

5: GCE

Do GCE AS oral candidates need to be invigilated during the preparation period?

Yes, GCE AS oral candidates need to be invigilated during the preparation period.

It is important that candidates are appropriately supervised during the preparation period for the Unit 1 AS orals. This is to ensure that candidates are given the appropriate amount of time to prepare and that they do not have access to a dictionary or other material that could help them.

Pearson has special centre guidelines for Visiting Examiners that require candidates to be chaperoned. These appear in the [2016 GCE AS & A2 French, German, Spanish, Italian, Russian and Urdu administrative support guide](#).

You should refer to your centre's own student protection policies when conducting the oral assessments with internal teacher/examiners.

Why haven't we received any GCE languages A2 oral materials?

No GCE A2 oral materials are sent out as the assessment format for Unit 3 does not require this. The student chooses an initial 'issue' to discuss and defend and the teacher-examiner then identifies other suitable issues for discussion – these are not provided in a pack. Teacher/examiners must ensure that the follow-on, unpredictable issues discussed are linked to the general topic areas described in the specification.

Oral packs are only provided for candidates undertaking GCE AS orals (Unit 1). Please see the [2016 GCE AS & A2 French, German, Spanish, Italian, Russian and Urdu administrative support guide](#) and relevant specification for further information.

Is a Chinese speaker needed to conduct the GCE oral unit with our students?

Unusually for Languages, and specific to our current GCE Chinese qualification, there is no requirement for your candidates to interact with a Chinese speaker. They must respond verbally to a written and visual stimulus and the examination can be administered by a non-Chinese speaker.

Our qualifications accommodate students who speak Mandarin or Cantonese. Please also refer to the GCE [Chinese-specific administrative support guide for the oral unit](#).

Is there a fee for Visiting Examiners for GCE French/ German/ Spanish orals?

We offer a Visiting Examiner service for GCE AS and A2 oral units in these languages. The fee for this service is £17.80 per candidate per unit. A minimum number of ten candidates is required for the Visiting Examiner option although this can be across both AS and A2 tests.

More information about the administration and conduct of these units is given in the [2016 GCE AS & A2 French, German, Spanish, Italian, Russian and Urdu administrative support guide](#).

Can we share a GCE French/German/Spanish Visiting Examiner with another centre?

Yes – this consortium-type arrangement would be permitted if the total number of candidates across the consortium is ten or more. If sending candidates to another ‘host centre’ to be examined by a Visiting Examiner in this way, you must ensure that Oral Forms and/or Declaration of Issue Forms are sent to the Visiting Examiner well before the oral test. Candidates must still be entered through their own centre and not the host centre.

The following [consortium arrangements form](#) would need to be completed. Although this refers to ‘Centre assessed work’, this can still be used for centre-conducted (and externally marked) work.

Please also consult the [2016 GCE AS & A2 French, German, Spanish, Italian, Russian and Urdu administrative support guide](#).

Where can I find an OR6 form for GCE French, German and Spanish?

To simplify administrative arrangements in your centre, the requirement for the completion of an OR6 form for those wishing to use our Visiting Examiner service was removed in 2014. Please note that this service is only available for French, German and Spanish where there is a minimum of ten tests per language (This can be a combination of AS and A2 tests).

If you wish to use our Visiting Examiner facility, you will need to enter your candidates for option B. If there are fewer than ten candidates per language at your centre, they should be entered for option A. For more information and guidance on GCE orals for French, German, Spanish, Italian, Russian and Urdu, please consult the [2016 GCE AS & A2 French, German, Spanish, Italian, Russian and Urdu administrative support guide](#).

When we will have GCE visiting examiner dates and details for our Edexcel languages oral tests?

You will be informed as soon as possible although this is unlikely to be before mid-March when visiting examiners are allocated. You are advised that the entries deadline does not close until 21 February 2016 and the oral window does not open until 4 April 2016.

Where can I find the OR1, OR3 and OR7 forms?

The [OR1](#), [OR3](#) and [OR7](#) forms are located in the forms and administration area of the relevant language-specific GCE qualification page.

How is it possible that a native speaker student does not perform well in GCE orals?

