

## Modern Foreign Languages

OCR Advanced Subsidiary GCE in French H075

OCR Advanced Subsidiary GCE in German H076

OCR Advanced Subsidiary GCE in Spanish H077

OCR Advanced GCE in French H475

OCR Advanced GCE in German H476

OCR Advanced GCE in Spanish H477

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**specification**

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Vertical black lines indicate a significant change to the previous printed version. Changes can be found on pages 15, 17, 36 and 38.

# 1 About these Qualifications

This booklet contains OCR's Advanced Subsidiary GCE and Advanced GCE specifications in French, German and Spanish for teaching from September 2008.

OCR has developed this specification in response to the national subject criteria published by the QCA in 2006. It incorporates aspects of the previously successful specification and features:

- a compact four-unit structure, reducing the examination burden on candidates and teachers;
- an updated list of topics for study;
- the opportunity to study the topics from a variety of traditional and new media from books, newspapers and magazines, literary texts and film;
- the opportunity to demonstrate knowledge of the topics in listening, reading, speaking and writing;
- greater stretch and challenge for the most able candidates.

The national subject criteria stipulate that there should no longer be any internally assessed units, and that a candidate's knowledge and understanding of the target language society should no longer be assessed as a separate element.

The four units of assessment are two at Advanced Subsidiary level and two at Advanced level, for the qualification of GCE in French, German and Spanish.

## 1.1 The Two-Unit AS

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The Advanced Subsidiary GCE is both a 'stand-alone' qualification and also the first half of the corresponding Advanced GCE. The AS GCE is assessed at a standard appropriate for candidates who have completed the first year of study (both in terms of teaching time and content) of the corresponding two-year Advanced GCE course, i.e. between GCSE and Advanced GCE.

From September 2008 the AS GCE is made up of **two** mandatory units, which are externally assessed and form 50% of the corresponding four-unit Advanced GCE.

**Unit 1** is the speaking test, with a role-play and topic discussion. It represents 30% of the marks for AS (15% of A Level).

**Unit 2** is a written paper, testing the other three skills and with a variety of listening, reading and writing tasks. It represents 70% of the marks for AS (35% of A Level).

For full information about the units, see Appendix B.

## 1.2 The Four-Unit Advanced GCE

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From September 2008 the Advanced GCE is made up of **two** mandatory units at AS and **two** further mandatory units at A2. These A2 units are also externally assessed.

**Unit 3** is the speaking test, with the discussion of an article in the target language and topic discussion. It represents 15% of the marks for A Level.

**Unit 4** is a written paper, testing the other three skills, with a variety of tasks involving comprehension and manipulation of language as well as an extended essay. It represents 35% of the marks for A Level.

For full information about the units, see Appendix B.

## 1.3 Qualification Titles and Levels

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These qualifications are shown on a certificate as:

- OCR Advanced Subsidiary GCE in French, German or Spanish.
- OCR Advanced GCE in French, German or Spanish

Both qualifications are Level 3 in the National Qualification Framework (NQF).

## 1.4 Aims

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The aims of these specifications are to encourage students to:

- develop an interest in, and an enthusiasm for, language learning;
- develop understanding of the language in a variety of contexts and genres;
- communicate confidently, clearly and effectively in the language for a range of purposes;
- develop awareness and understanding of the contemporary society, cultural background and heritage of countries or communities where the language is spoken;
- consider their study of the language in a broader context.

The specification also aims to:

- provide a coherent, satisfying and worthwhile course of study for students who do not progress to further study in the subject;

and in addition, at A Level, to:

- provide a sufficient basis for the further study of languages at degree level or equivalent.

## 1.5 Prior Learning/Attainment

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It is recommended that students beginning to study French/German/Spanish at AS and A Level should have the knowledge, understanding and skills equivalent to those for GCSE at Higher tier in the language.

# 2 Summary of Content

## 2.1 AS Units

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Unit 1: *Speaking* (French F701/German F711/Spanish F721)

Unit 2: *Listening, Reading and Writing 1* (French F702/German F712/Spanish F722)

### 2.1.1 Knowledge, Understanding and Skills

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AS candidates will be required to:

- listen and respond to a variety of spoken sources, including authentic sources;
- read and respond to a variety of written texts, including authentic sources, covering different contexts, registers, styles and genres;
- adapt their spoken and written language appropriately for different situations and purposes;
- use the language accurately to express facts and ideas and to present explanations, opinions and information in both speech and writing;
- transfer meaning from English, Welsh or Irish into the modern foreign language;
- understand and apply the grammatical system and a range of structures as detailed in the AS specification;
- study materials that illustrate aspects of the contemporary society, cultural background and heritage of one or more of the countries or communities where the language is spoken.

