



GCSE Languages

The changes you need to know about

In January 2022 the Department for Education (DfE) confirmed changes to GCSE French, German and Spanish following its public consultation in spring 2021 and Ofqual published a response to the consultation. From September 2024, schools and colleges will be teaching our new specifications across the three GCSE MFL subjects for first exams in 2026.

In line with Ofqual's timeline for accreditation, we are submitting GCSE French for accreditation in November 2022, with GCSE German and GCSE Spanish to follow in spring 2023.

A recap of what's already happened in 2022

- **January:** changes to **GCSE French, German and Spanish** were confirmed by the DfE and Ofqual.
- **Spring:** we know the key to successfully developing our specifications is you. We sent out a **survey** to teachers and gathered feedback from 350 students on our themes and topics. We then **ran concept testing focus groups** so that your insights could determine how we would move forwards.
- **June:** with the survey results and your insights in mind, we went away to draft the specification you and your students would be using. We then came back to you, holding **feedback drop ins** around the country for **GCSE French**, with approximately 500 teachers taking part.
- **July:** we know teachers trust AQA most when it comes to language specifications and we wanted to get the changes right. That meant hearing from students too, so we held **student testing of our GCSE French materials** to gather feedback and insight.

Autumn 2022

- **October:** we'll be holding **workshops with teachers on our MFL Teacher Panel** to make sure we develop the right resources to support you in the best possible way, to transition to the new specifications.
- **October:** it's vital you have your say on the specifications you'll be teaching. As with GCSE French, **teacher feedback sessions for GCSE German and Spanish** will be held.
- **November:** we'll be **submitting the draft materials for GCSE French to Ofqual for accreditation** and uploading them to our website – this includes our draft specification and Sample Assessment Materials (SAMs).



Spring 2023

- This is when we'll find out if our **GCSE French** specification and SAMs **have been accredited**.
- Following the accreditation of our French materials, we'll **submit GCSE German and Spanish**.
- We want you to feel at ease with these changes so we'll be launching our **support and resource package**, which will include suggested Schemes of Work and additional specimen materials.



Summer 2023

- We'll hear feedback from Ofqual on the **accreditation of our GCSE German and Spanish** specifications/SAMs.

Autumn 2023

- We want you to feel confident about the changes and what the changes mean for you and your students. Ahead of teaching our new specifications in 2024, we'll hold **launch events** to highlight what the changes look like, what our approach to them has been and what you can expect moving forwards.

- We'll also be offering **further support** and making **added resources available**.



2024

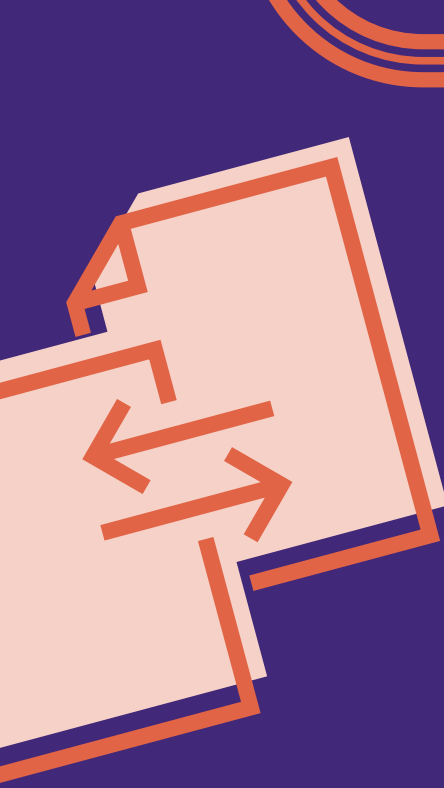
- **Spring:** to support you further, we will be holding **training events to prepare for teaching the new specifications**. These will be virtual and face to face and will give you a solid understanding of the requirements of the new specifications so you can prepare your students for the first exams in 2026.

- **Summer:** training events will continue, to support you with new elements of the curriculum.

- **Autumn:** you'll begin **teaching the new specifications**.

Summer 2025

- Final assessment of current specifications.



Summer 2026

- The first assessment with the new specifications will take place.

Find the resources on our website, as they become available:

aqa.org.uk/subjects/languages

