

January Newsletter 2025

GCSE and GCE French, German and Spanish

Happy New Year! We hope that you have enjoyed a restful Christmas break, and that you feel refreshed and ready for the term ahead. Please take the time to read through this newsletter, as it contains useful and important information to support you through this busy Spring period.

Staff Changes in the Languages Team

We would like to announce some **changes to our languages team** here at WJEC Eduqas.

Three of our much valued, long-serving colleagues have recently moved on to other things. Karl Sage (Subject Officer) retired over Christmas, while Claire Bellamy (Subject Officer) and Candice Dempster (Subject Support Officer) have taken up other roles within the WJEC. I am sure you will join with us in wishing them the very best of luck in their future endeavours.

In January, we welcomed two new Subject Officers to the team. Angharad Williams is our new Subject Officer for A-Level French, vocational qualifications and Latin. She has worked as a Head of Department and held multiple WJEC roles, including senior examiner, specification development writer and reviewer.

Kelly Gipson will be taking over the role of Subject Officer for GCSE French. Kelly has been working with us as a full-time Subject Adviser since September 2023 and has previously been a Head of Faculty and a Senior Lecturer at UWTSD.

We are delighted to have them on board and look forward to working together.

Further details about the team, and how to contact us, can be found at the end of this newsletter.

GCSE and AS/A-Level MFL – Speaking NEA

Speaking window dates for 2025

The speaking window for both GCE and GCSE will run from **Tuesday 1st April – Tuesday 6th May 2025**. Please note that these dates include the Easter break.

Important reminder for speaking assessments: MFL Centre Forms and Allocation of Set Lists

Whether you are a teacher-examiner or have a visiting examiner to conduct the speaking assessments, please remember to complete **all paperwork** for upload to the Surpass system:

- for **GCSE**; the [MFL Centre Form](#) and the Allocation of Set List
- for **AS/A level**; the [MFL Centre Form](#)

The paperwork covers the authentication of candidates' work, GDPR requirements, and a record of any extra-time (officially granted). It also allows examiners to check which examining materials were issued and used for each candidate. **This information is vital for the smooth running and marking of the speaking assessment.**

Useful Speaking Guidance for Teachers

Please refer to the relevant speaking guidance documents (links below), for instructions about how to administer the assessment:

- [GCSE Unit 1 - Instructions for Teacher-Examiners](#)
- [AS Unit 1 - Instructions for Teacher-Examiners](#)
- [A-Level Unit 3 \(IRP\) - Instructions for Teacher-Examiners](#)

Made-for-Wales GCSEs in French, German and Spanish – teaching from 2025

For further information, and to keep up-to-date with the latest developments, please visit our new qualification pages: [French](#), [German](#), [Spanish](#).

Professional Learning

Many of you will have attended our live specification walk-throughs and qualification/Q&A briefings in November. You will find the resources from this event, including the FAQ document on the new qualification pages, under training (on demand courses).

Sample Assessment Materials and the *Guidance for Teaching* document in French, German and Spanish are now available on the new qualification homepages.

Blended learning resources in French, German and Spanish for learners will be available in the summer term. These will include activities and knowledge organisers to support them with the new aspects of the assessments.

Face-to-face Professional Learning courses, designed to support you to deliver the new specifications, will take place this term. Further support materials will be made available in the summer term. Please see the table below for information:

| Professional Learning Type | Aims | Format and Notes |
|--|---|--|
| Preparing to Teach (face-to-face) Available from 14 February 2025 to 7 April 2025 Registrations for the Pan Wales INSET days will be collected via your head teacher. There is no need to personally apply for these training days. | <i>To support teaching the new specification. There will be a focus on understanding the assessments, assessment objectives, content and teaching approaches based on the specification, sample assessment materials and guidance for teaching.</i> | <i>These days take place on designated regional INSET days – there are 12 days in this series held across Wales, including 2 Welsh medium days and 1 bilingual day.</i> <i>These events will be led by WJEC Subject Advisors and our expert presenting teams.</i> |
| Exam and NEA Walk-throughs Available summer Term 2025 Access via the WJEC Portal secure website | <i>To support you and your learners to understand the structure of question papers/NEA briefs, question types, assessment objectives and marking methods.</i> | <i>These pre-recorded PPTs will initially be published on the WJEC Portal secure website only.</i> |

