

WJEC Newsletter - Autumn 2026

GCSE and GCE French, German and Spanish

Welcome back! We hope that you have had an enjoyable summer, returning to school with batteries recharged for the new term ahead. The WJEC MFL team would like to thank you for your continued hard work and support; we look forward to working together again to educate and inspire MFL learners in Wales in this new academic year.

We at WJEC CBAC would like to remind everyone that we are here to provide support to teachers and learners in Wales. Please take a few moments to browse the newsletter for useful information and reminders.

NEA Key Dates

The assessment window for conducting the GCSE and GCE Speaking Examinations runs from Thursday April 1st until Friday May 14th, 2027. 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 break in each centre. Please note that for GCSE and AS Speaking Examinations, the teacher examiner may open the package from three working days before the centre's first assessment date. Materials must be stored securely at the end of each day. The [exam timetables](#) for the 2027 summer series are also now available on the WJEC website.

The assessment window for conducting the GCSE Unit 2 NEA runs from Monday 1st March until Friday 23rd April 2027. 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 break in each centre.

Analysing candidates' results

Exam Results Analysis

You can access the Exam Results Analysis to help you understand your students' results and develop their exam skills. Exam Results Analysis on the WJEC [Portal](#) allows you to compare your students' performance on each question with that of the candidature overall, letting you see where they have done well and where there might be room for improvement. To do this, under the 'Results' tab, click on 'View/Print Item Level Data' or 'View/Print Centre Performance' for comparable data.

Free Access to Candidate Scripts

Schools and colleges who deliver our qualifications are able to access candidates' marked scripts from Results Day via our [Portal](#). These are available for all external assessments for Summer 2026, including all GCSEs, AS, A level and Vocational Qualifications. Each script will include the marks and any comments made by our trained examiners to help you review the performance of your learners. These can also be useful classroom aids, to show current learners strengths and common pitfalls that they should consider in future assessments.

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

The new GCSE specifications in French, German and Spanish have been available to teach from September 2025. For up-to-date information, please visit the new qualification pages: [French](#), [German](#), [Spanish](#). The final series for new entries for the legacy qualification was Summer 2026, with a final re-sit opportunity in January 2027. The new Made-for Wales GCSE will be the only GCSE available for assessment from Summer 2027.

[WJEC GCSE French 3830U40-1](#)

[WJEC GCSE Spanish 3840U40-1](#)

[WJEC GCSE German 3850U40-1](#)

Circular

A circular was sent out in September 2026 to notify centres of amendments made to the Unit 4 Sample Assessment Materials and Guidance for Teaching for the Made-for-Wales French, Spanish and German GCSE qualifications.

Summary of changes

1. Unit 4, Section B, Question 6 – Bullet points

A. The Mark Scheme within the Sample Assessment Materials.

The wording relating to the use of the bullet points has been amended to:

"You may include the following points."

The bullet points are intended to support learners in planning and structuring their response but are **not compulsory**.

B. The **Guidance for Teaching** has also been updated to reflect this amendment.

The wording within the "Assessment Details" section now reads:

"Learners will write an extended piece of writing from a choice of three options in Cymraeg/English, one from each broad theme. Learners may use the written prompts to help structure their response, or use other relevant information, ideas and opinions."

2. Unit 4, Section B, Question 6 – Word Count

To ensure consistency across qualification documents, the wording in the **Question Paper** of the Sample Assessment Materials has been amended to:

"Write up to 120 words."

This wording now aligns with the **Guidance for Teachers** and the **Options Leaflet**.

Action for centres

Centres should use the updated versions of the **Sample Assessment Materials** and **Guidance for Teaching** when preparing learners for assessment from **Summer 2027**.

We apologise for any inconvenience this may have caused and thank you for your understanding.

Professional Learning programme 2026/27

Professional Learning 2026/27: Book your place today!

Designed to support teachers at every stage of qualification delivery, our programme offers a wide range of opportunities to develop subject knowledge, strengthen assessment understanding and share best practice with colleagues and our subject experts.

For further information view [here](#)

Assessment Feedback Package

Our new Assessment Feedback Package for 2026-27 is an opportunity to gain a deeper understanding of how assessments are marked or moderated. This integrated suite of resources and training brings together free access to Principal Examiner reports, marked scripts, and online assessment feedback sessions. Learn more about how you and your learners can benefit from our Assessment Feedback Package here: [Assessment Feedback Package 2026-27](#). You can download the most recent Principal Examiner Report and register for FREE, online feedback events on your qualification page.

