

Circular S/IF/16/11

January 2011

To: The Principals of Post Primary schools

For circulation to: Head of Modern Languages and Examinations Officers

OLA –Online Language Assessment

Important Information for OLA 2011 Summer Series

OLA has replaced the former Graded Objectives in Modern Languages scheme. As we approach the registration period for the summer 2011 series, I would like to draw your attention to a few changes which are important for both exams officers and teachers of the OLA scheme.

1. Dates for entering Candidates

Entries : Key Dates:

Winter Series: 7-21 October 2010

Summer Series: 7-21 February 2011

Please note that there are now 4 levels of OLA: Entry 2, Entry 3, Level 1 and Level 2. Please refer to the administration handbook for codes which have changed from the former GOML scheme.

2. End of Paper based tests

In the January series 2011 (i.e. Spring series) paper based tests were available as an option. Please note that in the summer series 2011, there will only be one option and that is online tests for OLA.

3. Support

In order to facilitate centers in making the transition from paper to online tests, we have already arranged many training sessions for centres during the pilot phase of 2009-2010. For those centres that have not yet ran tests electronically, a number of short sessions on the conduct of the online tests will be organized during the spring term. Please note that centres will receive notification of the proposed dates in due course. If you require guidance or advice on any aspect of OLA in advance of receiving the training dates, please contact me at radcliffe@ccea.org.uk or Mobile: 07747561766.

4. A note on the Speaking test

The speaking test has been modified as part of the revision process and will include questions, presentations and role plays. The new speaking template will be posted on the OLA website before 01/02/2011. The format is slightly different but hopefully the introduction of the option of a presentation will give centres more flexibility. The same topics and language content is addressed.

5. Additional information

Full information is now available on the CCEA.org.uk website and can be accessed at:
www.ccea.org.uk.

Information includes:

- Specification
- Support Documents
- Defined Language Content (core vocabulary)
- Self Assessment Grids (Tracking documents)
- Frequently asked Questions
- Demo tests
- Guidance on the conduct of online tests

If you have any queries regarding the content of this circular please contact:

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