Final Assessment Opportunities: Wave 1 Qualifications

Summer 2026 will be the final full assessment opportunity for the qualifications listed below:

- C00/0792/5 WJEC Level 1/Level 2 GCSE in French 3800QS
- C00/0796/7 WJEC Level 1/Level 2 GCSE in German 3820QS
- C00/0797/0 WJEC Level 1/Level 2 GCSE in Spanish 3810QS

There will be a resit opportunity for the examinations available in January 2027, subject to demand. This will only be available to post-16 candidates who have previously cashed-in the qualification prior to January 2027. From September 2025, learners must not be entered into these legacy GCSEs in Year 10, in subjects where reformed GCSEs are available.

Audio Visual Assessment Materials for 24/25 onwards

Please note that, effective from the Summer 2025 exam series, we will no longer be sending CDs to centres for assessments with audio content. This material will be available as an MP3 resource only, via [Portal](#).

Professional Learning for A Level

For A Level, materials from previous events remain available both on the subject webpages under 'Training > On-Demand Courses' and through [Portal](#). Please check our pages regularly for any upcoming professional learning opportunities.

Resources for Teaching and Learning

Our digital resources can be accessed via the '**Resources**' tab on the WJEC subject pages for GCSE [French](#) / [German](#) / [Spanish](#) and GCE [French](#) / [German](#) / [Spanish](#). These include:

- [Exam Walk Throughs \(EWTs\)](#)
- [Knowledge organisers](#)
- [Teaching and Learning Guides](#)

[Exemplar candidate work](#) (up to 2023) can be found under the 'Exemplar' tab of the website subject pages. From 2024, exemplars are available on [Portal](#) only.

Vocational Language Qualifications

Global Business Communication

This qualification offers an opportunity for students to learn languages in a relevant work context. Please see our website for full details including specification and sample assessment materials. [Global Business Communication Webpage](#)



GBC NEA tasks – Units 1, 2 and 3

The candidate and assessor packs for the above NEA Units are available for download from the Secure Portal. The Global Business Communication qualifications are unitised qualifications with non-examination assessment briefs that change every other year.

Centres should therefore enter candidates for moderation in the year in which they complete the assessment.

To ensure that centres are not disadvantaged, we have taken a decision to extend the validity of the current Unit 1 Candidate and Assessor Packs to include the summer 2026 series. The current Candidate and Assessor packs available on the secure website are therefore valid for the following assessment series:

| Candidate Pack | Published | For submission in: |
|----------------|-----------|--|
| Unit 1 | 2022 | Summer 2023 Summer 2024 Summer 2025 Summer 2026 |
| Unit 2 and 3 | 2023 | Summer 2024 Summer 2025 Summer 2026 |

Online Mock Examinations

Mock online exams are available for all centres entering for Unit 4 GBC in 2025. Please contact E-Assessment@wjec.co.uk for details.

Language Pathways

These qualifications offer learners the opportunity to get formal recognition for their language learning. Students produce evidence to demonstrate their language competence from a choice of three different themes which is internally assessed and externally moderated.

Available in a range of levels (Entry Level, Level 1 and Level 2) and languages:

French

Cornish

German

Mandarin

Spanish

Japanese

Italian

For centres entering candidates for the Language Pathways certificates, please remember to upload the following items for each candidate selected in the IAMIS sample;

- [Candidate declaration form](#)
- Task sheet
- Candidate work

For more information please see our webpage [Language Pathways](#) or contact languages@wjec.co.uk

Next Newsletter:

The next issue will be sent out after the Easter break. In the meantime, if you have any questions, please get in touch: languages@eduqas.co.uk.

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