



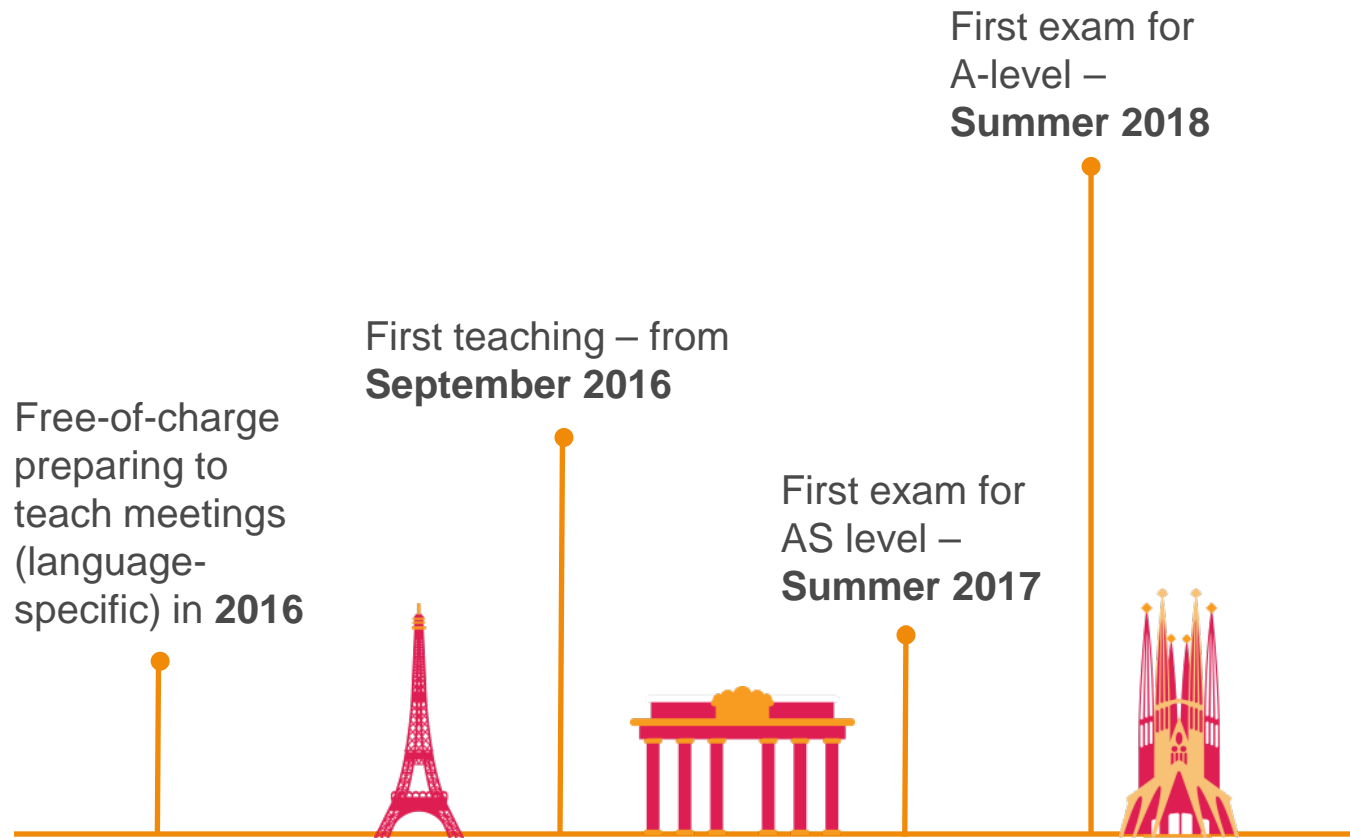
AS and A-level languages

The accredited specifications



A-level

Timelines *French, German and Spanish*



Structure of specifications

- A-level will be a 2-year linear course with all assessment at the end of Year 2
- AS is a standalone qualification at the same standard as current AS
- New AS will be co-teachable with A-level, but students who sit AS cannot count this assessment towards their A-level result
- Same grading system as current qualifications:
 - A – E for AS
 - A* – E for A-level



