



KS4 Languages Support Evening





Aims

- To understand the topics that will be studied over 2 years
- To understand how each of the 4 skills is assessed
- To understand how best to support your son/daughter with their language GCSE learning

Skills tested

As in KS3, students work and are tested on the following skills:

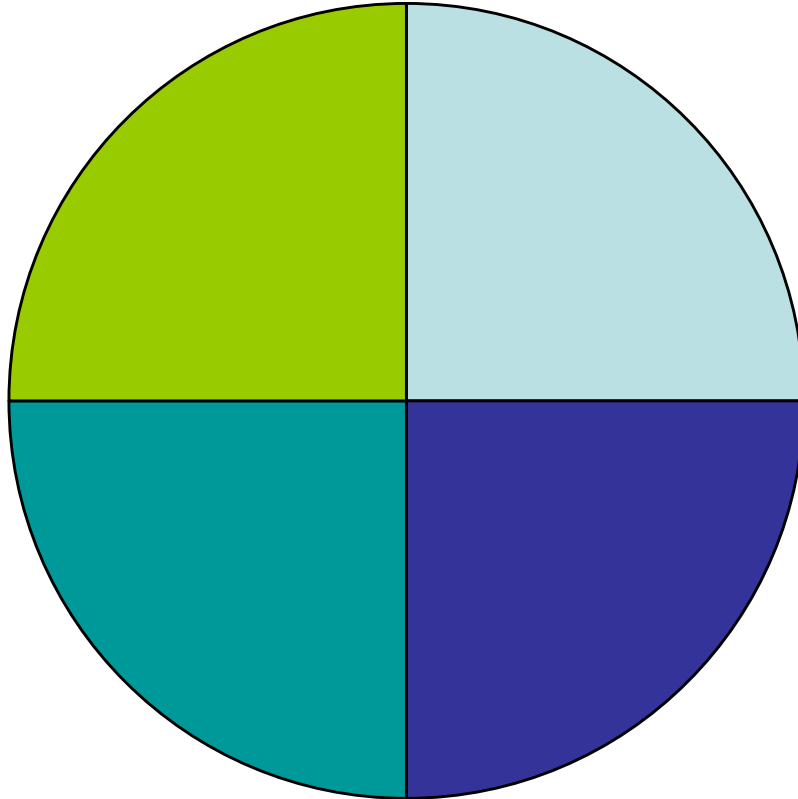
 Listening

 Speaking

 Reading

 Writing

Each exam tests one skill
and all 4 are weighted equally:



□ **Listening**

■ **Reading**

■ **Speaking**

■ **Writing**

GCSE Themes & Topics

5 General Themes:

- Identity and culture
- Local area, holiday and travel
- School
- Future aspirations, study and work
- International and global dimension.

All themes and topics are studied in the context of both the students' home country and that of countries and communities where the language is spoken.

Theme: Identity and culture

- **Who am I?:** relationships; when I was younger; what my friends and family are like; what makes a good friend; interests; socialising with friends and family; role models
- **Daily life:** customs and everyday life; food and drink; shopping; social media and technology (use of, advantages and disadvantages)
- **Cultural life:** celebrations and festivals; reading; music; sport; film and television

Theme: Local area, holiday and travel

- **Holidays:** preferences, experiences and destinations
- **Travel and tourist transactions:** travel and accommodation; asking for help and dealing with problems; directions; eating out; shopping
- **Town, region and country:** weather; places to see; things to do

Theme: School

- **What school is like:** school types; school day; subjects; rules and pressures; celebrating success
- **School activities:** school trips, events and exchanges

Theme: Future aspirations, study and work

- **Using languages beyond the classroom:** forming relationships; travel; employment
- **Ambitions:** further study; volunteering; training
- **Work:** jobs, careers and professions

Theme: International and global dimension

- **Bringing the world together:** sports events; music events; campaigns and good causes
- **Environmental issues:** being 'green'; access to natural resources

Listening and Reading

- Students can do Foundation or Higher tier.
(Same tier for all 4 exams)
- There are questions in English and the target language (at both tiers)
- Students only need to write two or three words per answer. No penalties for spelling!
- The reading paper contains some texts taken from literature of the country.
- The final question on the reading paper is a **translation from target language into English**

Listening and Reading

 Foundation listening exam : 40 minutes

 Higher listening exam : 50 minutes

 Foundation reading exam : 45 minutes

 Higher reading exam : 1 hour

Answer ALL questions. Write your answers in the spaces provided.

Some questions must be answered with a cross in a box ☒. If you change your mind about an answer, put a line through the box ☒ and then mark your new answer with a cross ☒.



