

An Introduction: Community Languages

At Stoke Newington, we value the diverse nature of our community, and are keen to highlight the importance of language learning in multi-national London.

Therefore, we are offering to enter your son or daughter to take a language that they speak at home for a GCSE. This gives them an excellent opportunity to have an additional GCSE and to work towards a real qualification in their second language.

Although the school will advise and guide these students, it is important to highlight that they will not receive lessons or tuition at school for these languages. **It is therefore imperative that they are already confident in listening, speaking, reading and writing. They will also need to commit to work independently for these exams.**

In this booklet, we will outline:

- The requirements from students
- The languages available
- The course overview (specification) for the different examination boards
- Key dates and deadlines
- Information on Controlled Assessment
- Resources and useful websites

We hope that this booklet, and the scheduled parent's evening will provide you with all of the information that you need, but please do not hesitate to contact the Lead on Community Languages if you have any further queries (details below)

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GCSE Community Languages

There are 3 examination boards that offer Community Languages. These are Edexcel, AQA and OCR. The course varies slightly for each exam board, so it is important to know which exam board you will be following so that you can read the specification carefully.

Please see a list below of common languages. If the language you are interested in is not on this list, please contact Ms Davidson.

Edexcel	AQA	OCR
Arabic	Polish	Dutch
Urdu	Bengali	Gujrati
Chinese		Persian
Japanese		Portuguese
French		Turkish
Spanish		
German		
Italian		
Modern Greek		
Russian		

The specifications and information for all of these can be found online at:

<http://qualifications.pearson.com/en/qualifications/edexcel-gcses.html>

<http://www.ocr.org.uk/Images/82557-specification.pdf>

<http://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/languages/gcse/polish-4685>

<http://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/languages/gcse/bengali-4635>

Alternatively, Ms Davidson can provide you with copies of the specification via email, or on a USB that your son/daughter had brought to the MFL office. **It is important to read these specifications in detail to familiarise yourself with the course.**

Please see the list below for a brief outline of the requirements for each language.

Course Overviews: Community Languages

Arabic (Edexcel): Listening exam- 45 minutes (23% of final GCSE), Reading exam- 55 minutes (23% of final GCSE), Writing exam (externally assessed and UNSEEN)- 2 pieces of writing- 1 hour (27% of final GCSE), Speaking exam (externally assessed, and completed in a 2 week slot specified by Edexcel) – 2 recordings – 4-6 minutes per recording (27% of final GCSE)

Bengali (AQA): Listening exam – 40 minutes (25% of final GCSE), Reading exam -50 minutes (25% of final GCSE), Speaking exam (externally assessed- 2 recordings – 4-6 minutes per recording (25% of final GCSE), Writing exam – 1 hour (25% of final GCSE)

Chinese (Edexcel): Listening exam- 45 minutes (20% of final GCSE), Reading exam- 50 minutes (20% of final GCSE), Writing exam (externally assessed- 2 pieces of writing- 1 hour (30% of final GCSE), Speaking exam (internally assessed) – 2 recordings – 4-6 minutes per recording (30% of final GCSE)

Dutch (OCR): Listening exam – 50 minutes (25% of final GCSE), Reading exam – 1 hour (25% of final GCSE), Writing exam (externally assessed- 2 pieces of writing – 1 hour (25% of final GCSE), Speaking exam (externally assessed) – 2 recordings -5 minutes per recording (25% of final GCSE)

French (Edexcel): Listening exam -40 minutes (20% of final GCSE), Reading exam – 50 minutes (20% of final GCSE), Speaking exam (internally assessed) – 2 recordings – 4-6 minutes per recording (30% of final GCSE), Writing exam (externally assessed) – 2 pieces of writing – 1 hour (30% of final GCSE)

German (Edexcel): Listening exam -40 minutes (20% of final GCSE), Reading exam – 50 minutes (20% of final GCSE), Speaking exam (internally assessed) – 2 recordings – 4-6 minutes per recording (30% of final GCSE), Writing exam (externally assessed) – 2 pieces of writing – 1 hour (30% of final GCSE)

Gujrati (OCR): Listening exam – 50 minutes (25% of final GCSE), Reading exam – 1 hour (25% of final GCSE), Writing exam (externally assessed- 2 pieces of writing – 1 hour (25% of final GCSE), Speaking exam (externally assessed) – 2 recordings -5 minutes per recording (25% of final GCSE)

