

F I N A L

This brochure covers three specifications:

- French
- German
- Spanish



GCSE Languages

GCSE Languages - designed to help your learners develop artistic skills, creativity, imagination and independence while offering you and your learners more flexibility when it comes to assessments.

The new
OCR GCSE
LANGUAGES

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An introduction to GCSE Languages

Our new GCSE Languages Suite gives learners the freedom to choose the topics they speak and write about. This means that many learners will be more motivated if it's about something they're interested in.

Further benefits for you and your learners:

- The freedom to choose the topics learners speak and write about – many learners will be more motivated if it's about something they're interested in.
- Updated topics that reflect changes in teaching and learning techniques.
- A short-course option for learners who want to concentrate on their best skills – they can study just two of the four elements: listening and speaking, or reading and writing. This means you have the flexibility to teach the Languages GCSEs over one or two years, making it possible to run the course at a pace which suits the learning style of your learners. This flexibility also lends itself to innovative and interesting curriculum combinations.
- The facility to upload student portfolios to us for moderation, using the OCR Repository, our secure website designed exclusively for this purpose. This makes it easier for you to submit your learners' work.
- The option to complete up to 60% of assessment before the end of the two-year course, which relieves some of the examination stress your learners might feel.
- Flexibility when it comes to the speaking exam – we realise it can be a stressful part of language course assessment, so you can schedule it for when your learners feel most prepared.

Making GCSE changes easier

We want to make it as easy as possible for you to manage the changes to our GCSE Languages specifications. To minimise disruption, we will:

- Guide you through the simple process of moving to OCR for teaching Languages.
- Provide a range of Languages support materials, including schemes of work and sample assessment materials.
- Make our Languages publisher resources – tailored to the new specifications – available way ahead of when you first start teaching the new specifications.
- Keep you fully up to date, with our *Focus on 14–19* magazine, and online at www.GCSEchanges.com

We've involved teachers throughout the development process, so the new specifications, support materials and schemes of work should provide everything you need to teach our GCSE Languages.



Course summary for GCSE Languages

We've summarised the course details and the assessment objectives for GCSE Languages.

Unit title and description	Assessment and duration	Weighting
Listening French – unit A701 German – unit A711 Spanish – unit A721 (tiered) Learners: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> listen for, identify and note main points, and take details from spoken target language of increasing length, speed and complexity demonstrate an understanding of target language using a range of non-verbal responses, and some short answers in English. 	Written examination Foundation tier – 35 minutes Higher tier – 45 minutes	20% Spoken short course 40%
Speaking French – unit A702 German – unit A712 Spanish – unit A722 Using target language, Learners: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> communicate in target language on at least two topics – from a specified list, or of their own choice interact with target language speakers, expressing and justifying opinions where appropriate. 	Controlled assessment	30% Spoken short course 60%
Reading French – unit A703 German – unit A713 Spanish – unit A723 (tiered) Learners: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> read, identify and note main points, and take details from target language text of increasing length, speed and complexity demonstrate an understanding of target language using a range of non-verbal responses, and some short answers in English. 	Written examination 50 minutes	20% Written short course – 40%
Writing French – unit A704 German – unit A714 Spanish – unit A724 Using the target language, learners: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> communicate on at least two topic areas – from a specified list, or of their own choice express and justify points of view in target language where appropriate. 	Controlled assessment	30% Written short course – 60%

Assessment objectives

The assessment objectives are designed to reflect the non-statutory guidelines for French, German and Spanish.

Learners are expected to demonstrate the following in the context described:

- AO1** • Understand spoken language.
- AO2** • Communicate in speech.
- AO3** • Understand written language.
- AO4** • Communicate in writing.



What changes, what stays the same?

While we've made some important changes and improved our GCSEs, we haven't changed everything. Here you can see which aspects of GCSE Languages are changing, and which will stay the same.

	What changes?	What stays the same?
Structure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Speaking tasks are now assessed internally, and externally moderated by us. There are now only two speaking tasks. Written tasks are all moderated by us. There are now only two written tasks. GCSE short courses are now available for all three languages. Listening and reading remain tiered. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The four skills – reading, writing, listening and speaking – are still assessed separately.
Content	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We've updated the choice of topics. You and your learners can now choose your own topics for speaking and writing. Listening and reading questions are no longer in the target language. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Most topics cover areas that are essential in language learning contexts.
Assessment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Speaking no longer needs to be taken as a final exam. Not all speaking tasks have to be recorded. Spoken and written work can be submitted via the OCR Repository, our secure website designed specifically for uploading portfolios electronically. Short courses are available, so learners can choose to be assessed on just their strongest skills. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The four assessment objectives remain the same.

Controlled assessment – your questions answered

What are the benefits of controlled assessment?

The benefits of controlled assessment include:

- More straightforward marking – for most subjects, learners are provided with worksheets to submit their work on
- Improved reliability and validity
- Varying levels of control – you will know at the start of the course what is required to help you manage the assessments and your time more easily
- Greater confidence in authenticating learners' work as their own
- Greater ease in fitting assessments into your normal teaching programmes.

