

January Newsletter 2026

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.

[Introducing the SSOs for Each Qualification](#)

We're pleased to introduce the Subject Support Officers (SSOs) assigned to each of our qualifications.

GCSE French / GCE French / GBC / Language Pathways – *Kimberley Epton*

GCSE German / GCE German – *Liza-Maree Quintal*

GCSE Spanish / GCE Spanish – *Steve Patten*

Our SSOs play an essential role in providing administrative and operational support to ensure the smooth running of our assessment processes.

As the first point of contact when you reach out to the Languages team, SSOs are here to help with a wide range of queries.

Each qualification has a dedicated SSO who will be your main point of contact for subject-specific administrative support and guidance. We look forward to the continued contribution they bring to enhancing the experience for centres, examiners, and learners alike.

[GCSE and AS/A-Level MFL – Speaking NEA](#)

[Speaking window dates for 2026](#)

The speaking window for both GCE and GCSE will run from **Wednesday April 1st until Wednesday May 20th 2026**. Centres are only permitted to assess for 5 weeks within this period. This assessment period is not required to be continuous and allows for a break to accommodate the Easter holiday in each centre.

[Important reminder for speaking assessments: MFL Centre Forms and Allocation of Set Lists](#)

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](#) and IRP pro-forma (Unit 3)

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](#).

A comprehensive FAQ has recently been added.

[Professional Learning](#)

The resources from the face-to-face training events held all over Wales last spring aimed at supporting teachers to prepare to teach the new GCSE qualifications, can be found on Portal. Please select your language and filter the year to 2025 and the *type of document* to *CPD*. The document entitled “MFL – QFF Preparing to Teach Event 2025”, contains a link to the resources used at these events.

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 are now available. These include activities and knowledge organisers to support them with the new aspects of the assessments. You can find these resources on the new qualification homepages, under the resources tab (“Access NEW Made-for Wales Digital Resources”).

In addition to this, on the Portal, you can find *Exam and NEA walkthrough* resources. To access these, please filter the year to 2025 and the *type of document* to *CPD*. Here you will find a word document entitled “GCSE French” that contains a link to a PowerPoint resource with voiceover for each of the four units.

[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.

[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:

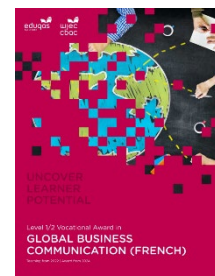
- [Exam Walk Throughs \(EWTs\)](#)
- [Knowledge organisers](#)
- [Teaching and Learning Guides](#)

Exemplar candidate work: 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 remain static.

Centres are asked when uploading NEA to IAMIS to please ensure that candidate work has been correctly labelled. Centres are requested to check the quality of sound and video files before submitting them and ensure they are saved in the correct format, avoiding excessively large files.

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. Please ensure that your centre has accessed the mock examination prior to the live examination in order to resolve any technical issues in good time.

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@wjec.co.uk.

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