From time to time, situations may arise where students who are native speakers do not perform well in GCE orals. This may occur when candidates have not been taught and enter the examination as a private candidate. This may result from a lack of familiarity with the specification and failure to understand the particular task requirements – a situation which may sometimes be further aggravated by inappropriate conduct of the oral by the teacher/interlocutor if not fully familiar with the assessment requirements.

Sometimes students can be 'fazed' by the content and high level of questioning or, in contrast, are not asked questions that are sufficiently demanding or appropriate to advanced level assessment. The qualification is designed for taught learners who are expected to have undertaken research and preparation as well as deal with higher level content and complex issues. Some of these students may make mistakes in accuracy or do not always use language that is of a particularly 'advanced' level.

When will we have the dates and more information about the London centre orals for GCE?

If you have requested the London Centre Orals service for GCE German, Italian, Russian, Spanish and/or Urdu, you will be informed of dates and venues as soon as possible although this is unlikely to be before March when the examiners are allocated. The oral window does not open until 4 April 2016. London Orals-specific queries can be emailed direct to: LondonCentreorals@pearson.com.

Can we conduct our Edexcel languages orals over two days for large cohorts?

It is possible to conduct GCE orals over more than one day if there is a large cohort. A large cohort would refer to the number of students that it would not be possible to accommodate within one day of examining. A typical maximum norm would be 15 candidates per teacher per day.

If extending the examination period beyond one day, the orals would need to be done on *consecutive* days (they should not, therefore, be set on a Friday and Monday).

A2 units and AS units can be done at different times across the oral window but the AS units must be done on one day or over consecutive days if the cohort is large.

We have arranged for the Edexcel GCE London Centre Orals – where do we send the OR1 and OR3 forms?

If you have arranged for GCE London Centre Orals in German, Italian, Russian, Spanish and/or Urdu, you will need to email your OR1 and/or OR3 forms to LondonCentreOrals@pearson.com by no later than 14 March 2016.

Can students refer to notes during the Edexcel GCE languages A2 orals?

As you will see from the [2016 GCE AS & A2 French, German, Spanish, Italian, Russian and Urdu administrative support guide](#) and specification, students can take a copy of the oral chosen issue form ([OR3](#)) into the examination and may refer to this at any point during the test. This form should simply outline the issue and ‘stance’ that has been taken. Students must not refer to any notes in the A2 oral exam.

Are any set questions available for the Edexcel languages GCE Unit 3 oral?

There are no set questions since candidates chose a topic of their own interest on which to develop an argument to debate as part of the assessment.

You should ensure that your candidates complete the [OR3](#) form well in advance of the assessment so that you can review the stance that the candidate has chosen to debate, and

prepare some questions that you could ask the candidate (as if playing devil's advocate). These questions would not, of course, be relayed to candidates. If the candidate's chosen issue is unfamiliar, you may wish to undertake some research the topic (possibly on the Internet) to have some detail and material on which to base your questions.

The first section of the A2 oral assessment is particularly important as this it allows candidates to debate and argue the individual stance that they have prepared without prior knowledge of the questions that you are going to ask.

Should teachers access the GCE AS languages Unit 1 oral tasks pack three days before the oral window begins OR three days before the date of our oral exams?

Teacher/examiners can only access the GCE AS Unit 1 oral tasks up to three days before the start of the orals in their centre. The oral pack must not be opened three days before the start of the oral window *unless* the exams have been scheduled in the centre for 4 April – the first date of the GCE oral window (4 April – 15 May).

Must we use the formal 'vous' form in the questions that appear in the teacher/examiner versions of the Edexcel GCE French AS oral tasks?

If wished, you may use the informal 'tu' form instead of 'vous' that appears in the French AS oral tasks when asking your students the prescribed (and follow-on) questions. Naturally, you will need to undertake any resulting verb changes etc.

No other unnecessary changes must be made to the questions.

Please refer to page 3 of the [GCE French Oral Training Guide](#) for more information.

Is it possible for our Edexcel GCE AS languages students to choose the same topic areas for the oral examination?

It is recommended that students do not all choose the same topic area as their choices should reflect different interests. However, there are occasions when all candidates genuinely coincide on their choice of topic area and this cannot always be prevented.

The most important thing is that each student's oral examination experience is individual. At AS, each candidate will get a different stimulus card and this in turn will lead to different sub-topics being discussed and there should also be plenty of scope for the teacher conducting the oral to raise different issues and ask a variety of different questions in the follow-on discussions.