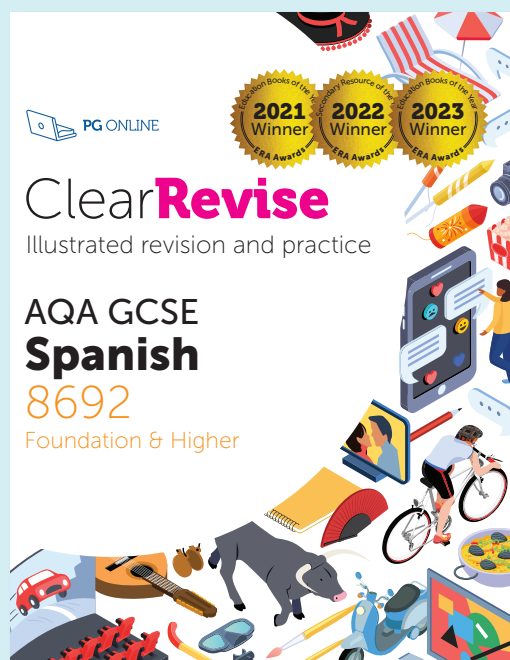
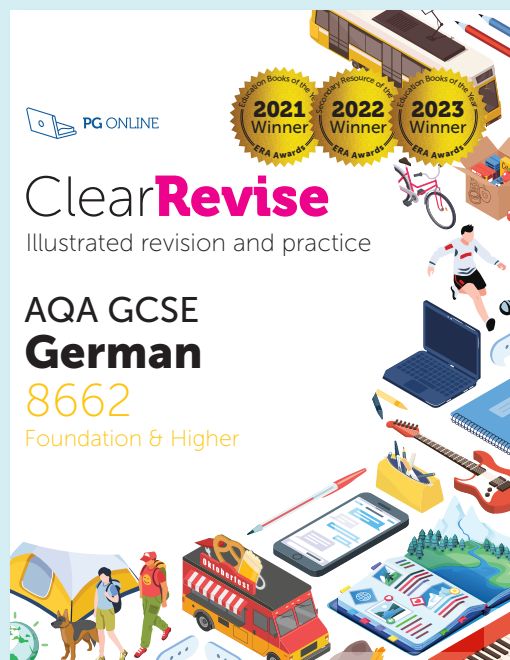
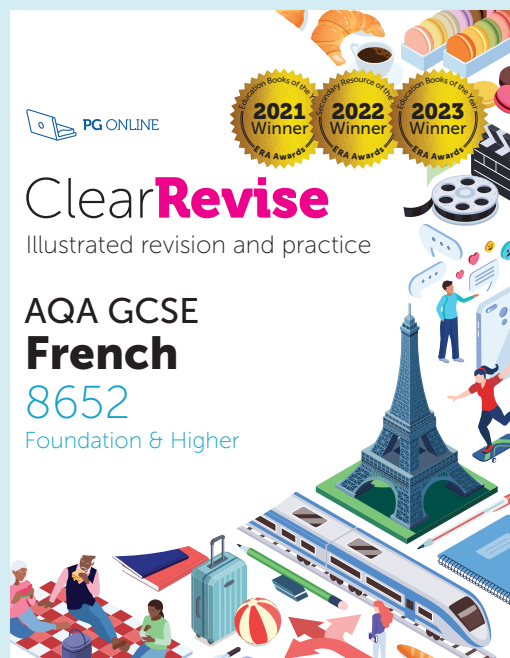


SUMMARY OF AQA SPECIFICATION CHANGES

From 2016 to 2024

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2024



TOPICS

The legacy topics of 'Poverty and homelessness' have been lost and in place, the new specification has gained 'Celebrity culture'. Legacy topics of 'Marriage and partnership' remain relevant in the new 'Relationships' topic and 'Charity and voluntary work' could appear under the new topic of 'Education and work' so they have not necessarily been lost.

A colour coded guide to the old and new topics in each theme is provided below.

Current	New
Theme 1 Identity and culture Topic 1: Me, my family and friends - Relationships with family and friends - Marriage / partnership Topic 2: Technology in everyday life - Social media - Mobile technology Topic 3: Free-time activities - Music - Cinema and TV - Food and eating out - Sport Topic 4: Customs and festivals in Spanish-speaking countries / communities	Theme 1 People and lifestyle Topic 1: Identity and relationships with others Topic 2: Healthy living and lifestyle Topic 3: Education and work
Theme 2 Local, national, international and global areas of interest Topic 1: Home, town, neighbourhood and region Topic 2: Social issues - Charity / voluntary work - Healthy / unhealthy living Topic 3: Global issues - The environment - Poverty / homelessness Topic 4: Travel and tourism	Theme 2 Popular culture Topic 1: Free-time activities Topic 2: Customs, festivals and celebrations Topic 3: Celebrity culture
Theme 3 Current and future study and employment Topic 1: My studies Topic 2: Life at school / college Topic 3: Education post-16 Topic 4: Jobs, career choices and ambitions	Theme 3 Communication and the world around us Topic 1: Travel and tourism, including places of interest Topic 2: Media and technology Topic 3: The environment and where people live

VOCABULARY

The 2024 specifications have 1250 words on the Foundation list. The Higher list has these 1250 words plus an extra 500 words (1750 words total). The language that students will see or hear in any of the papers will be from these lists. Students can use extra vocabulary that they happen to know in the speaking and writing papers if they wish.

