

Frequently Asked Questions

IGCSE First Language German (0505)

What set texts are there for the syllabus?

There aren't any! IGCSE First Language doesn't have questions on set texts. (This need not preclude using literary material as stimulus for coursework, or in classroom preparation for the Reading paper, of course. Candidates benefit from exposure to a variety of types of writing, and literary texts have a part to play in First Language.)

Is syllabus 0505, IGCSE First Language German, available in the November session?

No. It is available in the June session only. There is a new format from June 2007 – specimen papers are available.

Can students take dictionaries into the examination?

No. This is an IGCSE Language examination and dictionaries are not permitted.

What resources are available to support this syllabus?

The following resources are available:

- Past Papers.
- Principal Examiner Reports.

Do candidates need to take the new German spelling rules (*die neue Regelung der Rechtschreibung*) into account for IGCSE First Language German, or may they still use the old spelling?

Candidates at First Language level are expected in principle to observe the new spelling rules. CIE is aware of the fluid situation in the German-speaking world as regards the application of these rules and Examiners may take this into account when they reward candidates' use of the language in accordance with the mark schemes.

I have a very strong *foreign* language speaker candidate. Can I enter him/her for a *First Language* examination?

You can. However you will need to bear in mind that the level of sophistication, accuracy and fluency required in a First Language examination is that of a native speaker. The assessment objectives for Foreign Language examinations are quite different, rewarding communication and giving opportunities for Listening and Speaking. An alternative solution might be to enter your candidate for Advanced Subsidiary German Language (available November only).