

Response ID ANON-HZ7S-PW2Q-P

Submitted to **Consultation on changes to the assessment arrangements for GCSE French, German and Spanish**
Submitted on **2021-05-19 15:51:31**

Personal information

What is your name?

Name:

Katie Finlayson

Position (if applicable)

Please enter your position in the text box below:

What is your organisation?

Please enter your organisation in the text box below:

HEQA - the Home Educators' Qualifications Association

What is your email address?

Email:

katie@heqa.uk

Telephone number

Telephone number:

Introduction

Assessment objectives (AOs)

Question 1 To what extent do you agree or disagree with the proposed assessment objectives for GCSE MFL (French, German and Spanish)?

Not Answered

Question 2 Do you have any comments on the proposed assessment objectives for GCSE MFL (French, German and Spanish)?

Please state in the text box below:

HEQA has no comment on the subject content; only that whatever content is chosen it should be assessed in a way that is accessible for home educators as well as schooled children.

Tiering

Question 3 To what extent do you agree or disagree with the proposal to use tiered assessments (foundation and higher) in GCSE MFL (French, German and Spanish)?

Not Answered

Question 4 To what extent do you agree or disagree with the proposal to require a single tier of entry for the assessments in GCSE MFL (French, German and Spanish)?

Not Answered

Question 5 Do you have any comments on the proposal to use tiered assessments (foundation and higher) in GCSE MFL (French, German and Spanish)?

Please state in the text box below:

If tiered assessments are used, clear information about how to choose the most appropriate tier for entry and the implications of that decision should be available. Any such information should be accessible to home educating parents and private tutors as well as to teachers within an exam centre.

Non-Exam Assessment (NEA)

Question 6 To what extent do you agree or disagree with the proposal to use NEA to assess students' spoken responses and interactions in GCSE MFL (French, German and Spanish)?

Neither agree nor disagree

Question 7 To what extent do you agree or disagree with the proposal that NEA should account for 25% of total marks in GCSE MFL (French, German and Spanish)?

Not Answered

Question 8 Do you have any comments on the proposal that NEA should account for 25% of total marks in GCSE MFL (French, German and Spanish)?

Please state in the text box below:

We recognise that this proposal reflects the current arrangements and as such does not increase accessibility issues beyond those already present, and that speaking skills are an important part of a language qualification.

We also note that exam board set and marked tasks are an improvement on controlled assessment, as centres only need to provide someone who can administer the task, not assess it.

However there is a difference in experience between internal students taking the assessment with a known teacher and home educated private candidates taking the assessment with a stranger, which may affect the reliability of the results.

It is also more difficult for home educated private candidates to find exam centres with the necessary expertise to carry out the assessment. Visiting examiners may alleviate this problem to some extent but has not made a significant difference to date. One solution may be to explore the possibility of exam boards offering speaking assessments directly using remote technology.

Impact of our proposals

Question 9 We have set out our view that our proposals would not impact (positively or negatively) on students who share a particular protected characteristic. Are there any potential impacts that we have not identified?

Please state in the text box below:

Question 10 Are there any additional steps we could take to mitigate any negative impact you have identified would result from our proposals, on students who share a protected characteristic?

Please state in the text box below:

Regulatory Impact Assessment

Question 11 We have set out our understanding of the costs and burdens of our proposals for schools, colleges and exam boards. Are there any other potential costs or burdens that we have not identified?

Please state in the text box below:

Home educating parents and private tutors will also need to familiarise themselves with the new content and changed assessment objectives in order to prepare home educated students for assessments on an equivalent basis to schooled students. Exam boards will need to ensure that home educating parents and private tutors have equal access to any training and preparation materials that are provided to exam centres for use of their teachers.

Question 12 Are there any additional steps we could take to reduce the costs or burdens of our proposals?

Please state in the text box below:

Your details

Which nation or country are you based in?

England

Other country::

How did you find out about this consultation?

Ofqual's website

Other (please specify)::

Is this the official response from your organisation or your own, personal response?

This is the official response from my organisation

Which of the following best describes you?

Other representative or interest group

Type of school or college

What is your school or college type?

Not applicable

Type of organisation or interest group

What type of organisation or interest group do you represent?

Other

Which language(s) do you teach or study?

Please select the language(s) and the level you (or the student/s you represent) currently study or teach. Please provide a response for all languages.

Which language(s) do you teach, and at what level? - French:

GCSE, AS/A level

Which language(s) do you teach, and at what level? - German:

GCSE, AS/A level

Which language(s) do you teach, and at what level? - Spanish:

GCSE, AS/A level

Which language(s) do you teach, and at what level? - Other language(s):

GCSE, AS/A level

Other - please state which language(s):

Home educated students study a wide variety of languages.

Your data and rights

Confidentiality

Do you wish any part of your response to remain confidential?

No

If you selected 'Yes' in response to the question asking if you would like anything in your response to be kept confidential, please state clearly what information you would like to be kept as confidential and explain your reasons for confidentiality

Please state in the text box below:

Feedback

How easy to read did you find this consultation? Please rate from 1 to 5, where 1 is very hard to read and 5 is very easy to read.

5 - Very easy to read