Year 1/AS themes

Area of interest: Social issues and trends

Themes:

- Aspects of French-speaking society: current trends/Aspects of German - speaking society/Aspects of Hispanic society

Area of interest: Political and/or intellectual and/or artistic culture

Themes:

- Artistic culture in the French-speaking/
German-speaking/Hispanic world



Year 2/A-level themes

Area of interest: Social issues and trends

Themes:

- Aspects of French-speaking society: current issues
- Multiculturalism in the German-speaking world
- Multiculturalism in the Hispanic world

Area of interest: Political and/or intellectual and/or artistic culture

Themes:

- Aspects of political life in the French-speaking/
German-speaking/Hispanic world



AS and A-level French themes and sub-themes

Aspects of French-speaking society: current trends (AS & A-level)

- The changing nature of family
- The 'cyber-society'
- The place of voluntary work

Aspects of French-speaking society: current issues (A-level)

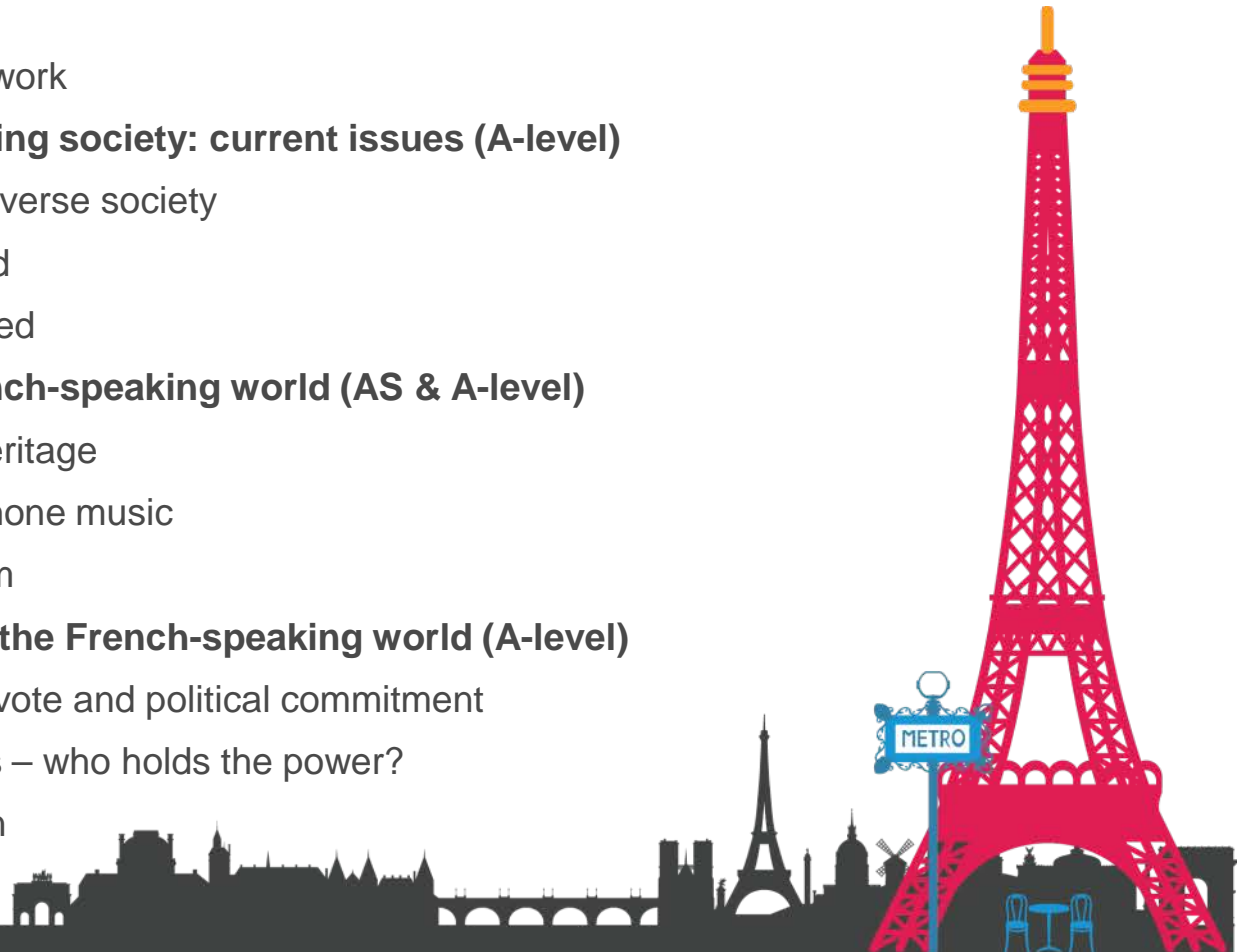
- Positive features of a diverse society
- Life for the marginalised
- How criminals are treated

