

Speaking test information all in one place - 2020

This document signposts provides key information and 'quick links' to help you prepare for forthcoming speaking tests across all of our language qualifications. You'll find other support information including sample assessment materials on the language-specific qualification pages.

General information

Please see the following link to the [2020 entry deadlines and speaking test windows](#).

Languages not taught at your centre

Our qualifications are designed for taught learners but it may be possible to enter a student for a speaking test in a language that isn't taught at your school if you are able to engage a suitable teacher/tutor to conduct the assessment fully in accordance with the specification requirements and assessment regulations. This will ensure that all candidates have access to a professionally conducted oral assessment. We are not able to help you find someone to conduct the oral or, due to data protection policies, provide information about other centres where the qualifications are taught.

The following links may prove useful and include some external ones that are in the public domain:

- [Where can I take Pearson exams?](#)
- [National Resource Centre for Supplementary Education school directory](#)
- [Language networks \(Association for Language learning\)](#)
- [List of UK Mandarin Excellence programme schools](#)
- [UK Federation of Chinese Schools](#)
- [Japan Foundation – Japanese Language support](#)

Who can conduct the speaking tests?

All centres must have a suitable person in place to conduct the oral. This would usually be a teacher or tutor of the language with a degree, other advanced level knowledge or native speaker competence in the language. You must ensure that any external person conducting the speaking assessment (as well as the candidate) has been made fully familiar with the specification and the requirements of the assessment, specifically how the assessments must be conducted, and you must supervise their presence in the centre at all times.

- **The person engaged to conduct the oral must not be a family member of the candidate** and there must be no other conflict of interest that would prevent fair assessment.
- If the person engaged to conduct the speaking assessment is acquainted with the candidate, then you must inform us of this conflict of interest by sending a declaration statement FAO: The Declarations Team (declarations@pearson.com).

Furthermore, you must ensure that no undue assistance or maladministration takes place during the conduct of the assessments as this could lead to the candidate being penalised.

Working with a host centre

If you have established a link with another centre willing to host the speaking test, you can still accommodate all the other examinations at your centre. You'll first need to check that that the host centre is

a formally approved examination centre registered for Edexcel qualifications and has a suitable person in place to conduct the speaking test. (Please see above).

You must adhere to the following requirements:

- Your student is accompanied by a representative from your school to the oral at the host centre and takes a memory stick for the recording and the necessary form/s and paperwork;
- The required forms must be completed and signed by the person conducting the oral at the host centre and must also be countersigned by the Examinations Officer or Head of Languages at your school;
- Your school submits the recordings and linked paperwork to the allocated examiner and includes a letter on centre-headed paper outlining the arrangements undertaken (including centre and candidate names and numbers, contact details of the host centre, date of test and name of teacher/examiner conducting the test);
- Your school takes fully responsibility for all liaison with the host centre.

Alternatively, your student could be entered as an 'external candidate' at the host school for the whole qualification or, in the case of some AS and A level orals, you could consider using our London centre orals service. Please see the following link for more information about our London Centre Orals service for A level speaking tests:

<https://support.pearson.com/uk/s/feed/0D50N0000CryoNcSQI>

NB: You are advised to save a spare set of sound file recordings of students' speaking tests for back-up.

GCSE (2016, 2017 & 2018 specifications)

- [Support film for teachers conducting the GCSE speaking test](#)
- [FAQs and guidance](#)
- [Administrative support guide](#)
- [Update on the simplified sequencing grids](#)
- [CS2 form](#)
- [CN2 form](#)
- Indications of the sort of questions that you may ask in the [French](#), [German](#) and [Spanish](#) speaking tests are available. There's also a [list of questions in English](#) that you can adapt for other languages.

International GCSE – Chinese, French, German and Spanish

- [Support for the International GCSE speaking test](#) now appears on the Languages page with links to a **video presentation**, **linked slides** and a **recording checklist**.
- [International GCSE oral training guide](#)
- Please refer to the Paper 3 guidance in the specification that includes sections on preparing for and conducting the speaking test.
- **Randomisation grids** will not be sent to centres but your exams officer will be able to access them as special 'gold padlocked' documents.

You're reminded that the following must be included in your submission to the Paper 3 examiner allocated to your centre:

- a candidate cover sheet for every candidate (Appendix 6 in the specification.) Any candidate unable to provide an authentication statement will receive zero marks for the component;
- recordings for all candidates undertaken in line with the guidance provided in the specification (The language, CD number, centre name and number, and examiner's name must be announced at the start of every CD. If recording digitally, this information should be recorded

once and saved as the first file on the submitted USB. Each candidate's name and number must be announced at the start of each test);

- a copy of the picture or photograph that each candidate has used (A written description of the content can be provided in cases where a candidate has chosen to use a personal photograph);
- a copy of the attendance register

International GCSE – English (Second language)

- The speaking test for this qualification is optional and instructions for the conduct of examination appears as Appendix 6 in the specification

AS and A level (2016 & 2017 specifications)

- Support film for teachers conducting the A level speaking test
 - FAQs and guidance on conducting AS speaking tests (French, German, Spanish)
 - FAQs and guidance on conducting A level speaking tests (French, German, Spanish)
- The above FAQ documents are also useful for teachers of Chinese, Italian and Russian.
- Administrative support guide (Speaking) (French/German/Spanish/Chinese/Italian and Russian)
 - Please visit the 'Forms and Administration section' on the relevant qualification pages to access all the language-specific forms for the AS or A level speaking tests: (Candidate authentication sheets – CS3 (AS) and CS4 (A level) as well as RP3 for the A level independent research project).
 - As advised in a February 2019 Exams Officer newsletter and in subsequent Language e-updates, there is **no longer any need to complete and submit OR3AS and OR4AL forms**.
 - Visiting Examiner guidance
 - London centre orals information
 - Consortium arrangements (undertaken by 31 January) – please see page 6 of the Administrative support guide (Speaking) (French/German/Spanish/Chinese/Italian and Russian)

AS and A level Urdu - Legacy specification

- Administrative support guide – Urdu (also suitable for legacy AS and A level Italian and Russian resits)
- OR1 and OR3 forms
- London centre orals information

The last sitting of legacy Urdu oral was summer 2019. Final resits will take place in summer 2020.

2018 specification A levels

2018 specification A levels in Gujarati, Persian, Portuguese and Turkish will be assessed in summer 2020 but do not feature an oral element.

International AS and A levels in French, German and Spanish*

- IAS and IAL administrative support guide
- International AS OR1 form
- International OR3 form (Edexcel Online password protected)

* These qualifications are restricted to uptake in international centres. IAS and IAL qualifications in other languages do not feature any speaking test.