

Gaining qualifications in your native language

Dear International 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. This 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 / Chinese (Mandarin) / Japanese / Russian

You can be entered in for an (I)GCSE in these six languages. We enter candidates for: IGCSE French (9-1), German (9-1) & Spanish (9-1) with Cambridge International Exam Board (which you can read more about here):

<https://www.cambridgeinternational.org/programmes-and-qualifications/cambridge-secondary-2/cambridge-igcse/subjects/>

GCSE Chinese (Mandarin) (9-1), Japanese (9-1) & Russian (9-1) with Edexcel Exam Board (which you can read more about here):

<https://qualifications.pearson.com/en/qualifications/edexcel-gcses/modern-languages-2016.html>

These exams take place in the Summer Term. There are four papers and each tests a different skill: listening, reading, writing and speaking. Note that the speaking tests for French & Spanish are conducted by an MFL teacher here in school & for the other languages, by a visiting examiner.

Years 12 & 13:** A2 in French / German / Spanish / Japanese / Chinese (Mandarin) / Russian

You may be entered in for the A2 level in either the Lower Sixth (Y12) or Upper Sixth (Y13). (Entering in Y12 has the advantage that you can concentrate solely on this exam and sit your other subjects the following year.)

You can be entered in for a GCE A Level in these six languages. We enter candidates for: GCE A Level French, German, & Spanish with AQA Exam Board (which you can read more about here):

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

GCE Chinese (Mandarin), Japanese & Russian with Edexcel Exam Board (which you can read more about here):

<https://qualifications.pearson.com/en/qualifications/edexcel-a-levels/modern-languages-2016.html>

As with the (I)GCSEs, the final A Level exams take place in the Summer Term. There are either two or three papers that each test a different skill: listening, reading, writing and speaking. The speaking tests for French & Spanish are conducted by an MFL teacher here in school & the other languages by a visiting examiner. (Japanese has no speaking assessment.)

****Important:** Please note that even though the A Level examination is in your native language, a considerable amount of time will need to be spent on independent research and reading well in advance of sitting the final A2 examination. Also, regarding A Level qualifications specifically in German / Chinese (Mandarin) / Japanese / Russian; whilst the MFL department here at Sedbergh can offer guidance on exam technique and which books / films to study, we are unable to teach to the requirements of the qualifications itself and you may well benefit from arranging an independent tutor for these languages.

You are expected to prepare for all of these qualifications independently (only candidates for A Level French & A Level Spanish may be able to sit in on some, but not all, timetabled lessons). There will also be meetings to attend in preparation for the final 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, Mrs. Maria Duckham (mvd@sedberghschool.org)