

MFL GCSEs (9-1)

Speaking endorsement for private and non-taught learners

Frequently Asked Questions

Arabic, Chinese, French, German, Greek, Gujarati, Italian, Japanese, Persian, Portuguese, Russian, Spanish, Turkish, Urdu





2021 GCSE Speaking endorsement

Private and non-taught candidates

These FAQs should be read in conjunction with the [FAQs for Summer 2021 exams](#)

Which candidates are covered by the guidance below?

- (a) Private candidates
- (b) Candidates being entered by their school/college for a qualification in a language for which the school/college does not have a teacher (non-taught learners).

Can private candidates get a Speaking endorsement?

Yes, if they get the agreement of a school/college to submit endorsement levels and authenticate them by signing the Centre declaration form (the Centre declaration form will shortly be made available on the Pearson website). The candidate must also meet the other requirements explained below.

Can a school/college give a Speaking endorsement to its students in a language it doesn't offer, ie a language for which it has no teacher (non-taught learners)?

Yes, provided a Centre declaration form is submitted along with the endorsement levels (the Centre declaration form will shortly be made available on the Pearson website). The school/college must also meet the other requirements explained below.

Do centres have to let exam boards know in advance if they are going to be sending Speaking endorsements for private candidates and/or for their own students in a language for which they have no teacher?

Yes. Schools/colleges should use the Centre notification form which will shortly be made available on the Pearson website.

Who will provide the endorsement level for private candidates and for students where the school/college they attend has no teacher in the language in question?

The endorsement level can be provided by a supplementary school or community school, by a private tutor or by a speaker of the language who is **not a relative or friend of the student** who will act as Assessor.



Does the school/college need to arrange to get an endorsement for any private candidates and any of its own students being entered in a language for which it has no teacher?

Yes. It is the responsibility of the school/college to liaise with the supplementary/community school or private tutor or find a speaker of the language who is not a relative or friend of the student. Ofqual has stated that awarding organisations must require each centre to provide them with a, 'spoken language statement', confirming that it has taken reasonable steps to ensure there is an opportunity for an assessment of spoken language for every learner. (The Centre declaration form which contains this spoken language statement will shortly be made available on the Pearson website).

If a Centre fails to provide a spoken language statement to the awarding organisation, this will be considered as malpractice. A Learner who is not granted the opportunity for an assessment of spoken language will receive a result of 'not classified.'

How can the school/college get the endorsement level from the supplementary/community school, private tutor or Assessor – what is the process?

The school/college must obtain from the Assessor a completed Assessor declaration form which lists the endorsement levels recommended for each student (the Assessor declaration form will shortly be made available on the Pearson website). The Assessor must sign the form, confirming that he/she is fully familiar with the common assessment criteria published by Ofqual and has assessed the student(s) against these common criteria. The school/college must complete their sections of the Assessor declaration form and keep the Assessor declaration form securely until results day. The centre must also complete the Centre declaration form and send it to the exam board along with the endorsement levels. Full details of how centres submit the endorsement levels will follow in due course.

Where can schools/colleges or Assessors find a blank Assessor form?

It will shortly be available to download from the Pearson website.

How and where are students' speaking skills assessed?

Students' speaking skills can be assessed in person eg in a registered centre or supplementary/community school or with a private tutor, or remotely via online technology if required.

Can students be assessed via a one-off performance?

Yes, the endorsement does allow for assessment via a one-off performance where this is deemed to be the most appropriate, including via remote assessment by centres. In this circumstance, teachers must ensure that any one-off assessment covers all of the requirements of the assessment criteria (see the next FAQ for suggestions on how this



can be achieved). In addition, teachers should make themselves familiar with the requirements in relation to spoken language assessments, included on pages 17 to 21 of *Ofqual's GCSE Subject Level Conditions and Requirements for Modern Foreign Languages and Certificate Requirements (2021)*.

How much speaking would need to be assessed in a one-off performance?

It is important to say that there are no formal requirements or arrangements set down by Ofqual or awarding organisations. The assessor can choose how they assess students' speaking, as long as students are given the opportunity to meet all the assessment criteria for speaking. However, we recognise that teachers have been seeking guidance on the amount of evidence needed if the endorsement is to be awarded based on a one-off performance. We therefore set out below some guidance which will help centres in this respect. **Please note that this is guidance only and that the suggestions given are neither prescriptive nor exhaustive.**

Ofqual's requirements state that to be awarded a Pass, Merit or Distinction, learners must take part in **different tasks** across a **variety of themes** and that the assessment criteria are designed to be used across a **range of ... purposes ...**. Whilst this will be easier to achieve within a classroom situation where teachers can assess their learners on an ongoing basis (the speaking endorsement was introduced to allow for students to be assessed during normal classroom activities, in order to maximise time for teaching and learning which has been disrupted because of Covid 19), we have set out below some guidance for teachers on some of the terms used and what would constitute the minimum to satisfy the criteria:

- **different tasks**: our guidance is that *different* constitutes at least **two** different tasks (see below for further guidance on tasks)
- **variety of themes**: our guidance is that a *variety* constitutes aspects of at least **two** different topics each based on a different theme.
Note: themes and topics must be taken from those within the specification.
- a **range of ... purposes ...** : our guidance is that a *range* constitutes at least **two** of the *purposes* suggested by Ofqual ie conversations, presentations, transactions, formal and informal settings, descriptions and narrations (again, the suggestions given are neither prescriptive nor exhaustive).

Possible one-off assessments could be as follows:

- A description/interview/narration based on a picture, photo* or object, (possibly even brought in by the student themselves), based on one theme plus a conversation covering at least another different theme. The requirement to ask questions could be covered in the picture/photo/object task or in the conversation. Teachers could decide to give their students some preparation time if using stimulus materials for this task.
- Role play task* on one theme plus a conversation covering at least another different theme. The requirement to ask questions could be covered in the role-



play or the conversation. Teachers could decide to give their students some preparation time if using stimulus materials for the role-play.

- Presentation and discussion on one theme plus a conversation on at least another different theme. The requirement to ask questions could be covered in the presentation and discussion task or in the conversation. Teachers could allow students to prepare a presentation in advance.
- A description/interview/narration based on a book or a film of the student's choice (based on one of the themes) plus a conversation on at least another different theme. The requirement to ask questions could be covered in the book/film task or the conversation.
- A mixture of any of these tasks **or any other task** the teacher feels is appropriate, as long as the assessment covers as a minimum two different themes, two different tasks, and two different purposes.

*The photo/role-play tasks could be based on materials that have formed part of previous formal assessments produced by the awarding organisation or any other kinds of materials.

Will any details of the assessment occasions(s) (eg dates, recordings, standardisation etc) be required by the school/college or by the exam board?

No. The school/college is not required to provide to the exam board any information to accompany the endorsement levels beyond that required on the Centre declaration form.