Artistic culture in the French-speaking world (AS & A-level)

- A culture proud of its heritage
- Contemporary francophone music
- Cinema: the 7th art form

Aspects of political life in the French-speaking world (A-level)

- Teenagers, the right to vote and political commitment
- Demonstrations, strikes – who holds the power?
- Politics and immigration



AS and A-level German themes and sub-themes

Aspects of German-speaking society (AS & A-level)

- The changing state of the family
- The digital world
- Youth culture: fashion and trends, music, television

Multiculturalism in German-speaking society (A-level)

- Immigration
- Integration
- Racism

Artistic culture in the German-speaking world (AS & A-level)

- Festivals and traditions
- Art and architecture
- Cultural life in Berlin, past and present

Aspects of political life in the German-speaking world (A-level)

- Germany and the European Union
- Politics and youth
- German re-unification and its consequences



AS and A-level Spanish themes and sub-themes

Aspects of Hispanic society (AS & A-level)

- Modern and traditional values
- Cyberspace
- Equal rights

Multiculturalism in Hispanic society (A-level)

- Immigration
- Racism
- Integration

Artistic culture in the Hispanic world (AS & A-level)

- Modern day idols
- Spanish regional identity
- Cultural heritage

Aspects of political life in the Hispanic world (A-level)

- Today's youth, tomorrow's citizens
- Monarchies and dictatorships
- Popular movements



Specification at a glance: AS

AS Paper 1

- Written exam: 1 hour 45 minutes
- Listening, Reading, Translation into English
- 90 marks
- 45% of AS

AS Paper 2

- Written exam: 1 hour 30 minutes
- Translation into target language, Essay on set text or film
- 50 marks
- 25% of AS

AS Paper 3

- Oral exam: 12-14 minutes (plus 15 minutes preparation time)
- Discussion of two sub-themes, based on stimulus cards
- 60 marks
- 30% of AS

Specification at a glance: A-level

A-level Paper 1

- Written exam: 2 hours 30 minutes
- Listening, Reading, Translation into English, Translation into target language
- 100 marks
- 50% of A-level

A-level Paper 2

- Written exam: 2 hours
- 2 essays on set texts/films
- 80 marks
- 20% of A-level

A-level Paper 3

- Oral exam 21-23 minutes (including 5 minutes preparation time)
- Discussion of a sub-theme based on a stimulus card
- Presentation and discussion of individual research project
- 60 marks
- 30% of A-level

Co-teachability Year 1

All students can be taught together. The whole class studies:

- one theme from Social issues and trends
- one theme from Political and/or intellectual and/or artistic culture
- one book or film
- grammar

At the end of Year 12 students decide to:

- continue straight to A-level with no exam
- sit AS level exams and finish with an AS level qualification
- sit AS level exams then decide whether to continue to A-level



Co-teachability Year 2

Students who continue to A-level study:

