

## 2: GCSE (All languages)

### **Do I have to refer to the picture used in the picture-based discussion GCSE languages controlled assessment task?**

There must be some reference to the picture used in the picture-based discussion task. Although the picture is intended as a discussion prompt, the discussion should start by referring to the focus of the picture before broadening out to more general, follow-on conversation related to the chosen theme (or linked topic area). In previous exam series, examiners have received some oral work in which very little or indeed no reference is made to content that can be directly linked to the picture – this is not in line with the assessment requirements.

### **Why have no GCSE languages speaking unit stimulus materials been sent to our centre?**

No stimulus materials are sent to centres for GCSE speaking tests in Chinese, French, German, Spanish, Italian and Urdu. For these languages, centres must submit an Edexcel-determined sample of the controlled assessments that can have been undertaken during the GCSE course. The final submission deadline is May 15th. It is usual for centres to create their own stimuli/task cards in line with the specific needs and interests of their students although some 'open interaction' tasks are available from the Edexcel website – these can be used as they appear or can be adapted. Centres are required to undertake at least two of the following task types (presentation followed by discussion, picture-based free-flowing discussion or open interaction) with each student. At least one speaking assessment must be recorded for every candidate and the recordings must reflect the two or three task types undertaken in the centre.

Please refer to the [2016 GCSE Administrative support guide \(Chinese, French, German, Italian, Spanish and Urdu\)](#), the [Controlled Assessment Speaking Teacher Handbook](#) and the relevant specification for more detailed support.

No stimulus materials are sent to centres for speaking tests in GCSEs in Arabic, Greek, Japanese and Russian. For these languages, candidates are expected to provide either their own picture for the picture-based discussion OR come up with their own presentation content. This first task should be linked to one of the two themes prescribed in the specification. These themes are very broad and offer the student and teacher significant scope.

The second part of the oral examination requires students to engage in a general conversation which must also be linked to one of the two prescribed themes. The content of the general conversation must, however, move away from the main focus of the first task. The student will need to prepare for the first part of the oral before the day of the examination. It is also expected that the student and teacher/interlocutor will also discuss the choice of theme(s) for both parts of the oral in advance.

Please also refer to the [2016 GCSE Administrative support guide \(Arabic, Greek, Japanese and Russian\)](#) and the relevant specification.

## **What are the re-sit arrangements for the current linear MFL GCSEs?**

As the current GCSEs are all linear, all work must be marked (and/or moderated) in one June assessment series. It is no longer possible for students to be entered for two units in one year and another two units in the following year\*.

In terms of resits, students must now resit **all four units** (unless you wish the results from one or both of the cashed in controlled assessments units (Speaking and Writing) to be carried forward.)

If opting for a resit of all four units, only the marks from those resat units can count. In this case, the results from previous controlled assessments cannot contribute to the final GCSE qualification marks.

\* The two unit 'short course GCSE' qualifications (Oral Communication or Written Communication) are still available but can no longer be combined to form a full course GCSE.

## **Where are the L1 forms for GCSEs in Arabic, Greek, Japanese and Russian?**

Due to streamlined administrative arrangements, there is no longer any requirement for you to complete a L1 form for Edexcel's GCSEs in Arabic, Greek, Japanese or Russian. The form was used to record information about the dates of planned oral exams and the names of teachers conducting them. It also provided details of any host centre(s) used and/or indicated any willingness to host and conduct oral exams in one or more of these languages for students from other centres or private candidates.

If your centre is able to accommodate private candidates, please let us know by completing the following [survey](#).

It is expected that a formal record will be kept in each centre of the planned oral examination dates and teacher(s) conducting the examination(s) and that this information will be available both prior to and during the oral exams window.

## **Should I inform my students of their marks for the speaking controlled assessments?**

You may wish to inform your students of the marks that you have given them. However, if you do this, you must advise your students that these are only your 'provisional indication' and that your marking is subject to external moderation and that all marks *may* be adjusted.

## **What is the difference between Edexcel GCSE languages 2A and 2B controlled assessment tasks (speaking)?**

2A tasks refer to those that you have recorded and marked *and which include the full range of task-types undertaken in your centre*. A sample of these will be moderated by our examiners.

2B refers to the other marked tasks that your students have undertaken. These do not have to be recorded (although many teachers prefer to record all tasks to facilitate internal moderation) and should not be submitted.

## **Why do I mark two controlled speaking assessments per candidate but only record one of these?**

It is a requirement that two assessments are undertaken by each candidate and a recording must be made of at least one assessment per candidate.

You are free to record *all* speaking controlled assessments – this will help you to undertake marking standardisation at your centre and will ensure that the sample can include the required mix of task types. The marks from both of the students' assessments will count towards the final marks for this unit.

Pearson/Edexcel moderates your marking based on a prescribed sample of recordings. Adjustments can, therefore, be made to all work – including work from candidates outside of the sample and work that has not been recorded.

## **Do I need to record all task types for the Edexcel GCSE languages controlled assessments (speaking)?**

Yes, as stated in the [2016 GCSE Administrative support guide \(Chinese, French, German, Italian, Spanish and Urdu\)](#), you must ensure that you have a range of 2A recordings that relate to each of the task types used in your centre.

## **When will we receive moderator details and sample information for our Edexcel GCSE languages controlled assessments in speaking?**

Moderator details are usually sent out to centres during April – as the entries deadline does not close until 21 February 2016 and it can take some time to allocate moderators. In the interim, you can identify the recordings with the lowest and highest marks as these will be required in the sample.

Internal standardisation should have taken place before the sample details are known and there is, therefore, no need for any follow-on internal moderation specifically for those candidates who feature in our prescribed sample.

Your exams officer can check for moderator and sample details via Edexcel Online.

## **What are the CA2 and CA4 notes form requirements for Edexcel GCSE Chinese controlled assessments?**

The [CA2](#) or [CA4](#) forms enable students to write up to 50 Chinese characters OR up to 30 words (English or Pinyin) of notes. Students may also supplement written notes with up to five small drawings of their own in the space provided (if wished). This guidance is also given on the introductory page of the notes forms.

## **Are Word versions available of the CM2 and CM4 forms for Edexcel GCSE languages controlled assessments?**

Word versions of the **CM2** and **CM4** forms are available. They appear in the forms section under the '*Controlled Assessments*' category on the relevant-language GCSE homepage or you can click the links below:

[CM2 Word format mark sheet](#)  
[CM4 Word format mark sheet](#)

**Can students undertake the same oral tasks if re-sitting Edexcel GCSE Arabic, Greek, Japanese and Russian?**

No, candidates must undertake a different presentation or picture-based discussion task. However, they can still refer to the same theme as this offer scope for wide ranging content.

