 1.5 mins) – **10 marks**
Read aloud and unprepared short conversation (3 – 3.5 mins) – **15 marks**
Photo card discussion – **25 marks**

- Response to the content of the photos on the card (approx. 1.5 mins)
- Unprepared conversation (between 4.5–5.5 mins)

Total marks: **50**

Pearson Edexcel (2024)

Paper 1: Foundation Speaking
(7–9 mins + 14 mins prep + 1 additional min)
25% of GCSE

Read aloud and two, unprepared, follow-on questions: (1.5–2 mins) – **12 marks**
Role play: (1–1.5 mins) – **10 marks**
Picture task: picture description with two, unprepared, follow-on questions, and conversation.

- Picture (1.5–2 mins) – **12 marks**
- Conversation (3–3.5 mins) – **16 marks**

Total marks: **50**

Paper 1: Higher Speaking
(10–12 mins + 14 mins prep + 1 additional min)
25% of GCSE

Read aloud and two, unprepared, follow-on questions: (2–2.5 mins) – **12 marks**
Role play (1–1.5 mins) – **10 marks**
Picture task: picture description with two, unprepared, follow-on questions, and conversation.

- Picture (2–2.5 mins) – **12 marks**
- Conversation (5–5.5 mins) – **16 marks**

Total marks: **50**

Key similarities between the specifications

- Same overall timings
- Read aloud, role-play and photo / picture description
- Role play mark schemes – different wording but marks are 0 /1 / 2 and based on clarity of communication
- Same overall weighting – 25%

Key features of the Pearson Edexcel specification

- 1 min. preparation time in the exam room to allow students to practise read aloud
- Prescribed list of 10 role play settings
- Students select thematic context in advance for picture description (from random choice of two using digital sequencing tool)
- Flexible and student focussed conversation, with freedom to refer to any of the 6 thematic contexts during the conversation, if appropriate
- Choice of two, colour, pictures for the picture description
- Only two compulsory follow-on questions after the Read Aloud task with no development required
- No verbs required for Role Play responses or any follow-on compulsory questions
- All teacher transitions are in English

AQA (2024)

Paper 2: Foundation Listening
(35 mins including 5 mins reading prep)
25% of GCSE

Section A: Questions in English, mix of written and non-verbal / MCQ tasks. 2 repeats.
32 marks

Section B: Dictation. Transcribing short sentences and assessing Sound Symbol Correspondences (SSCs). 3 repeats – once at normal speed, then broken into chunks and then at normal speed again. **8 marks**

Total marks: **40**

Paper 1: Higher Listening
(45 mins including 5 mins reading prep)
25% of GCSE

Section A: Questions in English: mix of written and non-verbal / MCQ tasks. 2 repeats –
40 marks

Section B: Dictation. Transcribing short sentences and assessing Sound Symbol Correspondences (SSCs). 3 repeats – once at normal speed, then broken into chunks and then at normal speed again. **10 marks**

Total marks: **50**

Pearson Edexcel (2024)

Paper 1: Foundation Listening
(45 mins including 5 mins reading prep)
25% of GCSE

Section A: Questions in English: MCQ, multiple-response and short-answer open response. 3 repeats. **40 marks**

Section B: Dictation. Transcribing single words for gap fill and full sentences. Sound Symbol Correspondences (SSCs) are assessed . 3 repeats. **10 marks**

Total marks: **50**

Paper 1: Higher Listening
(60 mins including 5 mins reading prep)
25% of GCSE

Section A: Questions in English: MCQ, multiple-response and short-answer open response. 3 repeats. **40 marks**

Section B: Dictation. Transcribing single words for gap fill and full sentences. Sound Symbol Correspondences (SSCs) are assessed – **10 marks**

Total marks: **50**

Key similarities between the specifications

- Same marks per section (HT)
- Same overall weighting – 25%
- 2 minutes checking time

Key features of the Pearson Edexcel specification

- 3 repeats for all extracts
- Same question type and order every year (applies to all papers)
- Steady ramping of difficulty as students progress through the paper
- Student focussed – students know in advance how many non-vocabulary list words will be tested and where these will occur.
- All sentences in dictation from same thematic context making it more accessible.
- Listening and reading exams have separate exam slots
- No scaling required
- Compassionate mark scheme for dictation

