



# Edexcel GCSE (9-1) Modern Languages

## Draft specifications for French, German and Spanish

### Frequently Asked Questions

#### Content of the draft specification

##### 1. How is the specification designed to be accessible to all abilities?

We want all students to have confidence in their language skills and what they can achieve. Our specifications and assessments will include:

- interesting, popular content that encourages motivation and is relevant to students
- appropriate content and level of demand for each tier
- mark schemes that reward what students can do
- clear and concise papers
- questions that feature scaffolding where appropriate, to help students progress confidently
- translation tasks that are progressive in their level of difficulty
- carefully selected literary texts at the appropriate level for each tier.

##### 2. How does the content vary from the previous specification?

We've tried to ensure the content retains popular topics, based on teacher feedback. Mapping documents to compare content from the draft Edexcel 2016 specification to all awarding organisations' 2012 specifications are available to [download on our website](#).

#### Assessment

##### 3. On the speaking exam, is there a specific time for each of the 3 tasks within the 7-9 minutes (foundation) or 10-12 minutes (higher)?

Our guidance for each tier:

###### Foundation tier:

- one role play recommended to last between one to one and a half minutes for 10 marks
- one picture-based task recommended to last between two and a half to three minutes for 20 marks
- a conversation recommended to last between three and a half to four and a half minutes for 30 marks.

### Higher tier:

- one role play recommended to last between two to two and a half minutes for 12 marks
- one picture-based task recommended to last between three to three and a half minutes for 24 marks
- a conversation recommended to last between five to six minutes for 36 marks.

We will not penalise any candidate who doesn't adhere to these individual timings. We will however stop marking the assessment if the candidate continues after the maximum time of 9 minutes for foundation and 12 minutes for higher.

## 4. Are the Reading, Listening and Writing exams to be sat at the same time in one go or on separate days?

This will be decided by the Joint Council for Qualifications across all of the awarding organisations. Listening and Reading are usually in the same AM or PM slot, and Speaking within a 5 week window.

## 5. What is the reason behind a lot of the multiple-choice questions having 4 options to pick from instead of the usual 3?

Research has shown that four options – three distractors, and one correct option – is a more valid item structure, ensuring that we are able to test candidates' knowledge and understanding in the most reliable manner.

## 6. Can tier choice still be decided on the day or does it have to be in advance?

We cannot confirm this at the moment but we have requested that it can be decided on the day.

## 7. I can't see any word counts in the writing paper, what are the suggested word counts?

We will be providing guidance in our Getting Started guide, however Pearson will mark all the candidate's work and award based on the quality not the quantity of the response. It is important, however, that where there are bullets the candidates do respond fully to each one.

## 8. Why have you included translation at GCSE?

This was a regulatory requirement as specified in the content criteria published by the DfE. All awarding organisations will have to put translation in their papers.

## Support and resources

## 9. What support will there be for moving to and teaching the new specifications?

We'll have a full programme of planning, teaching and learning support to help you implement the new specifications, particularly with new content and assessment tasks including translation, literary texts and questions in the target language.

Support will include:

- authentic student exemplars
- schemes of work
- additional teaching resources and assessment materials
- high-quality CPD
- free online and face-to-face events
- subject support from our subject advisor.

## 10. What support will there be for students starting this September on 3-year KS4?

A 3-year KS4 scheme of work will be provided and there will be a matching grid from Pearson publishing to match the existing Year 9 coursebooks against the new GCSE, together with progression maps. Free resources will also be provided, including support for translation, literary texts, spontaneous speaking, and answering questions in the target language.

## 11. When will published resources/textbooks be available?

Published resources will be available from Spring 2016.

We aim for our qualifications to be supported by high-quality resources produced by a range of publishers, including Pearson, and we're working with publishers who are looking towards getting their resources endorsed.

Pearson's resources will help students to build on their learning from KS3, with GCSE editions of our hugely popular Studio, Stimmt! and ¡Viva! courses. Differentiated higher and foundation tier resources will be available to support all abilities.

Endorsed resources from other publishers will be available at [www.edexcel.com/resources](http://www.edexcel.com/resources).



### Got a question that's not on the FAQs yet?

Just ask our expert languages team, by emailing [teachinglanguages@pearson.com](mailto:teachinglanguages@pearson.com).

Please note the information provided is based on our draft specifications and sample assessment materials which are subject to accreditation by Ofqual.

It is not necessary to buy resources to deliver our specifications.