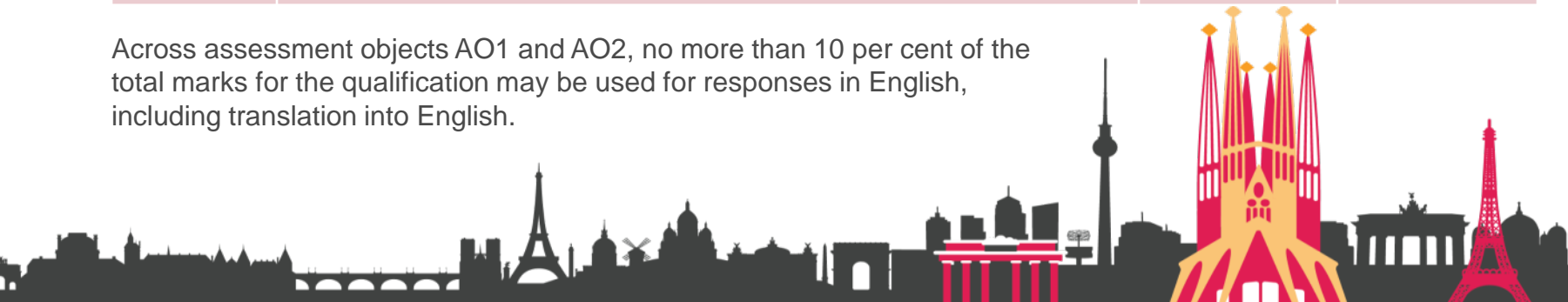
- a further theme from Social issues and trends
- a further theme from Political and/or intellectual and/or artistic culture
- one book (or if book studied in year 1, one film or a second book)
- grammar
- individual research project for speaking assessment



Assessment Objectives and weightings

	Objective	Weighting (A level)	Weighting (AS)
AO1	Understand and respond: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • in speech to spoken language including face-to-face interaction; • in writing to spoken language drawn from a variety of sources. 	20%	20%
AO2	Understand and respond: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • in speech to written language drawn from a variety of sources; • in writing to written language drawn from a variety of sources. 	30%	30%
AO3	Manipulate the language accurately, in spoken and written forms, using a range of lexis and structure	30%	30%
AO4 (AS)	Show knowledge and understanding of, and respond critically to, different aspects of the culture and society of countries/communities where the language is spoken.	n/a	20%
AO4 (A-level)	Show knowledge and understanding of, and respond critically and analytically to, different aspects of the culture and society of countries/communities where the language is spoken.	20%	n/a

Across assessment objects AO1 and AO2, no more than 10 per cent of the total marks for the qualification may be used for responses in English, including translation into English.



Works

AS

- One book **OR** one film from the list prescribed in the specification.

A-level

- One book and one film **OR** two books from the list prescribed in the specification.

No access to books or films during the assessment.



French – set texts

Molière: *Le Tartuffe*

Voltaire: *Candide*

Maupassant: *Boule de suif et autres contes de la guerre*

Camus: *L'étranger*

Sagan: *Bonjour tristesse*

Etcherelli: *Elise ou la vraie vie*

Joffo: *Un sac de billes*

Guène: *Kiffe kiffe demain*

Grimbert: *Un secret*

de Vigan: *No et moi*

French – set films

Les 400 coups (1959)

Au revoir les enfants (1987)

La haine (1995)

L'auberge espagnole (2002)

Un long dimanche de fiançailles (2004)

Entre les murs (2008)

German – set texts

Böll: *Die verlorene Ehre der Katharina Blum*

Brecht: *Mutter Courage*

Dürrenmatt: *Der Besuch der alten Dame*

Frisch: *Andorra*

Heine: *Gedichte – Buch der Lieder*

Hensel: *Zonenkinder*

Kafka: *Die Verwandlung*

Kaminer: *Russendisko*

Lenz: *Fundbüro*

Schlink: *Der Vorleser*

German – set films

Almanya – Willkommen in Deutschland

Das Leben der Anderen

Die fetten Jahre sind vorbei

Goodbye, Lenin!

