

Pearson Edexcel GCSE French/German/Spanish

Tier Entry – Helping you make the right decision for your students

Not sure how to enter your borderline Foundation/Higher tier students?

We understand that choosing a tier of entry for your students can be challenging, especially after qualification reform.

Summary

- On a Higher Tier paper, a candidate will encounter content targeted at grades 4–9.
- On a Foundation Tier paper, a candidate will encounter content targeted at grades 1–5.
- A candidate predicted to achieve a grade 5 is likely to feel much more at ease with the overall demand of the Foundation Tier papers.
- The same candidate will encounter content targeted well beyond grade 5 in the Higher Tier papers and may well find this challenging and demotivating.
- Performance in mocks, particularly in ‘crossover questions’, could be used to inform decisions around tier of entry.
- A grade 3 must not be considered as a default grade at Higher tier.



Please do not use this information in isolation and make sure you consider the wider factors that may impact your decision.

You may also wish to consider the following factors in your decision making:

	Yes	No
Does your student regularly gain full marks in the crossover questions (Reading and Listening)?		
Does your student confidently answer the unpredictable questions in the Speaking paper?		
Can your student talk using extended sequences of speech in the conversation?		
Does your student use a wide range of grammar and vocabulary (Speaking and Writing)?		
Are the major and minor mistakes your student makes in Speaking and Writing minimal?		
Is your student consistently successful when producing three timeframes in speaking and writing?		
Can your student confidently write 130–150 words using a wide variety of vocabulary and grammatical structures?		
Are there any other factors you need to consider such as attendance, homework, general motivation in the subject, the student’s confidence levels and their resilience and ability to cope under exam pressure?		