

MFL Update for Y11 Exams Summer 2021

“subject to any further changes announced”

Speaking

To reduce pressures on teaching time, the Ofqual consultation outcome confirmed that the spoken language assessment in summer 2021 will be an endorsement reported on a 3-point scale (pass, merit and distinction) against common assessment criteria. Students’ speaking skills will be assessed by teachers during the course of study and the endorsement level of pass, merit or distinction will be reported alongside the 9-1 grade.

The common assessment criteria will be published shortly by Ofqual. We’ll also be sharing some further detailed guidance to help teachers in their assessments.

Writing

There will be more optionality in the Writing components, so the 2021 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.

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 2021. This means that:

- the Foundation tier Writing exam will last for **one hour and five minutes**
- the Higher tier Writing exam will last for **one hour and 20 minutes**.