

Summer 2022 GCSE Examination Changes

SUBJECT: GCSE French and Spanish

Examining Board : AQA

Because of the ongoing impacts of the Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic, **there are some changes to how GCSE French will be assessed in 2022.**

These changes are for 2022 only.

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

- **Optionality** for Paper 4 (Writing)
- Paper 4 (Writing) exam time **extended**
- **No requirement** for vocabulary **outside** specification
- Speaking tests to take place **as normal**, with a **contingency in place**
- **Advanced information** on exams ***will be available***

OPTIONALITY FOR PAPER 4 (WRITING)

There will be **more optionality** in the Writing component for **summer 2022.**

Writing papers will include an **additional optional question** for the **overlap** question at both tiers (Question 4/Question 1) and for Higher tier Question 2.

This is so students can answer on their **preferred** theme. For each optional question, ***the theme will be given in the introduction to the question in the question paper.***

FOUNDATION TIER

There will be an **additional option for Question 4** and this will be numbered in the question paper as **Question 4.3.** Students will need to answer **one** question from a choice of three.

HIGHER TIER

- There will be an **additional option for Question 1** and this will be numbered in the question paper as **Question 1.3.** Students will need to answer **one** question from a choice of three.
- There will be an **additional option for Question 2** and this will be numbered in the question paper as **Question 2.3.** Students will need to answer **one** question from a choice of three.

You can view AQA sample papers using the following link: **sample papers for 2022** (please note: these are the same papers provided for Autumn 2021).

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PAPER 4 (WRITING) EXAM TIME EXTENDED

To give students time to read all of the optional questions carefully before making a choice, we'll be adding an **extra five minutes** to the scheduled exam time **at both tiers** for the **Writing** paper in Summer 2022. Here are the updated exam times.

- Foundation tier: **1 hour 5 minutes**
 - Higher tier: **1 hour 20 minutes.**
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VOCABULARY

The regulatory requirement for assessments to use words outside of vocabulary lists has been removed.

AQA will review and **update** all their **exam papers** for **summer 2022** to reflect this.

AQA may still include a small number of basic vocabulary items (eg primary colours, cognates/near cognates) ***not listed in the specification*** which students may need to understand in order to answer the questions. This will only happen where excluding such items from the assessments is likely to increase the demand of the tasks.

SPEAKING

Teachers and students should prepare for spoken language in 2022 to be assessed in the normal way, through formal speaking tests.

Ofqual will publish contingency assessment arrangements for spoken language that include assessment criteria, and which reflect the speaking endorsement arrangements set out in the 2021 Subject Level Conditions for GCSE MFL qualifications.

Teachers will be asked by Ofqual to have regard to the assessment criteria throughout the course

If, at any point before the formal speaking tests begin, it becomes clear they cannot or should not be taken, Ofqual will implement the contingency arrangements.

ADVANCE INFORMATION ON EXAMS WILL BE AVAILABLE

To help students focus their exam preparation, there will be advance information on what exams will cover.

This advance information will be available **by 7 February 2022**, or sooner if the pandemic worsens. ***In the meantime, the Joint Council for Qualifications (JCQ) has published on how advanced information will be issued in readiness for the upcoming 2022 exams.*** Use the following link for more information on this: **guidance for teachers and students on the use of advance information for 2022.**