

New GCSE – Exams in 2018

Specification at a glance

	Paper 1: Listening	Paper 2: Speaking	Paper 3: Reading	Paper 4: Writing
Assessment weighting	Examination 25% of GCSE	Non-exam assessment 25% of GCSE	Examination 25% of GCSE	Examination 25% of GCSE
Tier / time	Foundation tier 35 minutes including 5 minutes' reading time	Foundation tier 7-9 minutes (+ 12 minutes' preparation time)	Foundation tier 45 minutes	Foundation tier 1 hour
Marks	40	60	60	50
Tier / time	Higher tier 45 minutes including 5 minutes' reading time	Higher tier 10- 12 minutes (+ 12 minutes' preparation time)	Higher tier 1 hour	Higher tier 1 hour 15 minutes
Marks	50	60	60	60

Listening – format of the paper

Foundation tier	Higher tier
Section A: Questions in English to be answered in English or non-verbally* 32 marks	Section A: Questions in English to be answered in English or non-verbally* 40 marks
Section B: Questions in TL to be answered in TL or non-verbally* 8 marks	Section B: Questions in TL to be answered in TL or non-verbally* 10 marks
* The amount of verbal vs non-verbal answers will vary from year to year.	

Reading: format of the paper

Foundation tier	Higher tier
Section A: Questions in English to be answered in English or non-verbally* 33 marks	Section A: Questions in English to be answered in English or non-verbally* 33 marks
Section B: Questions in TL to be answered in TL or non-verbally* 18 marks	Section B: Questions in TL to be answered in TL or non-verbally* 18 marks
Section C: Translation from TL into English Minimum 35 words 9 marks	Section C: Translation from TL into English Minimum 50 words 9 marks
* The amount of verbal vs non-verbal answers will vary from year to year.	

Speaking – format of the tests

	Foundation tier	Higher tier
Role-play	15 marks 2 minutes	15 marks 2 minutes
Photo card	15 marks 2 minutes	15 marks 3 minutes
General conversation	30 marks 3 – 5 minutes	30 marks 5 – 7 minutes
Plus 12 minutes' supervised preparation time before the test to prepare for the role-play and the photo card.		

Writing – format of the papers

	Foundation tier	Higher tier
Q1	Message: Students write 4 sentences in response to a photo 8 marks	Structured writing task: Students respond to 4 bullet points 90 words in total (approx.) Choice of 2 questions 16 marks
Q2	Short passage: Students write a piece of continuous text in response to 4 short bullet points. 40 words in total (approx.) 16 marks	Open-ended writing task: Students respond to two bullet points 150 words in total (approx.) Choice of 2 questions 32 marks
Q3	Translation: From English into TL 35 words minimum 10 marks	Translation: From English into TL 50 words minimum 12 marks
Q4	Structured writing task: Students respond to 4 bullet points 90 words in total (approx.) Choice of 2 questions 16 marks	

For more details go to www.aqa.co.uk