

Pearson Edexcel Level 1/Level 2 IG (9-1) in French (4FR1)/German (4GN1)/Spanish (4SP1)/Chinese (4CN1) May/June 2021 assessment arrangements

Ofqual announced on 3 August 2020 changes to the 2021 May/June assessment for UK Qualifications. The changes are an interim measure to address any impact COVID-19 has had/will have on candidates taking their assessment in 2021.

Although the changes announced do not have an impact on this qualification, we have decided to make the changes listed below to ensure that the International Qualifications remain comparable to their UK counterparts. The information below details what changes have been made to our specification for candidates taking their final assessment in May/June 2021.

Pearson Edexcel International GCSE in French (4FR1)

Pearson Edexcel International GCSE in German (4GN1)

Pearson Edexcel International GCSE in Spanish (4SP1)

Pearson Edexcel International GCSE in Chinese (4CN1)

Summary of the current assessment/content arrangements

- Each qualification consists of three components as follows:

Paper	Contribution
01 - Listening	25%
02 - Reading & Writing	50%
03 - Speaking	25%

- All three components are externally assessed, with Component 3: Speaking being internally conducted.
- The specification includes the minimum core vocabulary list, which identifies words that candidates are required to know. Moreover, papers 1 and 2 use vocabulary from outside the list. Candidates are assessed on both.
- The specification includes the grammar list, which identifies grammar concepts that candidates are required to know and are assessed on.
- There are five broad topics set out in the specification, which provide the contextual framework for learning and within which candidates are being assessed across all three components.

Summary of the Summer 2021 assessment/content arrangements

- Speaking attainment will be changed to endorsement, awarded at pass, merit and distinction, and assessed internally by teachers as part of day-to-day teaching and learning.
- As many non-core-vocabulary words as possible will be glossed (words in the target language will be accompanied by their equivalent in English) or removed from Paper 1 and 2, and will not be assessed.
- There will be no changes to the grammar list or to the assessment of grammar concepts.
- There will be no change to the assessment within the context of five broad topics set out in the specification as questions in Paper 1 and 2 provide sufficient optionality.

Changes to the specification ([French: Issue 2](#)) ([German: Issue 1](#)) ([Spanish: Issue 2](#)) ([Chinese: Issue 2](#))

Paper reference(s)	Specification states:/Information in the specification	Changes made for Summer 2021 assessments only
Paper 1 Listening and Paper 2: Reading and Writing	<p>Assessment tasks targeted at grades 1 to 5 will be based on the vocabulary list, although they may include some unfamiliar vocabulary. Occasional glossing of individual words may occur in the examinations, although this will be avoided whenever possible. As well as specified vocabulary, students will be expected to have knowledge of numbers, times, days of the week, months, etc.</p> <p>French, German, Spanish: Adjectival forms of nouns are included although not always specifically listed here. The list does not include easily recognisable cognates or near cognates, words in common use in English, or English words in common use in the target language.</p>	This does not apply for May/June 2021. We are removing as many non-vocabulary list words as possible from Papers 1 and 2 and any remaining, essential non-vocabulary list words will be glossed.
Paper 3: Speaking	Paper 3: Speaking is listed in the specification as one of the three compulsory components that make up this qualification, internally conducted and externally assessed.	In May/June 2021, speaking assessment will be changed to endorsement, awarded at pass, merit and distinction, and assessed internally by teachers as part of day-to-day teaching and learning. Common criteria will be provided by Ofqual in time for September teaching. For any candidates who do not meet the 'pass' criteria or for whom no grade is submitted, 'unclassified' will be reported on their certificate.

Changes to the Sample Assessment Materials (SAMs) ([French: Issue 2](#)) ([German: Issue 1](#)) ([Spanish: Issue 2](#)) ([Chinese: Issue 2](#))

Paper reference(s)	SAM states:/Information in the SAMs	Changes made for Summer 2021 assessments only
Paper 1: Listening and Paper 2: Reading and Writing	SAMs include words which are not on the vocabulary list and non-vocabulary list words are not glossed.	As many non-vocabulary list words as possible will be removed from live May/June 2021 Papers 1 and 2, and any remaining, essential non-vocabulary list words will be glossed. SAMs will not be updated to reflect this one-off change.
Paper 3: Speaking	SAMs include exemplar pictures and questions for teachers/examiners for the three parts of the speaking assessment: Task A: Picture-based discussion, Task B and C: Conversation on topics out of five themes set out in the specification, marking criteria and an example randomisation grid.	There will be no speaking component in 2021 and there will be no set tasks by Pearson as contained in the SAMs. Instead there will be a speaking endorsement reported on a 3-point scale (pass, merit and distinction) against common assessment criteria provided by Pearson. Assessment will take place by teachers during the course of study. For any candidates who do not meet the 'pass' criteria or for whom no grade is submitted, 'unclassified' will be reported on their certificate.