



Get to know our Credible Specialists!

We have a team of local subject specialists who can provide you with 1:1 training and guidance to support you with the new 2024 Pearson Edexcel MFL GCSEs.

Click on each specialist to find out more!

Sandrine Cooke

South Middlesbrough

I'm a native French speaker and I qualified as a teacher in the UK in 2012, spending most of my teaching career in a lovely independent school in North Yorkshire. After a few years, I became Head of Department, responsible for 3 teachers and the teaching of French and Spanish from nursery to GCSE level. As well as my teaching experience, I have been an examiner for Pearson (GCSE French reading) for many years and I am now the team leader for the Foundation paper.

I left the classroom in August 2023, and I have since provided face-to-face CPD to teachers across the north of England. I also contributed to many French resources available on ActiveHub. When not working for Pearson, I tutor students in the UK and internationally, as well as write resources for various publishers.



Kate Kennedy

Liverpool

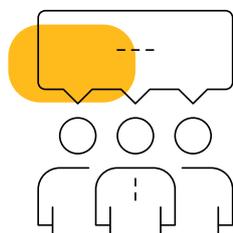
My role as a Credible Specialist involves presenting training events in the north of England, assisting in the production of exemplar materials and providing support to centres as they begin to deliver the new 2024 MFL GCSE course. I have almost 30 years' experience teaching French, Spanish, German (and occasionally Russian!) across a range of ages and abilities. I'm an Associate GCSE French Speaking Examiner and this year I delivered online French GCSE tuition as part of Pearson's commitment to the National Tutoring Programme. I have over 8 years' experience teaching MFL in the primary sector, including 2 years in my current in-school role as Primary MFL Lead, and have also enjoyed leading training on teaching and assessing primary languages. This year, I joined the team of Language Tutors at a local university where I will be responsible for teaching undergraduate language modules and evening classes.

Tim Guilford

Nottingham

I have over 35 years' experience as a teacher, examiner, school governor and author. I was Deputy Head of a school in London before moving to work at senior leadership level for a major UK awarding organisation. I'm a great advocate for languages and I'm also a fellow of the RSA. I now work for Pearson Edexcel, chairing several national and international languages qualifications and also providing training and professional development in the UK and internationally.

I am guided by a belief that education can change lives and that in a world where interconnectedness and focus on shared humanity matters more than ever, the cultural insights that learning other languages bring are vital.



Rachel Clarke

Midlands

I'm a German and French specialist with 24 years' teaching and leadership experience in Walsall, Birmingham and Staffordshire schools; I have worked with teachers and leaders across the Midlands, both as MFL specialist and Assistant Headteacher responsible for teaching and learning and CPD. Since leaving teaching in 2023, I have been a Credible Specialist for Pearson's new MFL GCSE, supporting schools both virtually and face to face (delivering training). I also write German resources in a freelance capacity for the assessment and teaching and learning teams at Pearson, authoring for both Pearson Edexcel and AQA specifications. I am also writing French and German GCSE materials for ZigZag.

Katie Lockett

Gloucester

I'm a former Head of MFL at secondaries in Bristol, Gloucestershire, China and London. I developed a specialism in revamping MFL curriculums to increase uptake and attainment. I therefore got invited to conferences and schools to deliver training on curriculum development, so this is one area I can help your school with. I now work for a large ITT provider, both designing and delivering training to MFL trainees and managing the partnership between trainees and schools in the Gloucestershire area. This role involves delivering a lot of training online, so I know how to make online sessions both useful but also engaging and interesting. I'm also a governor at two schools, so I often speak to Headteachers which is useful in understanding the context and pressures of schools, adding this context to my training.



Lauren Smith

Chelmsford

A native Brit, I was inspired by languages at school and studied Modern and Medieval Languages (French and German) at the University of Cambridge, with a year working as a language assistant in the rural South of France. Upon graduating I moved into Law, qualified as a Solicitor and worked for a time in law firms in London and Brussels.

My subsequent career change to Teacher of French and German took me back to my first academic specialism and enabled me to do the worthwhile work of bringing Modern Languages to British schoolchildren. Since then, I have taught both languages in several different schools and continue to teach part time at Chelmsford County High School for Girls, alongside my work for Pearson Edexcel as an Examiner and MFL Specialist.



