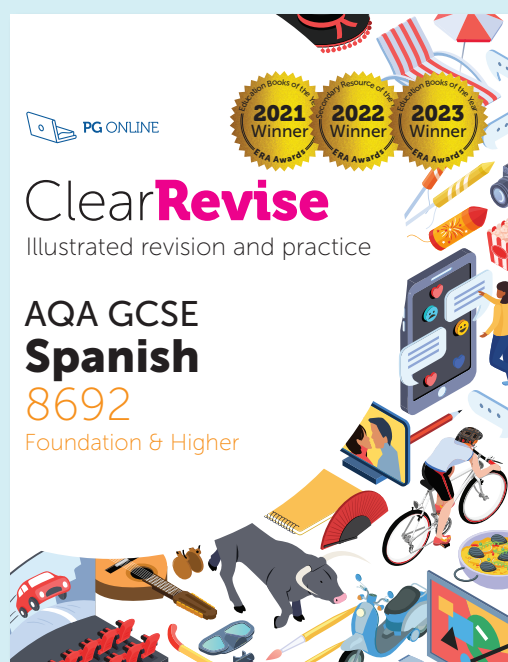
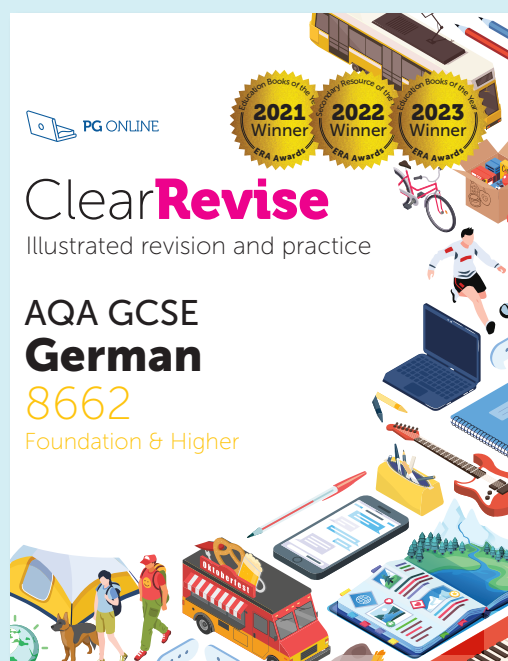
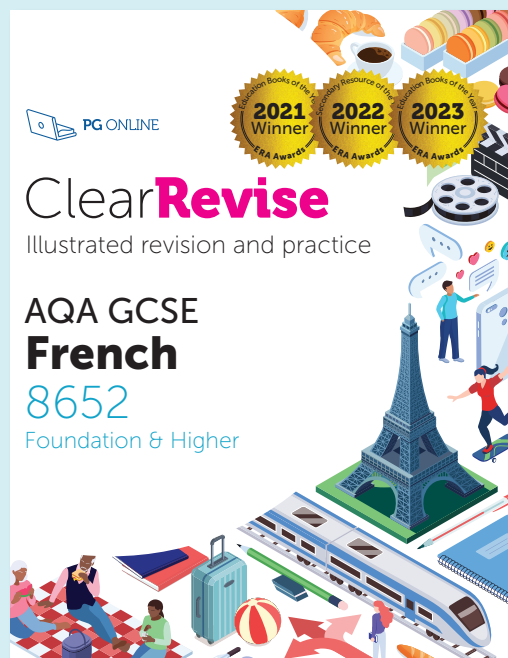


# SUMMARY OF AQA SPECIFICATION CHANGES

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
<b>Theme 1 Identity and culture</b> <b>Topic 1: Me, my family and friends</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Relationships with family and friends</li><li>Marriage / partnership</li></ul> <b>Topic 2: Technology in everyday life</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Social media</li><li>Mobile technology</li></ul> <b>Topic 3: Free-time activities</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Music</li><li>Cinema and TV</li><li>Food and eating out</li><li>Sport</li></ul> <b>Topic 4: Customs and festivals in Spanish-speaking countries / communities</b>	<b>Theme 1 People and lifestyle</b> <b>Topic 1:</b> Identity and relationships with others <b>Topic 2:</b> Healthy living and lifestyle <b>Topic 3:</b> Education and work
<b>Theme 2 Local, national, international and global areas of interest</b> <b>Topic 1: Home, town, neighbourhood and region</b> <b>Topic 2: Social issues</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Charity / voluntary work</li><li>Healthy / unhealthy living</li></ul> <b>Topic 3: Global issues</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>The environment</li><li>Poverty / homelessness</li></ul> <b>Topic 4: Travel and tourism</b>	<b>Theme 2 Popular culture</b> <b>Topic 1:</b> Free-time activities <b>Topic 2:</b> Customs, festivals and celebrations <b>Topic 3:</b> Celebrity culture
<b>Theme 3 Current and future study and employment</b> <b>Topic 1: My studies</b> <b>Topic 2: Life at school / college</b> <b>Topic 3: Education post-16</b> <b>Topic 4: Jobs, career choices and ambitions</b>	<b>Theme 3 Communication and the world around us</b> <b>Topic 1:</b> Travel and tourism, including places of interest <b>Topic 2:</b> Media and technology <b>Topic 3:</b> 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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