Lola rennt

Sophie Scholl – Die letzten Tage

Spanish – set texts

Márquez: *Crónica de una muerte anunciada*

Esquivel: *Como agua para chocolate*

Lorca: *La Casa de Bernarda Alba*

Zafón: *La sombra del viento*

Isabel Allende: *La casa de los espíritus*

Sender: *Réquiem por un campesino español*

Bécquer: *Rimas*

Fernando Fernán-Gómez: *Las bicicletas son para el verano*

Luis de Castresana: *El otro árbol de Guernica*

Márquez: *El Coronel no tiene quien le escriba*

Spanish – set films

Volver

El laberinto del fauno

Ocho apellidos vascos

María, llena eres de gracia

Abel

Las 13 Rosas

Individual research project

- Students identify a subject or key question
- Based on a country/community where target language is spoken
- Students select information from sources including internet
- Students present and discuss findings in speaking assessment
- Topic may be linked to a theme or a work
- Research is individual
- Illustrative examples available from A-level Content Advisory Board (ALCAB) at alcab.org.uk



AS and A-level

Grammar

AS and A-level lists published in the DfE subject content have been published in the specifications. These are very similar to the current lists and indicate where structures are for receptive use only.

Dictionaries

No dictionaries are permitted either during the assessments or during the preparation time for the speaking assessment.



AS Paper 1

What's assessed

- Aspects of French/German-speaking/Hispanic society
- Artistic culture in the French/German-speaking/Hispanic world
- Grammar

How it's assessed

- Written exam: 1 hour 45 minutes
- 90 marks
- 45% of AS-level

Questions

- Listening and responding to spoken passages from a range of contexts and sources.
- Questions in the target language to be answered with non-verbal responses or in the target language (35 marks)
- Reading and responding to a variety of texts written for different purposes
- Questions in the target language to be answered with non-verbal responses or in the target language (45 marks)
- Translation into English; a passage of minimum 70 words (10 marks)

AS Paper 2

What's assessed

- One book or one film from the lists in the specification
- Grammar

How it's assessed

- Written exam: 1 hour 30 minutes
- 50 marks
- 25% of AS level

Questions

- Translation into target language; 5 sentences amounting to a minimum of 70 words (15 marks).
- Either one question on a set text **OR** one question on a set film (35 marks)
- All questions will require a critical response
- No access to texts or films during the assessment



AS Paper 3: Speaking

What's assessed

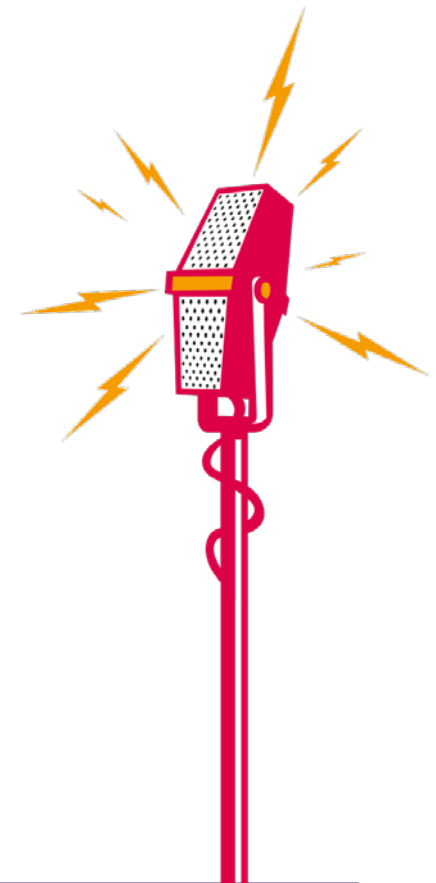
- One sub-theme from Aspects of French/German/Hispanic-speaking society and one sub-theme from Artistic culture in French/German/Hispanic-speaking society.