SECTION A

Mon collègue

- 1 Rokia parle de son collègue.

Complète les phrases en choisissant un mot ou des mots dans la case. Il y a des mots que tu n'utiliseras pas.

près	français	beaucoup	clubs
équipement sportif	intéressants	excursions	loin
ordinateurs	dessin	peu	ennuyeux

Exemple : Elle préfère le français

- (a) Les cours sont (1)
- (b) Il n'y a pas assez d' (1)
- (c) Elle aime participer aux (1)
- (d) Elle passe de temps à faire ses devoirs. (1)
- (e) Elle habite du collège. (1)

(Total for Question 1 = 5 marks)

1 Read the blog post below.

En septembre il y a un festival international de musique, pour réunir de jeunes musiciens européens.

L'année dernière, le festival était dans le sud de la France, mais cette année il va partir pour le nord. Le festival a commencé en 2012 avec cinq groupes, mais maintenant les organisateurs en ont invité plus de vingt.

Il ne fait pas toujours beau dans cette région de la France, donc, pour les spectateurs, il y aura un choix : rester au camping, bien sûr, ou passer le temps plus confortablement dans un hôtel.

Answer the following questions **in English**.

(a) Where will the festival be held this year?

(1)

(b) How many groups will there be?

(1)

(c) What will the weather probably be like?

(1)

(Total for Question 1 = 3 marks)

Foundation/Higher question

Supporting reading and listening

- Active Learn (students have log ins)
- Links on VLE to radio, music and video
- Speaking to native speakers wherever possible
- Encourage regular vocabulary learning. Little and often is key

Speaking: how tested

- 🗣️ The examination is made up of **three** tasks.
 - 🗣️ 12 minutes of preparation time (for tasks 1 & 2).
No dictionary allowed
 - 🗣️ During Prep: Can make notes on 1 A4 sheet
 - 🗣️ Examination lasts 7 to 9 minutes
-
- Role Play (10 marks)
 - Picture-based task (24 marks)
 - Conversation (36 marks)
- (70 marks in total)

Task 1: Role play

STIMULUS HR1

Topic: Cultural life

Instructions to candidates:

You are at a leisure centre in France speaking to a young person you have met there.
The teacher will play the part of the young person and will speak first.

You must address the young person as *tu*.

You will talk to the teacher using the five prompts below.

- where you see – ? – you must ask a question
- where you see – ! – you must respond to something you have not prepared

Task

Tu es au centre de loisirs. Tu parles avec une jeune personne.

1. Par semaine – nombre de visites
2. Ce centre de loisirs – raison
3. !
4. ? Faire du sport – raison
5. ? Football – opinion

- Between 1 and 1.5 minutes
- Short answers

Unprepared question.
Usually in past tense.

Assesses ability to:

- Respond spontaneously
- Ask questions
- Use the correct form of 'you'

Task 2: Picture-based task

Topic: Town, region and country



- Between 2.5 and 3 minutes

Mira la foto y prepara las respuestas a los siguientes puntos:

- la descripción de la foto
- tu opinión sobre las actividades para los jóvenes en
- la última vez que fuiste al centro de una ciudad
- una ciudad que te gustaría visitar
- tu opinión sobre el campo y la ciudad

Assesses ability to:

- Give opinions
- Provide description
- Narrate events

Task 3: Conversation



- 3.5 to 4 minutes
- Part 1: Student selects in advance one **topic** from one of the themes. Student initiates conversation.
- Part 2: A **topic** directed by EDEXCEL.

Assesses ability to:

Develop conversations and discussions

Give opinions



Ways to support speaking

Encourage regular speaking:

- Get them to talk about situations/what they see. You can test the conversation answers they have already prepared. Or get them to teach you!
- Practise a **range** of opinion structures **and** adjectives.
- Practise asking questions.
- Practise tenses spontaneously – Yesterday I went ..., Everyday I go ..., Tomorrow I'm going ...
- Use Acapela to practise pronunciation

<http://www.acapela-group.com/>

Writing: how tested

- Write short texts accurately
- Write extended texts in which they express ideas & opinions
- Refer to past, present and future events
- Translate
- No dictionaries permitted

Writing

Higher: 1 hr 20 mins

1. Choice of informal letter 80-90 words (20 marks)
2. Choice of formal letter/article 130-150 words
(28 marks)
3. Paragraph to translate from English into target language
(12 marks)

Foundation: 1 hr 10 mins

1. Describe a picture 20-30 words (12 marks)
2. Informal passage 40-50 words (20 marks)
3. Choice of informal letter/article 80-90 words (20 marks)
4. 5 sentences to translate from English (12 marks)

Mobile phone

1(b) Your Swiss friend sends you an email about your new phone.

