

Home Language Exams – Important information – 2025-2026 -

Netherhall and The Oakes College have in previous years, where possible, provided support for individual students to take GCSEs in their home language. Students interested in A-Level exams should contact the exams office and each enquiry will be considered on an individual basis. It is important to understand clearly what the school can and cannot do with respect to home language exams and what each candidate needs to do.

Administration of exams

- The school can facilitate home language exams by making entries, completing all the necessary administration and by running the exams themselves alongside the summer series of exams
- Details of examination boards, specifications and component codes can be provided by the exams office and students/parents/carers interested in home language exams should also complete a form providing important information
- Exam entries depend upon the school being able to recruit suitably qualified and experienced examiners for speaking tests: unfortunately, this has become increasingly difficult in recent years
- Please use exams@netherhallschool.org for enquiries and correspondence

Preparation for home language exams

- Preparing for the four components of language exams is the responsibility of each individual candidate as the school is unable to provide tuition or teaching
- GCSE exams have four components
 - Speaking
 - Listening
 - Reading
 - Writing
- Please note that it is not uncommon for home language students to underachieve: this is not because of their ability in the language but the result of being poorly prepared for precisely what the examiners require
- Individual students need to make sure that they are fully aware of
 - Details for each of the four components of the exam
 - Each assessment objective and the types of questions asked
 - The three themes of the exam, especially the theme to be specified *in advance* for the speaking exam: information should be forwarded to the exams office regarding this theme in March of the year of the exams
- Exam board websites contain large amounts of important information and much that is essential reading plus other resources aimed at teachers and/or candidates
 - Full specification details include
 - Overview of the GCSE
 - Assessment objectives
 - Mark schemes
 - Vocabulary and grammar lists
- The two most common exam boards are
 - Edexcel (part of the Pearson Group): <https://qualifications.pearson.com/edexcel>
 - AQA: <https://www.aqa.org.uk>
 - French and German GCSEs are taken with AQA

Requests about exams should be made during Year 10 with exams often being taken in Year 11, but sometimes in Year 10.

Home Languages: Examinations Request Form

Student Name		Year group	
Language		Level	GCSE
Exam Board		Specification Code	
Exam series	Summer 2026 or 2027	Tier: Higher or Foundation	
	<p>Please sign to confirm that you</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • have read the accompanying Home Languages information sheet • recognise that the examination entry is dependent upon the school being able appoint an appropriate external examiner if required • are familiar with the details of the specification and understand the preparation required for each of the examination components 		
	Student signature		
	Parent / carer signature		
	Parent / carer name (please print)		
	Date		

Please print and hand in the completed forms to the Exams Office

or email the completed form to exams@netherhallschool.org by 22nd December 2025