Italian (Edexcel): Listening exam -40 minutes (20% of final GCSE), Reading exam – 50 minutes (20% of final GCSE), Speaking exam (internally assessed) – 2 recordings – 4-6 minutes per recording (30% of final GCSE), Writing exam (externally assessed) – 2 pieces of writing – 1 hour (30% of final GCSE)

Japanese (Edexcel): Listening exam – 50 minutes (23% of final GCSE), Reading exam – 55 minutes (23% of final GCSE), Speaking exam (externally assessed) – 2 recordings- 4-6

minutes per recording (27% of final GCSE), Writing exam (externally assessed) – 2 pieces of writing (27% of final GCSE)

Modern Greek (Edexcel): Listening exam – 50 minutes (23% of final GCSE), Reading exam – 55 minutes (23% of final GCSE), Speaking exam (externally assessed) – 2 recordings- 4-6 minutes per recording (27% of final GCSE), Writing exam (externally assessed) – 2 pieces of writing (27% of final GCSE)

Persian (OCR): Listening exam – 50 minutes (25% of final GCSE), Reading exam – 1 hour (25% of final GCSE), Writing exam (externally assessed- 2 pieces of writing – 1 hour (25% of final GCSE), Speaking exam (externally assessed) – 2 recordings -5 minutes per recording (25% of final GCSE)

Polish (AQA): Listening exam – 45 minutes (25% of final GCSE), Reading exam – 1 hour (25% of final GCSE), Speaking exam (externally assessed) – 2 recordings- 4-6 minutes per recording (25% of final GCSE), Writing exam – 1 hour with a dictionary (25% of final GCSE)

Portuguese (OCR): Listening exam – 50 minutes (25% of final GCSE), Reading exam – 1 hour (25% of final GCSE), Writing exam (externally assessed- 2 pieces of writing – 1 hour (25% of final GCSE), Speaking exam (externally assessed) – 2 recordings -5 minutes per recording (25% of final GCSE)

Russian (Edexcel): Listening exam – 50 minutes (23% of final GCSE), Reading exam – 55 minutes (23% of final GCSE), Speaking exam (externally assessed) – 2 recordings – 4-6 minutes per recording (27% of final GCSE), Writing exam (externally assessed) – 2 pieces of writing – 1 hour (27% of final GCSE)

Spanish (Edexcel): Listening exam -40 minutes (20% of final GCSE), Reading exam – 50 minutes (20% of final GCSE), Speaking exam (internally assessed) – 2 recordings – 4-6 minutes per recording (30% of final GCSE), Writing exam (externally assessed) – 2 pieces of writing – 1 hour (30% of final GCSE)

Turkish (OCR): Listening exam – 50 minutes (25% of final GCSE), Reading exam – 1 hour (25% of final GCSE), Writing exam (externally assessed- 2 pieces of writing – 1 hour (25% of final GCSE), Speaking exam (externally assessed) – 2 recordings -5 minutes per recording (25% of final GCSE)

Urdu (Edexcel): Listening exam – 40 minutes (20% of final GCSE), Reading exam – 50 minutes (20% of final GCSE), Speaking exam (internally assessed) – 2 recordings -4-6 minutes per recording (30% of final GCSE), Writing exam (externally assessed) – 2 pieces of writing (30% of final GCSE)

IMPORTANT: Requirements for students

What we can offer students:

- Access to specifications, past papers, mark schemes and resources.
- Guidance on the format of exams.
- Entry to all of the relevant modules for the GCSE.
- Organisation of speaking and writing examinations.
- A Community Languages Study Club every Monday B week at 3:15pm in F11.

What we cannot offer students:

- Lessons or tuition in the language they wish to be entered for.

For this reason, it is absolutely essential that your son/daughter is willing to work independently in preparing for speaking/writing exams, and revising for the reading and listening exams. Although they are welcome to attend Study Club, it will be completely up to them to ensure that they are prepared for these exams.

LEVEL OF LANGUAGE CHECKLIST:

Please see the list below. Your son/daughter should be able to tick all of the following in order for them to be successful in Community Languages.

1. I can speak the language accurately, formally and fluently.
2. I can write accurately, using the past, present and future tenses.
3. I know the difference between informal spoken language, and formal written language.
4. I can understand the language when it is spoken.
5. I can read the language fluently.

Key Events 2015-16- Dates to be confirmed.