How will controlled assessment be introduced?

Controlled assessment is embedded in the specification and will be introduced when the specification becomes available for teaching in September 2009.

How will it affect my workload?

With the introduction of a new qualification and a new model of assessment (controlled assessment) it is possible that some additional work will be required in the first teaching of controlled assessment until you get used to the new way of working.

Will it affect timetabling and curriculum planning?

This will vary from centre to centre. For example, if you are retaining a linear model then all you need to do is to ensure that the learners have completed all units (full course) by the end of the course. Following a unitised approach may allow a more flexible approach to assessment.

What is controlled assessment?

Controlled assessment is coursework in a supervised environment/ classroom and will be replacing coursework from September 2009 for GCSEs. This has been introduced by QCA, to address some of the issues raised in coursework reviews, such as plagiarism.

Who will set the tasks of the controlled assessment for subject and will I still need to mark it?

For GCSE French, German and Spanish, controlled assessment means:

Speaking

- **Task setting** – you and your learners can choose from:
 - An OCR-set task
 - An adaptation of an OCR-set task
 - Their own task.
- **Task taking** – not all tasks need to be recorded and or to take place in the classroom. For example, you can arrange them during an exchange visit.
- **Task marking** – all tasks are assessed internally and moderated externally by us.

Writing

- **Task setting** – you and your learners can choose from:
 - An OCR-set task
 - An adaptation of an OCR-set task
 - Their own task.
- **Task taking** – learners may write tasks up in the classroom with restricted notes.
- **Task marking** – we externally mark all tasks.

How long do I need to keep the controlled assessment for?

This will be governed by the Awarding Bodies Joint Council for Qualifications' (JCQ) regulations when they are published, please visit www.jcq.org.uk for more information. It is expected that learners' work will need to be kept until all possible post results services have been exhausted.

When can controlled assessment start - in Year 9, 10 or 11?

Controlled assessment can start in Year 9, 10 or Year 11. However it is important that you ensure the correct controlled assessment task is given. We recommend you check the full specification details for the Languages suite qualification you will be teaching before planning assessment schedules.

When can Learners start researching for the controlled assessment and do they need to keep their notes?

Tasks will be made available on Interchange, our free secure website, from June of the previous year of assessment to May of the year of assessment. The time when you pass the tasks on to your Learners is for you to manage in whatever way suits you and your learners.

Learners should keep their notes to help them as preparation for controlled assessment. The notes will not be required for moderation.

Can we submit learners for exams in any exam session now?

Yes, but you need to be aware of the 40% terminal assessment rule, which is detailed in the specification.

If learners are entered for re-sits, which marks are considered? Latest or highest?

Learners can re-sit each unit once and can count the highest mark.

Flexible assessment

Assessment for the new GCSEs in Languages has been organised into units, which can be taken at the end of the course in typical linear fashion, or used to complement a more unitised approach to teaching and learning.

This means you can have the flexibility to choose the assessment approach best suited to your centre, and your Learners. A unitised structure also gives you the flexibility to teach short and full courses at the same time.

Flexible assessment means:

- You have a choice of learning approach – linear or unitised.
- You can now schedule assessments for times during the course when learners' understanding is at its best – giving them a better chance of success.
- Learners can re-sit a unit, rather than repeat the entire assessment.
- Learners can receive ongoing feedback, which many find motivating, as it helps them identify their own learning needs and achieve more.
- Learners find it easier to stay on track with their studies and manage their time more effectively with a unitised approach.
- There's less pressure on your Learners – the 'all or nothing' approach to assessment has been removed.
- Exam stress is reduced – assessments are spread out, instead of grouped together in a short, intense examination period at the end of the course.
- With a similar format to A Levels and Diplomas, GCSEs will help prepare learners for the next phase of their education.

To ensure that the assessment supports the coherence of the GCSEs and there is no over-assessment, QCA has put two rules in place:

- A minimum of 40% of the assessment must take place at the end of the course.
- Only one re-sit of each assessment unit is allowed. The better result then counts towards the qualification.



Support for GCSE Languages teachers

We offer a range of Languages support materials, developed through extensive research and consultation with teachers. They're designed to save you time while you're preparing for the new specifications, and to support you while teaching them.

Our Languages support materials and events include:

- **FREE** INSET training sessions
- Schemes of work that you can customise
- Endorsed publisher partner resources
- Access to teacher and examiner networks both online and in print
- An extensive past-papers service
- Lesson plans
- Posters and card visuals
- Teacher planner.

Our online resources include:

- e-communities – online networks of subject specialists, for sharing knowledge, views and ideas
- 'Interchange' – a completely secure, free website that helps you and your exams officer with administrative tasks at examination time
- Past examination papers
- Mark schemes
- Subject e-alerts – for you to register for updates.