EXAM PAPERS

Paper 1 Listening

Legacy (25% of total)

Foundation

35 minutes

40 marks: Section A (answer in English) – 32 marks
Section B (answer in Spanish) – 8 marks

Higher

45 minutes

50 marks: Section A (answer in English) – 40 marks
Section B (answer in Spanish) – 10 marks

All items heard twice; pauses included in recording

New (25% of total)

Foundation

35 minutes

40 marks: Section A (answer in English) – 32 marks
Section B (**dictation**) – 8 marks

Higher

45 minutes

50 marks: Section A (answer in English) – 40 marks
Section B (**dictation**) – 10 marks

All items heard twice, **apart from the dictation which is heard three times**; pauses included in recording
All vocabulary used is from the AQA prescribed list, except for 2 words in the dictation (at each tier).

Paper 2 Speaking

Legacy (25% of total)

- **Role play** 15 marks
(Foundation & Higher 2 mins)
Prompts in Spanish; some in social settings, some transactional
- **Photo card** 15 marks
(Foundation max. 2 mins, Higher max. 3 mins)
- **General conversation** 30 marks
(Foundation 3–5 mins, Higher 5–7 mins)

Total 60 marks

Students may make notes. Notes are handed in before General conversation.

The timing guidelines for the photo card and the general conversation must be adhered to.

New (25% of total)

- **Role play** 10 marks
(Foundation & Higher **1.5–2 mins**)
Prompts in English; all in social settings, none transactional
- **Read aloud text (5 marks) and 4 follow-up questions (10 marks) → 15 marks**
(Foundation 2–2.5 mins, Higher 3–3.5 mins)
- **Photo card description (5 marks) and follow up conversation (20 marks) → 25 marks**
(Foundation 4–5 mins, Higher 6–7 mins)

Total **50** marks

Students may make notes. **Notes may be kept and used throughout.**

NB: the timing of each of the three individual elements is a recommendation and there is no requirement to time each element. The total time of the test must not exceed 9 minutes (Foundation) and 12 minutes (Higher).

Paper 3 Reading

Legacy (25% of total)

Foundation

45 minutes

60 marks: Section A (answer in English) – 34 marks
Section B (answer in Spanish) – 17 marks
Section C (translation into English)
– 9 marks

Higher

1 hour

60 marks: Section A (answer in English) – 33 marks
Section B (answer in Spanish – 18 marks
Section C (translation into English)
– 9 marks

Vocabulary taken from prescribed list or included if it can be reasonably understood via communication strategies.

New (25% of total)

Foundation

45 minutes

50 marks: Section A (answer in English) – **40 marks**
Section B (translation into English)
– **10 marks**

Higher

1 hour

50 marks: Section A (answer in English) – **40 marks**
Section B (translation into English)
– **10 marks**

Section A at both tiers contains 2 multiple choice inference questions where students have to deduce the meaning of a word.

All other vocab is either from prescribed list, a cognate, a clearly recognisable semi-cognate or a word which is glossed (ie. an asterisk guiding you to a definition in English).

Paper 4 Writing

Legacy (25% of total)

Foundation

1 hour

50 marks

- 4 sentences on a photo – 8 marks
- 40 word writing task – 16 marks
- translation sentences into Spanish – 10 marks
- 90 word writing task (choice of 2) – 16 marks

Higher

1 hour 15

60 marks

- 90 word writing task (choice of 2) – 16 marks
- 150 word writing task (choice of 2) – 32 marks
- translation passage into Spanish – 12 marks

All instructions and bullet points in the open writing tasks in Spanish.

New (25% of total)

Foundation

1 hour 10

50 marks

- **5** sentences on a photo – **10 marks**
- **50** word writing task – **10 marks**
- **multiple choice grammar gap-fill** – **5 marks**
- translation sentences into Spanish – 10 marks
- 90 word writing task (choice of 2) – **15 marks**

Higher

1 hour 15

50 marks

- translate **sentences** into Spanish – **10 marks**
- 90 word writing task (choice of 2) – **15 marks**
- 150 word writing task (choice of 2) – **25 marks**

All instructions and bullet points in the open writing tasks in English.



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