



## **Edexcel MFL GCSE – New Specification 2016**

The new GCSE for languages is now scored from 1-9 with 1 being the lowest available grade and 9 being the highest. The pass mark is 4/5.

No controlled assessment.

### **4 exams – Reading, Writing, Speaking, Listening**

Paper 1: **Listening and Understanding** – 25% of your final GCSE 50 marks

Paper 2: **Speaking**– 25% of your final GCSE – 70 marks

- Role Play, Picture Based discussion, Conversation (2 themes)

Paper 3: **Reading and understanding** – 25% of your final GCSE 50 marks

Paper 4: **Writing** i- 25% of your final GCSE 60 marks

- 3 open questions and 1 translation English to the target language (Spanish, French, German)

There are **5 Themes** that are broken down into topics and sub-topics.

- **Identity and Culture**
  - Who am I?
  - Daily Life
  - Cultural life
- **Local Area, holiday and travel**
  - Holidays
  - Travel and tourist transactions
  - Town, region and country
- **School**
  - What school is like
  - School activities
- **Future aspirations, study and work**
  - Using languages beyond the classroom
  - Ambitions
  - Work
- **International and global dimension**
  - Bringing the world together
  - Environmental issues



## How to succeed in an MFL Exam

**1. Timing** - In written and spoken answers, don't just use the present tense. Where appropriate show your knowledge of present, past and future tenses. This will not only make your answer sound more authentic, it will also show the examiner that you have learnt and understood a range of tenses.

**2. Use your ears** - Listen and watch as much authentic content as you can. You need to immerse yourself in the language you are learning. TV, YouTube, radio and subtitled films can all help.

In any speaking exam try and make sure that your "hesitations" are done in the language being assessed. Don't use "hmm" or "err" as we do in English but try and use the filler-words of your target language. For example young French people will very often begin an answer to a question with "Alors..." or "Ben..." Practice saying these words: it will make your answer more natural and it will also give you time to think!

**4. Express yourself** - Examiners want you to be able to express your opinion in another language. Learn three different ways of expressing "I think that" or "in my opinion" in your target language and try to use them in your exam.

**5. Practice makes perfect** - Your teacher should have given you some practice activities.. Time yourself when you do them and make sure to read the question twice. The context of your answer can often be extracted from the wording of the question.

**6. Your mates** - Your friends can help you revise. Choose a keyword ("family", "food" e.t.c) and get the other person to talk about it for one minute.

**7. Me not like** - If you describe something that you did (on holiday, for example) make sure you say whether you liked or disliked that activity, and why.

**8. You not like?** - You will certainly be tested to see if you have understood someone else's point of view. Often this relates to what a person likes or does not like. Look and listen out for words like "liking", "preferring" "being disappointed by" "being excited by" and other expressions of emotions.

**9. The spice of life** - Show the variety in your use of vocabulary and grammar. Try to take your vocabulary further than "going to the cinema" or "eating chips" which everyone else will use. Try to learn a long list of weird and wonderful words, but even a few choice words will go a long way.

**10. Like clockwork** - Before you go into any exam, make sure that you've worked out the timings involved for each paper. This way you're less likely to panic and thus more likely to give better, clearer answers

Source: <http://www.telegraph.co.uk/education/9167213/Revision-tips-for-GCSE-foreign-language-exams.html>



### **How can I help my child revise for their exams?**

First and foremost, it is important to encourage your child to use the recommended websites and book activities in order for them to gain confidence in their skills. However consistency is key for success, everyday work and practice is imperative in order to achieve well in the last one exam.

Help them by doing little vocabulary tests to check if they can identify the key words for each topic (from Spanish to English).

Ensure that they divide the vocabulary they do not know in small manageable chunks that they review on a regular basis. It is always a good idea for them to start early and spread the topics across several weeks or months to ensure success.

### **What websites are available for my child to practice?**

[www.linguascope.com](http://www.linguascope.com)

username: Etone

password: Salsa17

<https://www.samlearning.com/>

#### **SPANISH USEFUL REVISION SITES:**

<http://naturalreaders.com/index.html>

<http://memorizenow.com/>

<http://www.languagesonline.com/>

<https://neiljones.org/>

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/languages/spanish/talk/leisure/>

<http://www.spanishrevision.co.uk/>

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/schools/gcsebitesize/spanish/>

<http://www.mecd.gob.es/reinounido/publicaciones-materiales/publicaciones.html>

For Y11: <https://qualifications.pearson.com/en/qualifications/edexcel-gcse/spanish-2016.coursematerials.html#filterQuery=category:Pearson-UK:Category%2FSpecification-and-sample-assessments>

<http://maryglasgowplus.com/subscribe/spanish>

APP: Dragon dictation

Revision Guides and book work recommended:

<http://www.pearsonschoolsandcolleges.co.uk/Secondary/ModernLanguages/Spanish/VivaEdexcelGCSESpanish/ISBN/Revision/ReviseEdexcelGCSE2016SpanishRevisionGuide.aspx>

<http://www.pearsonschoolsandcolleges.co.uk/Secondary/ModernLanguages/Spanish/VivaEdexcelGCSESpanish/ISBN/Revision/ReviseEdexcelGCSE2016SpanishRevisionWorkbook.aspx>