For more information on our support, visit www.ocr.org.uk



INSET Training

Our **FREE** Languages *Get Ready* and *Get Started* events give you a taste of the new specifications direct from the experts. For details of the courses and dates near you and to book your **FREE** place, visit www.ocr.org.uk/training

Get Ready – introducing the new specification

This course will help you find out more about the new Languages specifications, whether you are a new or experienced teacher. It's open to you, even if you don't teach the current specifications.

It's a **FREE** half-day session, with refreshments and a light buffet. You'll receive a selection of course materials and an overview of our new specification for GCSE Languages. There are separate courses for French, German and Spanish. The session includes:

- A look at the new structure, content and assessment methods
- A comparison between the old and new specification content
- An introduction to the support and resources available from us
- A summary of the benefits of choosing our new GCSE Languages specification.



INSET Training

Get Started –
towards successful delivery of the new specification

This course will help you, whether you are a new or experienced teacher or a centre assessor who will be teaching this Languages specification.

It's a full-day course which will provide essential information, guidance and practical support for newly qualified teachers or teachers new to the OCR GCSE in Languages. There are separate courses for French, German and Spanish.

It will:

- Explain the requirements of the specification
- Review the assessment criteria and their application
- Explain the requirements of the assessment process
- Review the Chief Examiner's report from the 2008 session
- Consider the collation of appropriate evidence for portfolio building
- Discuss the presentation of candidate portfolios
- Review exemplar learner work
- Offer advice on preparing learners for external assessments
- Explain the administrative procedures.



Publisher support

We endorse a range of publisher materials to provide quality support for centres delivering our qualifications. You can be confident that materials branded with OCR's 'Official Publishing Partner' or 'Approved publication' logos have undergone a thorough quality assurance process to achieve endorsement.

These endorsements do not mean that the materials are the only suitable resources available or necessary to achieve one of our qualifications. Any resource lists which are produced by us will include a range of appropriate texts.

For our Languages suite GCSEs we're working with publisher partner Oxford University Press to provide further resources to support your teaching of the new specification.

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UNIVERSITY PRESS

Resource	Format	ISBN No.
GCSE French for OCR Evaluation Pack	276X219	978 01991 54906
GCSE French for OCR Learners' Book	276X219	9780199154982
GCSE French for OCR Teachers' Book	276X219	978 01991 80684
GCSE French for OCR Exam Skills Workbook	245x150 +CDR	978 01991 80 66 0
GCSE French for OCR Audio CDs	CD	978 01991 80 691
GCSE French for OCR OxBBox	CD	978 01991 8070 7
GCSE French for OCR Grammar Workbook	276X219	978 01991 80 677
GCSE German for OCR Evaluation Pack	276X219	9780199154890
GCSE German for OCR Learners' Book	276X219	9780199154944
GCSE German for OCR Teacher's Book	276X219	9780199154968
GCSE German for OCR Exam Skills Workbook	245x150 +CDR	9780199154951
GCSE German for OCR Audio CDs	CD	9780199154975
GCSE German for OCR OxBBox	CD	9780199154937
GCSE German for OCR Grammar Workbook	276X219	9780199154920
GCSE Spanish for OCR Evaluation Pack	276X219	9780199154913
GCSE Spanish for OCR Learners' Book	276X219	9780199180714
GCSE Spanish for OCR Teacher's Book	276X219	9780199180738
GCSE Spanish for OCR Exam Skills Workbook	245x150 +CDR	9780199180721
GCSE Spanish for OCR Audio CDs	CD	9780199180745
GCSE Spanish for OCR OxBBox	CD	9780199180769
GCSE Spanish for OCR Grammar Workbook	276X219	9780199180752

For the latest information on published resources, please visit www.ocr.org.uk/newgcse and select 'published resources' from the right-hand menu.

Why choose OCR?

Who is OCR?

We're one of the UK's leading Awarding Bodies, developing up-to-date GCSE qualifications for the 21st century.

Why teach OCR specifications?

At OCR, we believe in developing specifications that help you bring the subject to life, so learners are more likely to get involved and achieve more. And because we listen to schools and colleges that teach our specifications, we can improve and update qualifications continually, ensuring you and your learners get as much as possible from the qualification.

You'll receive full support when teaching our qualifications. We're offering more free training than ever before at venues near you – plus adaptable schemes of work you can download, and lesson plans drawn up by teachers who teach the specification.

You'll also have access to cluster support networks and e-communities, where there are plenty of opportunities to give feedback and share your thoughts with other teachers.

Other qualifications

You may be interested to know about some of our other Language related qualifications:

- GCSE Dutch
- GCSE Gujarati
- GCSE Persian
- GCSE Portuguese
- GCSE Turkish
- Asset Languages
- A Level Dutch
- A Level French
- A Level German
- A Level Gujarati
- A Level Persian
- A Level Portuguese
- A Level Spanish
- A Level Turkish.



www.ocr.org.uk

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General qualifications

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