

# GCSE LANGUAGES



# Changes to the GCSE exams

## Official information from Ofqual

### **Modern foreign languages**

Remove requirement for assessments to use words outside of vocabulary lists and permit glossing where necessary whilst maintaining level of knowledge and accuracy needed for the highest grades.

Make the spoken language assessment an endorsement<sup>7</sup> reported on a 3-point scale (pass, merit and distinction) against common assessment criteria. To be assessed by teachers during the course of study.

Permit exam boards to include an additional optional question in the writing assessment which would enable students to focus on fewer themes in their writing.

<sup>7</sup> Details of the arrangements for the endorsement are being worked on and will be published in due course but in time for teaching from September 2020. To be clear, the expectations are that the speaking skills should be assessed but in an integrated way that supports classroom practice, that is no formal assessment settings and arrangements other than where that is preferred and organised by the centre. The focus is on reducing the disruption within a centre and to the teaching time for MFL and other subjects that is caused by the formal speaking exam. There is no intention to replace one formal assessment with another that places burden on teachers and centres and takes students away from the classroom.

# What does this actually mean?

## Some big changes!

- Students will do **THREE exams** at the end of Y11: WRITING, READING and LISTENING. They will all be worth the same (33%).
- Students will NOT do a speaking exam. **Speaking will be assessed in class** by their teacher. Their class teacher will give them a grade: PASS, MERIT or DISTINCTION. This grade will be based on a variety of speaking activities we will do in class. This grade will be reported to AQA and it will appear in their exam results document.
- Exam boards (AQA for us) will be allowed to add **additional optional questions to the writing paper**. AQA haven't given us any specific information of how this will work. We will inform you and students as soon as we know.
- Students will only be tested on the **words from the vocab lists** (vocab tests we do every week and vocab from Memrise). In the past, AQA could add any extra words they wanted! Not any more, which is really good news 😊



# How can I help my child?

- It is very important that your child spends time at home revising vocabulary and practising tenses.
- Learning a language at GCSE is very different from studying other GCSEs in that it requires constant daily and weekly practice to progress successfully. **Little and often** is the key to success!
- Students have taken their Y10 books home and should use them for revision.

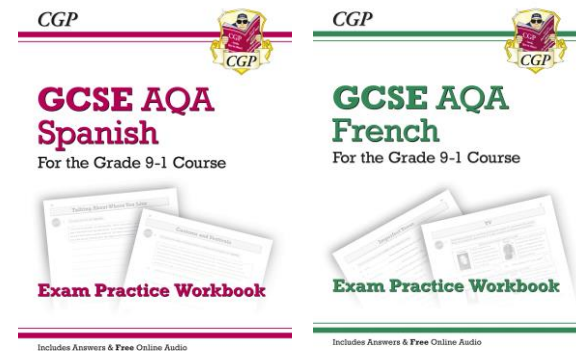


# How can I help my child?

- Every half term, students will have to complete a module on **Memrise**. Memrise is a free app that tests them on the vocabulary we have learnt in class. They can download it on their phone or use a computer/tablet.
- You can help your child by checking they are completing this work on Memrise. It should take them 2/3 hours to complete one module.
- Module 6 will be due on the week commencing 19<sup>th</sup> October. We will always give them at least 5 weeks notice so they can do a little bit every day. Ideally, students should spend **5/10 minutes on Memrise every day.**

# How can I help my child?

- The department is going to be purchasing revision guides and exam practice workbooks. They will soon be available from the School Shop (on the school website).
- It is important that students are revising the topics we have already covered, and reading in advance topics that we are due to cover.
- The revision guides we will be purchasing include listening, reading and writing practice with all the answers at the back.
- We would expect all Y11s to buy one as we will be setting homework from there. If your child receives Free School Meals, they will get a free revision guide.



If you have any questions,  
please email Mrs Levy (Head of MFL):

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