AQA (2024)	Pearson Edexcel (2024)
<p>Paper 3: Foundation Reading (45 mins) 25% of GCSE</p> <p>Section A: Comprehension questions to be answered in English or non-verbally - 40 marks</p> <p>Section B: 5 sentences to translate from the target language into English - 10 marks</p> <p>Total marks: 50</p>	<p>Paper 3: Foundation Reading and Understanding (45 mins) 25% of GCSE</p> <p>Section A: Comprehension question types: MCQ, multiple-response and short-answer open response. Set in English - 40 marks</p> <p>Section B: 5 sentences to translate from the target language into English - 10 marks</p> <p>Total marks: 50</p>
<p>Paper 3: Higher Reading (60 mins) 25% of GCSE</p> <p>Section A: Comprehension questions to be answered in English or non-verbally - 40 marks</p> <p>Section B: 5 sentences to translate from the target language into English - 10 marks</p> <p>Total marks: 50</p>	<p>Paper 1: Higher Reading and Understanding (60 mins) 25% of GCSE</p> <p>Section A: Comprehension question types: MCQ, multiple-response, and short-answer open response. Set in English - 40 marks</p> <p>Section B: One translation passage from the target language into English - 10 marks</p> <p>Total marks: 50</p>

Key similarities between the specifications

- Same exam timings
- Reading and translation requirements
- Same total marks
- Same overall weighting – 25%

Key features of the Pearson Edexcel specification

- Listening and reading exams have separate exam slots
- Steady ramping of difficulty as students progress through the paper.
- Compassionate and student focussed – same question type in the same order every year

AQA (2024)

Paper 4: Foundation Writing

(1hr 10 mins)

25% of GCSE

Q1 – student produces five short sentences in response to a photo - **10 marks**

Q2 – student produces a short piece of writing in response to five compulsory bullet points. Use present tense (can use other tenses). Approximately 50 words in total - **10 marks**

Q3 – student completes five short grammar tasks - **5 marks**

Q4 – translation of sentences from English into the target language, minimum 35 words in total - **10 marks**

Q5 (choice of 2): (overlap question)– student produces a piece of writing in response to three compulsory bullet points. Use present, past and future timeframes. Approximately 90 words in total. - **15 marks**

Total marks: **40**

Pearson Edexcel (2024)

Paper 4: Foundation Writing

(1hr 15 mins)

25% of GCSE

Q1: Picture-based task
Describe an image in four short sentences - **8 marks**

Q2 (choice of 2): Three bullet points. Describe and give opinions. Use present and future timeframes. 40–50 words - **14 marks**

Q3 (choice of 2): (overlap question) Four bullet points. Describe, express and justify opinions, narrate, and express future plans. Use present, past and future timeframes. Approximately 80–90 words in total - **18 marks**

Q4: 5 sentences to translate from English into the target language - **10 marks**

Total marks: **50**

Paper 4: Higher Writing

(1hr 15 mins)

25% of GCSE

Q1 – translation of sentences from English into the target language - **10 marks**

Q2 (choice of 2): (overlap question)
Student produces a piece of writing in response to three compulsory bullet points. Use present, past and future timeframes. Approximately 90 words - **15 marks**

Q3 (choice of 2): Open-ended writing task. Student responds to two compulsory bullet points. Approximately 150 words - **25 marks**

Total marks: **50**

Paper 4: Writing

(1hr 20 mins)

25% of GCSE

Q1 (choice of 2): (overlap question) Four bullet points. Describe, express and justify opinions, narrate, and express future plans. Use present, past and future timeframes. Approximately 80–90 words in total - **18 marks**

Q2 (choice of 2): Four bullet points. Express pros and cons, explain and narrate. Use present, past and future timeframes. Approximately 130–150 words - **22 marks**

Q3: One translation passage from English into the target language - **10 marks**

Total marks: **50**

Key similarities between the specifications

- Question types
- Translation from English into the target language
- Same overall weighting – 25%

Key features of the Pearson Edexcel specification

- More choice at Foundation Tier
- Specific context linked to bullet points – no surprises in the assessment
- No grammar question