

## QCA Languages Update

### May 2009

### Key stage 2

#### **New QCA schemes of work for KS2 French, German and Spanish**

The complete scheme of work is now available to order. Units 1-12 and the teacher's guide were published in 2007 both in print and on the schemes of work website: [www.standards.dfes.gov.uk/schemes3](http://www.standards.dfes.gov.uk/schemes3). The final revised versions of units 13-24 are currently being prepared for printing and publication. Distribution is scheduled for early summer 2009 to those that have placed orders.

Orders for the schemes of work can be made now at: [www.orderline.qca.org.uk/mfl](http://www.orderline.qca.org.uk/mfl). To place an order you will need a QCA Orderline user name and password. Most schools already have these, but if not, there is an email address and a phone number on the website to contact for help.

You can order a free copy of the complete set of units for one, two or all three languages. Schools that received a free copy of units 1-12 in 2007 in any of the languages should order a free copy of units 13-24 to complete their set and may, in addition, order a complete set of units in one or both of the other languages.

Those actively engaged in supporting primary schools to teach languages, such as secondary schools, local authorities and providers of initial teacher training, may order multiple copies, but should provide a justification if ordering more than 10 copies.

A flyer with this information was sent to all primary and secondary schools, providers of initial teacher training and local authorities in February.

### Primary curriculum review

Information about QCA's role in the review can be found at: [http://www.qca.org.uk/qca\\_15561.aspx](http://www.qca.org.uk/qca_15561.aspx)

Jim Rose's final report (available at [www.dcsf.gov.uk/primarycurriculumreview/](http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/primarycurriculumreview/)) was published in April 2009 with specific recommendations regarding the integration of languages into the primary curriculum (see Chapter 5 of the report). A programme for the proposed area of learning English, Communication and Languages has been developed along with other curriculum documents. A public consultation on the final recommendations has been launched and will run until 24 July 2009. You can find full details at [www.qca.org.uk/curriculumconsultation](http://www.qca.org.uk/curriculumconsultation) where you can access the consultation questionnaire as well as a useful downloadable "Consultation overview" booklet.

### Key stage 3 revised national curriculum

The new secondary curriculum website can be accessed by following the 'visit the new website' link from the curriculum homepage on [www.qca.org.uk/curriculum](http://www.qca.org.uk/curriculum)

The dissemination programme for Foundation Subjects, delivered by CfBT working with subject associations, has a dedicated website at <http://www.newsecondarycurriculum.org>

### Key stage 3 exemplification and teacher assessment

QCA is working with schools to collect new exemplification of pupils' work to support teacher assessment. As well as exemplifying national standards this will also show how schools have implemented the key concepts of the revised programme of study and other aspects of the revised curriculum such as Personal, Learning and Thinking Skills. Unlike the current National Curriculum in Action exemplification, which comprises individual pieces of work from many pupils, portfolios of work from a small number of individual pupils will be used to create a "standards file".

This exemplification project links with another major project to extend to all Foundation Subjects the support for teacher assessment that has been developed and extensively trialled in core subjects in the "Assessing Pupils' Progress" (APP) project. Draft assessment focuses and criteria have been developed with the help of key partners and teachers, and a number of schools have been involved in trialling, including those schools with whom QCA has worked on the exemplification project. The "standards file" will be referenced to the APP assessment guidelines for each foundation subject. Development work continues and materials will be published in spring 2010.

Information about APP can be found at [www.qca.org.uk/assessment](http://www.qca.org.uk/assessment) including a downloadable booklet "Assessing Pupils' Progress: assessment at the heart of learning". There is also a new short introductory animation.

## GCSE

### **Guidance for controlled assessment of speaking**

The assessment of speaking in modern foreign languages GCSEs will be changing for courses starting in September 2009. Controlled assessments marked by teachers (and moderated externally) will replace the current one-off speaking tests. Teachers will be able to use tasks provided by awarding bodies, to adapt these tasks or to devise their own tasks (within parameters set by the awarding bodies).

QCA has developed guidance for teachers together with 14 filmed examples of speaking activities with both filmed and written commentaries. A DVD was distributed to all secondary schools and to other key partners (eg Local Authority advisers and ITT providers) at the end of March 2009. The DVD includes commentaries from examiners but does not provide detailed guidance on marking. This will be provided by awarding bodies and linked to their specific mark schemes.

The DVD can be ordered free of charge from [www.orderline.qca.org.uk](http://www.orderline.qca.org.uk) The order reference is: QCA/09/4138

## Diploma in Languages and International Communication

This new diploma will be available for first teaching from September 2011. Full details about the diploma are available at: <http://www.diploma-in-languages.co.uk/>

Development work continues and there is currently (until 29 May 2009) a public consultation on the line of learning criteria. These detailed criteria are the basis according to which awarding bodies will design specifications for the qualification.

Guidance on how schools and colleges can incorporate languages into other diploma courses is available on the QCA website at: [http://www.qca.org.uk/qca\\_18180.aspx](http://www.qca.org.uk/qca_18180.aspx) It highlights how, within Additional and Specialist Learning, providers can make learning a language motivating and relevant to principal learning, with links to other areas of the curriculum and meeting the needs of students of differing abilities and interests.

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