



# Pearson Edexcel Student Speaking Support

GCSE French, German and Spanish (2024) speaking exams

## Introduction to the Speaking exam

*This guidance is packed with clear explanations and practical tips so you will feel ready for your speaking exams. It will help you to prepare, perform and feel proud of what you can do.*

- Your French, German or Spanish GCSE exam has 4 papers – listening, reading, writing, and speaking. The speaking exam comes first and is usually before your other main subject exams start.
- The revision you do for speaking will help with your other papers, especially writing, as you need to produce the language in both. Effective revision will help you to feel more confident and perform well on the day.

## The Preparation Time

- You have 14 minutes preparation time in a quiet invigilation room and then another minute in the exam room once your teacher starts recording.
- You will get 3 cards during the preparation time – a read aloud card, a role play card and a picture description card. You can make notes on A4 paper for all the tasks and can write on the read aloud card.
- The speaking exam will be you and your teacher in an exam room, 1:1, and the whole exam is recorded.

## Read Aloud – Task 1

- You will get a card from the invigilator with a short text for you to read aloud in French, German, or Spanish.
- You can write on the read aloud card during the 14-minute preparation time – you can highlight, circle, or underline sounds or words you need to watch out for – but you can't read it out loud at that point as it's silent preparation.
- You get another minute with your teacher in the exam room where you can read aloud and practise. It's a good idea to do this, as it will help you to feel more confident when you read it aloud for the final, recorded exam version.
- If you stumble on a word, you can correct yourself and keep going.
- After reading your card, your teacher will take it away and ask you two, straight-forward questions, in the present tense, based on topics covered in the passage.
- These questions will not be printed on the card – if you are not sure you can ask to have each question repeated twice, so three times in total. Ask for the repeat in French, German, or Spanish if you can, to keep the flow of the conversation going. If you ask in English by mistake, don't worry.

## Role Play – Task 2

- You take part in a mini conversation with your teacher. You need to ask and answer questions.
- You will have a role-play card with 5 bullet points to prepare during your 14-minute preparation time.
- You are not allowed to write on this card, but you can make notes on a piece of double-sided A4 paper and use your notes during this task.
- Your teacher will start the conversation and will have their own card for their role.
- There are only 10 settings that can come up in the role play, for example: in a café or restaurant, at a doctor's surgery, at a train station, so there are no surprises. You can learn and practise the relevant vocabulary which is likely to come up for each setting.
- For Foundation, ask one question; for Higher, ask two questions. The last bullet point is always a question. In Higher, one of the questions will be in a future time frame and this will be clear in the prompt.
- Communicate the message clearly with a few words or a short phrase/sentence, one-word answers will not be enough to get full marks.
- Your teacher will take away the role play card at the end of the conversation.

## Picture Task – Task 3

- You will get a picture task card with two colour photos on it during your 14-minute preparation time. The photos will come from a specific thematic context, which you will choose in advance, from two options.
- Choose ONE picture to describe. It's a good idea to go with the one you think you have the widest range of vocabulary for and can say the most about.
- Make notes about the picture you have chosen and use your notes during the exam. Tell your teacher which picture you've chosen in the exam room when the task starts.
- Describe the people, activity, and location (PAL) with as much detail as possible.

### ○ People

Think about everything you could say about the people – their hair, eye colour, and physical descriptions, like their height. You could talk about their clothes, their mood, and their relationship with each other. Are they friends, a family? Who are they – a son, mother, grandparent? If they look quite different, so the vocabulary will be varied, you could describe more than one person in detail.

### ○ Activity

Use some verbs in the 'he/she' or 'they' form – they are playing football, they are watching TV, he or she is shopping, smiling, laughing. If you remember any vocabulary for things you

can see in the photo that connect to the activity, you could talk about those too. There is a swimming pool, for example.

- **Location**

Look at every element of the picture and use any words you can to describe them – can you see forest, trees, a campsite, a beach, a classroom, a shopping centre...? Can you say anything about the weather – for example, I think it's sunny because they are wearing t-shirts. Use any adjectives you know to describe the room or place where they are – big, small, modern, old.

- It's better to say what you know than what you'd ideally say but take some risks too and have a go!

## **After the Picture Description**

- **Follow up Questions**

Your teacher will ask you two, straight-forward questions, which will not be printed on your card. You can ask to have them repeated twice if you need to, so three times in total. They will be about your own experiences, opinions and what you like and dislike. For Higher, the second question will be in the past tense.

- **The Conversation**

- The teacher will start the conversation on the same thematic context as the picture description, but you or your teacher might talk about other themes during the conversation, depending on your answers. Show off the vocabulary and structures you know and develop your answers.
- Try to work out what time frame the question is in – present, past, or future – and any vocabulary or good phrases you remember that could apply. For example, if you are asked what you did last weekend, you could talk about sports you played, people you went out with, what you ate and drank, or activities you did at home.
- Use language you feel confident about, rather than what you ideally want to say.

## **The end of the exam**

- Your teacher will collect your picture card and notes and say, “end of test.”
- Your teacher will mark any practice speaking exams, but your final speaking exam recording will be marked by an external examiner.

## **How to revise for speaking**

- Learn as much vocabulary as you can linked to your chosen thematic context, plus other sets of vocabulary and structures on other themes so you are prepared for topics that could come up in the read aloud task or conversation.

- Make flashcards and mind maps to help remember vocabulary.
- You will practise speaking exam tasks in lessons with your teacher, as well as regular speaking practice in pairs, so you are confident with the format and what might come up.
- Thinking on your feet, adding in words you know, and rephrasing, are useful skills.
- Learn key verbs in different forms in present, past, and future tenses so you can confidently answer in the right time frame, with a good level of accuracy.

### **Keeping calm during the speaking exam**

- Take deep breaths and read the cards carefully and calmly before making notes.
- Make sure you are sitting comfortably before the test starts and take off your jumper or blazer if you need to. Don't have a pen in your hand, which you might tap on the table and make a noise during the recording.
- Your teacher is there to get the best out of you and run the exam to correct timings.
- We hope these tips for your speaking exam have been helpful - remember that there have been plenty of nervous students before you who have smashed it, so go for it, and do your best!

### **Peer to peer short films – Student Tips for the Speaking Exams**

[GCSE \(2024\) French, German and Spanish – Student Tips for the Speaking Exams - YouTube](#)

A playlist designed to help you feel confident and ready for your GCSE French, German and Spanish (2024) speaking exams. Each video is packed with practical tips, clear explanations and real support — all to help you prepare, perform and feel proud of what you can do.