Karine Harrington

Essex

I'm a secondary teacher and freelance consultant with vast expertise within my field as a Head of Department, examiner, Principal Examiner, trainer and author. I deliver courses nationwide on a range of MFL areas, most recently with a focus on GCSE. As a subject specialist for Pearson, I regularly contribute to the creation of support materials and of training events. I have also been involved in the development of the new GCSE specifications, mainly contributing to the creation of the French vocabulary list and the SAMs. As an author, I have published titles across the key stages, from KS3 revision guides to A-level film and literature guides as well as GCSE skill workbooks. I have co-authored the Hodder A level textbook for the Pearson Edexcel specification and have contributed to the latest Pearson textbooks for the new GCSE.



Louise Ballard

Essex

I entered the teaching profession as a mature student and finished the SCITT programme in 2005. Much of my teaching experience was gained in state schools in Essex, but I have also taught in an international school in the Far East. During my time abroad, I was successful in gaining a Masters in Education.

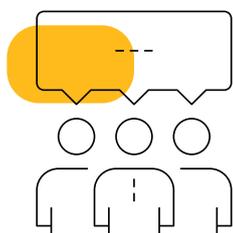
I spent many years as Head of MFL and subsequently as Head of International Communications Faculty. As a Head of Faculty, I wrote and delivered CPD both to small groups of teachers and to the whole staff. I mainly taught German (my passion!), although I have also taught French throughout my career.



Livia Johnson

East London

I'm a French native speaker and obtained QTS in 2015. I have taught French and Spanish in secondary schools and have been an examiner for iGCSE Spanish since 2017. Most recently, I joined the teaching team at the French Institute in South Kensington, where I am also an examiner for DELF and DALF exams, the official language qualifications from the French Ministry of Education which assesses reading, speaking, listening and writing skills.



Zack Ekert

London

I am the Head of Multilingualism at ISL London. I currently lead a faculty of over fifty language teachers and six heads of department, delivering MFL, EAL and Language & Literature courses across several London campuses and with partner schools abroad. I collaborate closely with all stakeholders, ensuring the languages curricula and academic transitions support structures are thoughtfully adapted to meet the sociolinguistic needs and aspirations of both learners and their families. I have worked across a wide variety of state sector and private schools in the London area since 2014 and have worked in senior leadership for the past six years. I have supported dozens of trainee teachers through the TeachFirst and PGCE programmes. I am currently studying for my MBA in Educational Leadership.



Vanessa Salter

Somerset

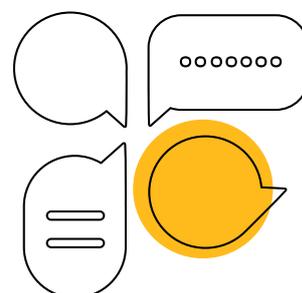
I'm an independent Languages and Assessment consultant, examiner and trainer with over 35 years' experience as a Modern Languages teacher, senior leader, manager and trainer at local, regional, national and international levels. I'm a member of the Association of Language Learning and regularly deliver Continuing Professional Development training to teachers for several national education providers within England and Wales. I also provide services for the national UK qualifications and examinations regulator as a Subject Expert. My areas of interest lie in raising standards in teaching and learning, sharing educational pedagogy and best practice and in course design and quality assurance of examination standards in language education.



Michelle Kelsey

Somerset

Until recently, I was Head of MFL at a large secondary school in Somerset. I have over 25 years' teaching experience. To date, my experience includes both teaching and curriculum development. Over the course of my career, I have taught the full age and ability range in a number of secondary schools across the country. My main languages are German and French, and I also have a little knowledge of Italian.



Justine Swainson

Cardiff

I am a former Head of Modern Languages, with over 20 years' classroom experience in England and Wales. More recently, I've worked in qualifications design and delivery, for both international and UK regulated qualifications. I was a key member of Pearson's product development team for the new MFL GCSE, leading on the development of the Speaking paper. I have also worked as the assessment specialist for assessments accompanying the Pearson Student Books on ActiveHub. I'm now a freelance education and assessment consultant, combining a number of advisory and authoring roles with my role as a Pearson MFL Credible Specialist.