How it's assessed

- Oral exam: 12-14 minutes
- 60 marks
- 30% of AS-level

Questions

- Discussion of two sub-themes with the discussion based on a stimulus card. The student studies the card for 15 minutes before the test begins.
- No access to a dictionary during the assessment or during the preparation time
- Students may take the assessment only once before certification



A-level Paper 1

What's assessed

- Aspects of French-speaking society: current trends/Aspects of German-speaking society/Aspects of Hispanic society
- Aspects of French-speaking society: current issues/Multiculturalism in German-speaking society/Multiculturalism in Hispanic society
- Artistic culture in the French-speaking/German-speaking/Hispanic world
- Aspects of political life in the French-speaking/German-speaking/Hispanic world
- Grammar

How it's assessed

- Written exam: 2.5 hours
- 100 marks in total
- 50% of A-level

Questions

- Listening and responding to spoken passages from a range of contexts and sources
- Questions in the target language to be answered with non-verbal responses or in the target language (30 marks)
- Reading and responding to a variety of texts written for different purposes
- Questions in the target language to be answered with non-verbal responses or in the target language (50 marks)
- Translation into English; a passage of minimum 100 words (10 marks)
- Translation into the target language; a passage of minimum 100 words (10 marks).

A-level Paper 2

What's assessed

- One book and one film or two books from the list set in the specification
- Grammar

How it's assessed

- Written exam: 2 hours
- 80 marks in total
- 20% of A-level

Questions

- Either one question on a set text and one question on a set film **OR** two questions on set texts
- All questions will require a critical appreciation
- No access to texts or films during the assessment



A-level Paper 3: Speaking

What's assessed

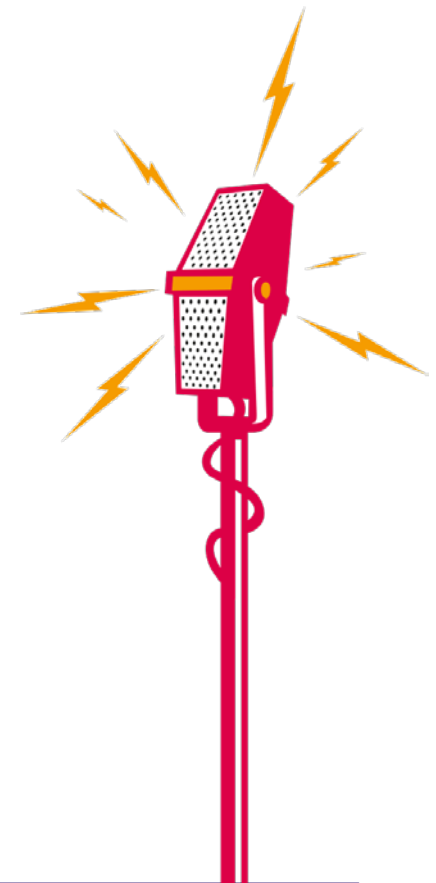
- Individual research project
- One of 12 sub-themes

How it's assessed

- Oral exam: 21-23 minutes (including 5 minutes preparation time)
- 60 marks in total
- 30% of A-level

Questions

- Discussion of a sub-theme with the discussion based on a stimulus card. The student studies the card for 5 minutes at the start of the test (25 marks)
- Presentation and discussion of individual research project (35 marks)
- Students may take the assessment only once before certification



Resources

- Full set of specimen materials.
- Additional set of specimen materials.
- Schemes of work with mapping of content and grammar support and resources.
- Marked student work with commentaries.
- Endorsed publisher resources (OUP and Hodder have entered the AQA approval process).
- Planned publication of new textbooks:
 - Hodder (AS and A-level combined) – May 2016
 - OUP (AS/A-level year 1) – May 2016
 - OUP (A-level year 2) – Spring term 2017- see OUP/Hodder websites for details.
- Tips on teaching literature and film.
- Translation practice especially for AS.
- Grammar practice.
- Guide to Independent Research Project.
- Resources for films and set texts.



Help and support

We're here to support you throughout the exam changes and beyond.

Sign up for our email updates to get information about the changes, details of free Prepare to teach meetings and available support materials

aqa.org.uk/languagesupdates

- Visit **aqa.org.uk/speakyourlanguage**
- Email **mfl@aca.org.uk**
- Call **01423 534381**

We speak your language.