New Made-for-Wales GCSEs

To support centres to deliver the new Made for Wales GCSEs in French, German and Spanish, the resources presented at the face-to-face Professional Learning events in the spring of 2025, are available on the [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 the online [Portal](#). Please check our pages and updates regularly for any upcoming professional learning opportunities.

Resources for Teaching and Learning

Resource Guides

Our newly updated Resource Guides are available on each of the subject pages for French, German and Spanish:



GCSE French
Specification

[Download](#)

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54 documents found

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Specification

Guidance for Teaching

Resource Guide

Exemplars

These guides take you through how to access key resources on the different WJEC websites and systems. They may be especially useful if you are a trainee or ECT, or new to teaching with the WJEC.

Digital Resources Website

The [Digital Resources Website](#) brings together a wide variety of useful teaching and learning resources. Click on the **Resources** link available on each of the WJEC website subject pages for GCSE [French](#) / [German](#) / [Spanish](#) and GCE [French](#) / [German](#) / [Spanish](#) to access the materials.

Exam Walk Throughs

Exam Walk Throughs (EWTs) are a free resource for both GCSE [French](#) / [German](#) / [Spanish](#) and GCE [French](#) / [German](#) / [Spanish](#). These comprise of visual and audio PowerPoint guides to the exams, put together by our experts and designed with the learner in mind for independent use or as part of remote or blended learning.

Teaching and Learning Guides

[Teaching and Learning Guides](#) are free resources that are produced by our experts as a suggested approach for using our online resources for teachers of French, German or Spanish. The aim is to provide flexible comprehensive support for teachers.

Candidate Exemplar

Exemplar candidate work is available on the subject pages of the website in the 'Exemplar' tab along with the marks and examiner feedback, leading you through a review of the exam questions. They include guidance on how examiner marks and comments can be removed so that the materials can also be used as a teaching resource.

Access to all past papers, mp3 files and mark schemes

Past papers, mp3 files and mark schemes for previous series, including 2026, can be accessed on [Portal](#). At the top of the screen, click on the 'Resources' drop-down menu and select 'Past Papers and Marking Schemes.' This will take you to a filter page. Please select the following:

- Subject French / German / Spanish
- Brand WJEC
- Level GCSE / GCE
- Type of document All
- Year All
- Language English / Welsh

Access to Portal is given by Exams Officers, as they are the primary account holders for centres. Papers and mark schemes are stored on the secure website for 12 months after the end of an exam series before being released onto the public website.

If you are having difficulty accessing Portal – for example, if you have forgotten your password – this [Portal FAQs page](#) will be helpful.

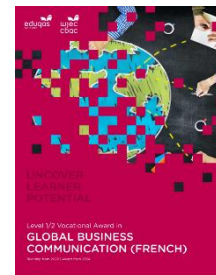
Vocational Language Qualifications

Global Business Communication

As outlined in the circular sent to centres in April, the final assessment opportunity for these qualifications will be Summer 2027.

There will be a resit opportunity in Summer 2028 (subject to demand).

If you require any further clarification about these arrangements, please contact the Pathways qualifications department at pathways@wjec.co.uk.



GBC French/German/Spanish new specification NEA units

A reminder that the published briefs will remain live for the lifetime of the qualification and will not be replaced bi-annually. The materials can be accessed from the portal at [Portal by WJEC](#).

From 2025, centre assessed NEA moderation samples were uploaded via IAMIS and not Surpass (GBC Units 1, 2 and 3). We thank centres for their support with this once again during the summer 2026 series. We would urge centres to be mindful of file sizes and ensuring any links can be accessed externally and are still valid to evidence candidate work (it may be a good idea to save screenshots to avoid problems with expired websites).

Language Pathways

The [Language Pathways](#) 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) in the following languages:

French
German
Spanish
Italian

Mandarin
Japanese
Cornish

Candidates can be entered at two points in the year to claim their units of competence. Entries for the winter series close on the 12th December and on 5th May for the summer series.

For more information, please see our webpage [Language Pathways](#) or contact the Subject Officer, Angharad Williams at languages@wjec.co.uk.

Next newsletter

The next issue will be sent out in January. In the meantime, if you have any questions, please get in touch.

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