Hi!

Wie ist dein neues Handy? Was machst du damit?

Arni

Write a reply, **in German**, to your friend's email. You **must** include the following:

- your opinion of your old phone
- when you got your new phone
- what you will use your new phone for
- how you will pay the phone bills.

Foundation/Higher 80-90 words

Choose either Question 2(a) or Question 2(b)

Aidez-moi à aller à Québec !

- 2 (a) Vous voulez participer à un événement sportif au Québec, mais il y a très peu de places disponibles.

Écrivez une lettre pour convaincre les organisateurs de vous offrir une place.

Vous **devez** faire référence aux points suivants :

- pourquoi vous voulez participer
- les activités sportives que vous avez déjà faites
- comment cet événement sportif va vous aider à l'avenir
- pourquoi le sport est important pour les jeunes.

Justifiez vos idées et vos opinions.

Écrivez 130–150 mots environ **en français**.

Higher Question 2. 130-150 words

3 Translate the following passage into German.

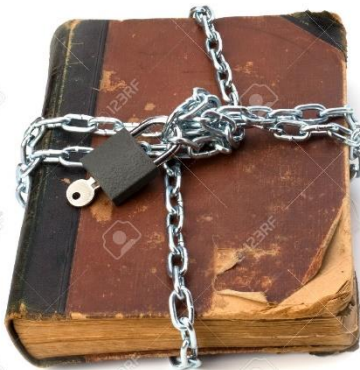
Last year I flew to Austria to visit my friend in Salzburg. When I was there, I met a lot of friendly people. I will go there next year but I do not want to stay with my friend. I would rather book a hotel so that I can have more freedom.

Higher translation

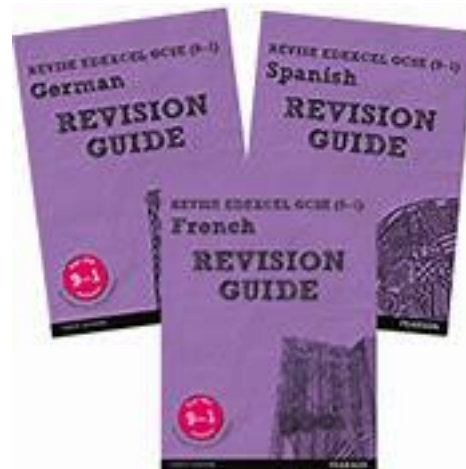
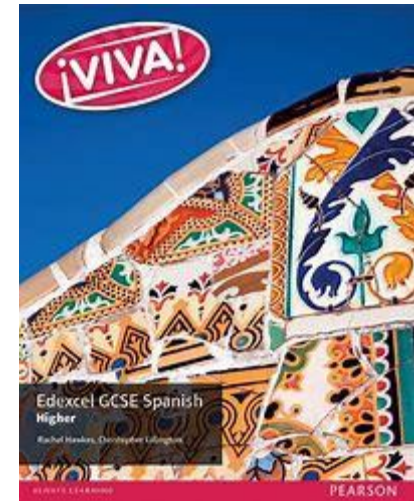
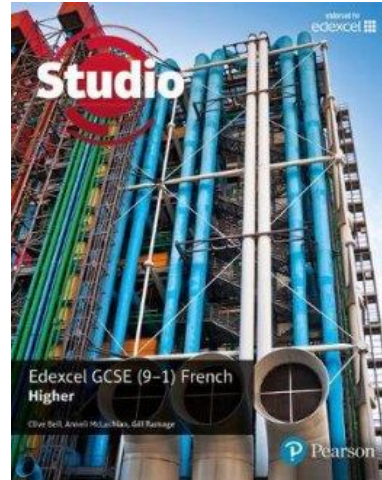
Exercise books

EXERCISE BOOKS ARE EXTREMELY
IMPORTANT!

PLEASE KEEP THEM SAFE!



Text Book Resources



Vocabulary Learning

- Regular vocab tests in class
- Variety of techniques (or a combination):
 - look-cover-write-check
 - getting someone to test you (meaning and spelling)
 - Memrise** website
 - quizlet website

<https://quizlet.com/class/5473631/>



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Useful links (click to access)

Active Learn: targeted GCSE reading and listening practice. Students have their own log-ins.

School VLE: many links and resources to help students. Choose KS4 in your language

Wordreference: online dictionary

Reverso context: a tool to show language in action to help students pick authentic phrases

- Voki

<https://www.voki.com/site/create>