



Preparing for the oral

GCSEs in Arabic, Greek, Japanese & Russian

Before entering candidates – What centres need to know

- Check that you have an appropriate teacher available within the assessment window (7 March – 15 May); or
- Locate host centre or teacher from another centre (See [Private candidate link](#) for help)
- No visiting examiners
- Ensure suitable accommodation available
- Short Course (Written language) is available – Reading & Writing

The format of the exam

- Terminal exam (not Controlled Assessment)
- Two separate, consecutive tasks
- Tasks relate to broad prescribed themes:

Media, Travel and Culture

or

Sport, Leisure and Work

Task 1: Choice of task type:

Presentation & questions or Picture-based discussion

Task 2: *General conversation*

NB: No oral pack is sent out – all guidance on website

Preparing students for the exam

- Familiar with Specification and Administrative Support Guide
- Students accustomed to speaking
- Regular practice of exam-style tasks
- One theme or two?
- Appropriate topic choice
- Range of question types
- Opinion and justification

The different task types (i)

Task 1 (Option 1): *Presentation and questions*

- Choice of topic – student ownership
- 1-2 minute presentation
- 3-4 minutes of linked follow-up questions
- A5 bulleted notes (max. 30 words) allowed
- Questions remain within broad theme
- Questioning should support student while taking them to their 'ceiling'
- Pre-prepared, not pre-learnt

The different task types (ii)

Task 1 (Option 2): *Picture-based discussion*

- Student-selected picture relating to broad theme
- A5 bulleted notes (max. 30 words) allowed
- 4–5 minutes of discussion prompted by picture
- Likely to focus closely on picture at first, then develop into wider consideration of topic
- Questioning should support student while taking them to their 'ceiling'
- Copy of picture sent to Pearson/Edexcel examiner

The different task types (iii)

Task 2: General conversation

- 4–5 minutes' question & answer
- Questions cover one or more topics related to a broad theme
- Range of question types – students must have opportunity to take initiative
- Students must respond to unpredictable elements
- Teacher acts as facilitator

Conducting the test



Conducting the test (i)

Suitable accommodation

- Remove posters, etc.
- Appropriate JCQ notices
- Avoid background noise
- Quiet waiting / preparation area if possible

All tests must be recorded

Test equipment and ensure that candidate recordings are audible

Conducting the test (ii)

- Total test time 8 – 10 minutes, split equally between 2 tasks (4 – 5 minutes each)
- Teacher should announce break between tasks
- Each task is assessed separately
- Ensure questions facilitate candidate performance
- Questioning must remain within chosen theme
- Questions and comments should be brief

Getting the administration right



Getting the administration right

- Detailed instructions appear in Administrative Support Guide
- Tests & attendance register must be submitted to Pearson/Edexcel examiner as soon as all tests are completed
- Recordings on CD or USB memory stick (.mp3/.wav/.wma);
Cassettes discouraged
- CDs /USB appropriately labelled
- All recordings accompanied by Mark Record Sheet (Section A completed by centre) & picture used for task 1 (if picture-based task chosen)

Common pitfalls (i)

Terminal exam **not** Controlled Assessment

2 separate tasks conducted consecutively

- *Each* task must fulfil requirements of mark scheme
- *Each* task must last 4–5 minutes (Under 4 minutes will reduce the mark; examiner will stop listening beyond 5 minutes)
- Beginning & end of each task must be announced
- Recording must not be stopped

Common pitfalls (ii)

- Task 1 must be *presentation and questions* or *picture-based discussion*
- Chosen topic(s) must relate to one or both of prescribed themes
- Inappropriate topic choice can seriously reduce mark
- Avoid standard sequences of questions / pre-rehearsed assessments
- Check that assessments have been recorded



Sources of feedback and guidance

- Arabic, Greek, Japanese or Russian specification
- GCSE Arabic, Greek, Japanese or Russian - specific homepage
- Languages subject page
- Administrative Support Guide
- Annual Principal Examiner report (via language-specific homepage)
- Results Plus