

Ofqual's report on the assessment of Spoken Language

Towards the end of 2014, Ofqual asked all the awarding bodies to set up a joint working group to consider the assessment arrangements for the new Spoken Language endorsement that forms part of the GCSE 9-1 in English Language (from 2015).

The working group carried out trialling of different approaches to spoken language assessment with teachers and students. The discussions and findings have helped to compile the latest Ofqual report that was released on Thursday 4 June 2015. In this report, Ofqual confirm how the Spoken Language endorsement will be conducted, assessed and graded for the new GCSE 9-1 in English Language.

The report explains that:

- The Spoken Language endorsement will be assessed using a set of criteria that is common across all awarding bodies.
- Spoken Language will be graded using three levels of achievement, 'Pass', 'Merit', 'Distinction', and one outcome indicating that the required standard was not met. This will be called 'Not Classified'.
- Students must meet all of the criteria in relation to a level to be awarded that level e.g. students must meet all the 'Pass' criteria to be awarded a 'Pass.'
- The assessments will not involve the use of marks and marking schemes; judgements will be made only on criteria outlining a level of achievement.
- Exam boards will monitor the assessments undertaken by teachers through audio-visual recordings of a sample of their students.

Download the full Ofqual report: [Assessment of Spoken Language in the New GCSE English Language](#)

The feedback from teachers and students as part of the working group trialling has been important in shaping the assessment approach that is outlined in this latest Ofqual report. We have welcomed the opportunity to hear teachers' views and to work together to develop the new arrangements for the Spoken Language endorsement. The video below shows how teachers and students responded to the trials and includes their views on:

- What constitutes a presentation in the context of the Spoken Language endorsement and what approaches can be used cater for all abilities
- Varieties of spoken English

- Access for EAL students
- The practicalities of recording students' performances
- The importance of spoken language.

Watch the video: [Spoken Language in GCSE 9-1 English Language \(from 2015\)](#).

A further Ofqual [consultation](#) concluded in July on the Requirements and Guidance for Spoken Language.

Following the outcome of Ofqual's consultation we will be updating our GCSE (9-1) in English Language J351 specification to reflect the new arrangements. In the meantime if you have any queries, please direct these to our team of Subject Specialists at ocrenlish@ocr.org.uk.