### 2.1.2 Language Topic Areas

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Spoken and written sources will include material that relates to the contemporary society, cultural background and heritage of one or more of the countries or communities where the language is spoken. The topic areas for the AS specifications are:

#### **Aspects of daily life sub-topics**

- The family: different structures and relationships; living conditions (housing, shopping and patterns of daily life)
- Food, drink, health, obsessions and addictions
- Transport: trends and patterns in usage (for the individual and at local and national levels).

#### **Leisure and entertainment sub-topics**

- Sport (including national sporting concerns and traditions)
- Tourism and related themes: tourism as a changing phenomenon; tourism and the environment
- Leisure activities: aspects of cultural life, e.g. film, theatre; the arts as part of leisure time.

### **Communication and media sub-topics**

- Communication technology: patterns and changes to communication in daily life
- Media, e.g. written press; radio; television (roles and influences).

### **Education and training sub-topics**

- School and school life: individual experiences; local and national concerns
- Work and training: individual experiences; school to work preparation, transition and aspirations.

## **2.1.3 Grammar**

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The grammatical content for study at AS has been agreed at a national level between QCA, all awarding bodies and professional teacher associations.

For full details, see Appendix C2.

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## 2.2 A2 Units

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Unit 3: *Speaking* (French F703/German F713/Spanish F723)

Unit 4: *Listening, Reading and Writing 2* (French F704/German F714/Spanish F724)

### 2.2.1 Knowledge, Understanding and Skills

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In addition to the requirements for the AS units, A Level candidates will be required to:

- use the language to present viewpoints, develop arguments, analyse and evaluate in speech and writing;
- transfer meaning from the modern foreign language into English, Welsh or Irish;
- understand and apply the grammatical system and a range of structures as detailed in the A Level specification;
- study aspects of the contemporary society, cultural background and heritage of one or more of the countries or communities whose language is being studied.

### 2.2.2 Language Topic Areas

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Spoken and written sources will include material that relates to the contemporary society, cultural background and heritage of one or more of the countries or communities where the language is spoken. The topic areas for the A2 specification are:

#### **Society sub-topics**

- Integration and exclusion: age; gender; race; religion; equality of opportunity
- Law and order: trends of crime and punishment; civil unrest; policing
- Unemployment: causes and consequences (local, national or global).

#### **The environment sub-topics**

- The individual and the environment: recycling; reducing individual energy usage and impact; local conservation
- Energy management: alternative energy sources; changing use of fossil fuels; nuclear energy; changing energy demands
- Pollution: causes; consequences; solutions
- Conservation of the natural world: changing habitats; impact of man and pollution; local, national or global initiatives.

## **Science and technology: impact and issues sub-topics**

- Medical progress: development and change – impacts on health care, lifestyles, ethics and beliefs
- Scientific advances: change and innovation – impacts and issues on society, knowledge, education
- Technological developments: change and development – impacts on lifestyles, habits, work and education.

## **Culture sub-topics**

- Literature and the arts: trends, changes, influences and impacts on individuals and society
- Political issues: changes at local and national level; impacts on the individual and society
- Heritage and history: influence and impacts of heritage (including colonial heritage) and historical events (national and international) on contemporary society.

### **2.2.3 Grammar**

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The grammatical content for study at A Level has been agreed at a national level between QCA, all awarding bodies and professional teacher associations.

For full details, see Appendix C2.

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# 3 Unit Content

## 3.1 AS Unit 1: *Speaking* (French F701/German F711/Spanish F721)

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The tasks are based on topics listed in the AS topic areas.

### Section A: Role-play

Using French, German or Spanish, candidates should be able to:

- explain the English stimulus material;
- understand and respond to the examiner.

### Section B: Topic discussion

Using French, German or Spanish, candidates should be able to:

- discuss a topic in detail, explaining facts and ideas and justifying points of view.
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## 3.2 AS Unit 2: *Listening, Reading and Writing 1* (French F702/German F712/Spanish F722)

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### Section A: Listening and writing

Candidates should be able to:

- understand the stimulus material;
- respond to tasks that do not involve productive use of French, German or Spanish;
- respond in English;
- respond by transferring meaning from English into French, German or Spanish.

### Section B: Reading and writing

Candidates should be able to:

- understand the stimulus material;
  - respond to tasks that do not involve productive use of French, German or Spanish;
  - respond in writing to tasks in French, German or Spanish – short answer format;
  - respond in writing to tasks in French, German or Spanish – extended answer format.
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