



**Bluecoat Beechdale
Academy**

—
Believe, Belong, Achieve

BLUECOAT BEECHDALE ACADEMY HOME LANGUAGE EXAMS 2025/26

Home Language Exams 2025-2026

Students interested in taking GCSE exams in their home language should contact the Languages department and each enquiry will be considered on an individual basis.

It is important to understand what the school can / cannot do with respect to home language exams and what each candidate will need to be aware of.

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 all the important information of the qualification they intend to take.
- or GCSE entries, a mock exam can be taken in Year 10 or 11.
- 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. If it is not possible to secure an external examiner before January 31st of the examination year, it will not be possible to conduct the exam that academic year.

Preparation for home language exams

Preparing for the four components of language exams is the responsibility of each individual candidate. The school is unable to provide tuition or teaching.

GCSE exams have four components

- Speaking
- Listening
- Reading
- Writing

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 Head of Languages regarding this theme in **February/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>

Students must declare initial Interest to take their chosen home Language GCSE during Year 11 by December.

Confirmation must be made to HOD Languages before the **last week of December** that academic year.

All students will therefore be required to undertake MOCK Exam (February) – reading, listening and writing part. Student will responsible to prepare to the speaking part of GCSE exam.

Taking examinations earlier than Year 11 (Year 10)) will be approved on a case-by-case basis only.

Students must be aware of full JCQ Exam Regulations, prior sitting their external examinations.

- The school will provide all students with an examinations handbook outlining these.
- Copies of the exam regulations are available on the school website.

If a student chooses not to comply with these, this could result in Malpractice. Confirmed Malpractice may affect any future examinations a student may with that awarding body.

Where there is a decision to withdraw from their entry. Students will be liable for the full costs incurred unless a suitable reason/evidence is provided (i.e. Medical/illness). This will include full exam entry fee(s) and full assessor cost if this is received past the deadline.