Every Monday 3:15pm in F11: Community Languages Study Club

Deadline to register interest: Friday 8th February

Parent's Information Evening: To be confirmed

Writing Examination for French, Spanish, Italian and German: To be confirmed

Speaking Examinations: To be confirmed

Other exams:

- French Listening and Reading: Tues 17th May
- German Listening and Reading: Weds 8th June
- Italian Listening and Reading; Thurs 16th June
- Spanish Listening and Reading: Fri 20th May
- Turkish Listening: Weds 25th May
- Turkish Reading: Fri 20th May
- Turkish Writing: Fri 10th June
- Portuguese Listening: Weds 25th May
- Portuguese Reading: Fri 20th May
- Portuguese Writing: Fri 10th June
- Russian Listening and Reading: Friday 17th June
- Russian Writing: Thurs 23rd June
- Polish Listening: Weds 15th June
- Polish Reading: Tues 21st June
- Polish Writing: Tues 21st June

Resources and Websites:

<http://qualifications.pearson.com/en/qualifications/edexcel-gcses.html>

<http://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects>

<http://www.ocr.org.uk/>

Writing and Speaking Examination Preparation (Writing: French, Italian, German, Spanish. Speaking: French, Italian, German, Spanish, Arabic, Polish and Russian)

It is a good idea to start preparing for these straight away.

For the writing you need to: Create 2 pieces of writing at home, addressing all of the bullet points in the Task. You will then write both of these up on the day of the writing examination.

For the speaking you need to: Prepare to have 2 conversations. The first will be a question/answer-style discussion. The second will require you to do a 1 minute long presentation on the topic, and then answer some follow-up questions. You will have both of these two conversations on the day of your speaking exam, and they will be recorded.

Writing Task 1: My School

- Describe your daily routine
- Describe what you study at school giving opinions and reasons for why you like/dislike your subjects
- What did you used to study? Why did you drop it?
- How is your secondary school different to your primary school?
- Describe what you are going to do after your GCSE/A Level exams
- What would you like to do in the future?

Writing Task 2: Health

- What is your diet like? Are you healthy? Do you go to the gym/play sports?
- What were you like when you were younger? Were you healthier? Why?
- What are you going to do in the future to make sure that you maintain a healthy lifestyle?
- What do you think about drugs/cigarettes/alcohol?
- If your friend was taking drugs what advice would you give to them?

Speaking Task 1: My Town (Question and Answer)

- Describe your house and bedroom giving detail and opinions
- Describe your local area – what are the pros and cons ?
- Describe what you can do in your town/not do
- Describe how you would change your town if you could
- Where you would like to live in the future ? Why ?
- Where did you live when you were younger and what was it like ?

Speaking Task 2: Holidays (Presentation and Follow-up Discussion)

- **Presentation- 1 minute long: Describe a recent holiday – where did you go? Who with? How? What did you think of it?**
- What was the best moment of the holiday?
- What was the worst moment of the holiday ?
- Where do you normally go on holiday and what is it like ?
- Where are you going to go for Easter ?
- If you won the lottery where would you go on your dream holiday ?

Notes for parents about SPEAKING EXAMS:

As we are unable to speak many of these amazing community languages, we will need to ask for you to record the exam with your son or daughter.

We will provide you with exact guidelines on what to say on the day, but you will need to ask them the following types of questions in the language required. If you deviate from these questions, that's fine, but your son/daughter must speak in 3 different tenses.

Speaking Task 1: My Town (Question and Answer)

- Can you describe your house and your bedroom for me? Why do you like or dislike your house?
- What is your local area like? What are the advantages and disadvantages?
- If I were a tourist in your area, what could I do?
- Is there enough for young people to do in your area?
- How could you improve your local area?
- Can you describe your idea of a dream city?
- Where you would like to live in the future? Why?
- Where did you live when you were younger and what was it like?
- What is your favourite city in the world? Why?

Speaking Task 2: Holidays (Presentation and Follow-up Discussion)

- **Presentation: 1 minute long (prepared by student)**
- What was the best moment of the holiday you have just described?
- What was the worst moment of the holiday?
- Where do you normally go on holiday and what is it like?
- How do you usually travel there?
- Where are you going to go for your next holiday?
- If you won the lottery where would you go on your dream holiday?
- Do you prefer to go abroad, or stay in England during the holidays? Why?
- In your opinion, are holidays for relaxing, or should you do something productive?