

Gaining qualifications in your native language

Dear Overseas Pupil

During your time at Sedbergh School, you may wish to sit an examination in your native language to gain a qualification in that language. Some pupils like to earn additional qualifications to enhance their academic record. Whilst this is not a necessary qualification for you, it is not uncommon and if you feel motivated to do so, please read this information carefully. For all these exams, you will need to be here at Sedbergh during the Summer Term. Results are published with all the public examination results in August.

Year 11: IGCSE in French/German/Spanish

You can be entered in for an IGCSE in these three languages. We enter candidates in for the CIE IGCSE, which you can read more about here:

FRENCH: <http://www.cie.org.uk/programmes-and-qualifications/cambridge-igcse-french-foreign-language-0520/>

GERMAN: <http://www.cie.org.uk/programmes-and-qualifications/cambridge-igcse-german-foreign-language-0525/>

SPANISH: <http://www.cie.org.uk/programmes-and-qualifications/cambridge-igcse-spanish-foreign-language-0530/>

The exams take place in the Summer Term. There are four papers that each test a different skill: listening, reading, writing and speaking. The speaking test is conducted by an MFL teacher here in school.

Sixth Form : A Levels in French/German/Spanish/Russian/Chinese

If you are spending either one or two years in the Sixth Form, you are eligible to be entered for an A level (NOT AS) in these languages. There are usually three exams in each language: a speaking exam, a written paper that tests listening, reading and writing and an additional literature/film written paper.

French/German/Spanish (AQA):

<http://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/languages/as-and-a-level>

Russian (Edexcel):

<https://qualifications.pearson.com/en/qualifications/edexcel-a-levels/russian-2017.html>

Chinese (Edexcel):

<https://qualifications.pearson.com/en/qualifications/edexcel-a-levels/chinese-2017.html>

Information about these qualifications can be found on the above links. A certain amount of independent research and reading must be prepared in advance of sitting the examinations, and whilst we can offer guidance on exam technique, we are unable to teach to the requirements of the qualification in Russian/Chinese. You are expected to prepare for these independently. There will also be meetings to attend in preparation for the examinations and deadlines to keep to in terms of choosing topics. Failure to commit fully to these examinations may result in you being withdrawn from the examination.

Key dates:

- Deadline for expressing an initial interest with the Head of MFL: October Half Term
- Deadline for confirming entry: Start of Lent Term
- Deadline for choosing 'Chosen Topic' where relevant: February Half Term

Other languages:

If your native language is not offered above and you would like to express an interest in sitting an examination, please contact the Head of MFL as soon as possible to discuss what options may be available.

If you have any questions or queries about any aspect of these arrangements, please do not hesitate to contact the Head of Modern Foreign Languages Wendy Swan (ws@sedberghschool.org).