

Circular S/IF/54/19

September 2019

To: Head of Modern Languages Department in all Post Primary Schools and FE Colleges

For circulation to: All Modern Languages Teachers

GCSE Modern Languages

French, German, Irish, Spanish

Changes to the GCSE Specification from Summer 2020

Listening

The wave of varied incline has been removed and replaced with a level of progression.

The Listening paper will not test for accuracy of spelling in the target language.

In foundation, section A = questions and answers in English, Section B = questions and answers in target language; at higher level, Section A = questions and answers in target language (common questions), Section B = questions and answers in English.

In the higher, Section A will be worth 18 marks and Section B will be worth 42 marks.

Speaking

Role-plays will be as open ended as possible.

One of the ten role-play responses will require candidates to ask a question.

One of the ten role-play responses will require candidates to communicate in the past.

One of the ten role-play responses will require candidates to communicate in the future (or conditional).

Candidates will be able to communicate in the familiar or polite form. There will be no stipulation to communicate in either form specifically.

Candidates will not be required to ask a question in either conversation one or conversation two and the mark scheme reflects the removal of asking a question.

Reading

The wave of varied incline has been removed and replaced with a level of progression.

The Reading paper will not test for accuracy of spelling in the target language.

In foundation, section A = questions and answers in English, Section B = questions and answers in target language; at higher level, Section A = questions and answers in target language (common questions), Section B = questions and answers in English.

In the higher, Section A will be worth 24 marks and Section B will be worth 36 marks.

Writing

The wave of varied incline has been removed and replaced with a level of progression.

Rubrics will be in English and not in target language.

Question four, three bullet points will require communication in the present, one bullet point in the past and one bullet point in the future (or conditional).

GCSE Support

Please keep an eye on the CCEA microsite for dates of upcoming GCSE webinars for new centres and teachers new to the specification. Webinars will be available from the end of September 2019.

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