



Department
for Education

French, German and Spanish

GCSE subject content table of changes

September 2025

This document incorporates updates from the previous version published in February 2025 and May 2022 and has been effective since the academic year beginning in September 2024

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Summary

The document contains three main tables. The first table lists the minor changes made to the subject content from February 2025, with further consultation with Ofqual and awarding organisations.

The second table lists the changes made to the subject content from May 2022, with further consultation with Ofqual and awarding organisations.

The third table outlines the changes made to the subject content between original publication (January 2022) to May 2022, in consultation with Ofqual and awarding organisations.

These updates are retrospectively applied to the GCSE subject content French, German and Spanish, that was made available for first teaching in September 2024.

Table of changes made to the GCSE subject content for French, German, and Spanish from February 2025

Page number	Description of change
p.8 / footnote 8	The term “à” in the example ‘happy’ à ‘happiness’ has been corrected to “to” for clarity. Since this is an English example illustrating how a derivational morpheme can alter meaning and grammatical function (in this case, from adjective to noun), “to” is therefore the appropriate term, not the French “à”.
p.14	The description of reflexive verb usage has been updated to include plural forms, in addition to the previously listed 1st, 2nd, and 3rd person singular forms.
p.60-61	<p>The following additions have been made to the vocabulary list to support the use of reflexive and emphatic pronouns:</p> <p>Elle – currently listed as “she, it (f) (subj)” → now includes “her (emph) / herself (reflex)”</p> <p>Nous – currently “we (subj)” → now includes “us / to us (emph) / ourselves (reflex)”</p> <p>Vous – now includes “yourself (reflex)”</p> <p>Se/s’ – now includes “themselves (reflex)”</p> <p>Additionally, “each other / one another” has been added to reflect the reciprocal use of plural reflexive pronouns, as referenced in examples such as <i>nous nous écrivons</i>, <i>vous vous parlez</i>, <i>ils se regardent</i>.</p>
p.16; p.19; p.25; p.29; p.36	<p>A clarifying sentence has been added regarding expectations for listening and production tasks:</p> <p><i>“Note, if derived forms are included in listening material or are required for production, they must be listed separately in the Vocabulary List, unless the derivation in its spoken/written form is clearly recognisable for learners at this level as being derived from the base form.”</i></p>

Table of changes made to the GCSE subject content for French, German, and Spanish from May 2022

Page number	Description of change
p.6 / para 17	Requirement to list words with multiple meanings (e.g., <i>histoire</i>) and/or parts of speech (words that can be used as either e.g., past participle or adjective) softened.
p.7 / para 19	Parameters from which vocabulary can be selected softened slightly. 85% of words should be selected from the 2,000 most frequently occurring words (previously must).
p.7 / footnote 4	Added footnote for awarding organisations to note regarding parameters from which vocabulary can be selected.
p.7 / para 23	Clarification of the purpose of the grammar annexes. Amended from ' <i>they indicate the full set of features to be included, and this exhaustive set of items must also be included in the Vocabulary Lists</i> ' to ' <i>they indicate the set of features to be included, and this set of items should also be included in the Vocabulary Lists.</i> '
p.8	Addition regarding derivational morphology. The following has been added: ' One derivational affix may be added to or removed from a word on the Vocabulary List to form a base or derived form that follows one of the patterns listed in the Annexes. Inflectional affixes may be added to derived forms (e.g., <i>deuxième</i> and <i>deuxièmes</i> from <i>deux</i>).
p.8 / footnote 7	Footnote clarifying derivational morphology within the grammar annexes has been added.
p.10	Section on formation of feminine person nouns softened slightly to allow for exceptions, and footnote added to clarify
p.11	' <i>Verbs used with plural reflexive pronouns, with reflexive and reciprocal meanings (e.g., <i>nous nous écrivons</i>; <i>vous vous parlez</i>; <i>ils se regardent</i>)</i> ' has been moved from higher tier to foundation tier as reflexive verbs are to follow the same rules as non-reflective verbs in terms of tenses and persons of the verb to be learnt.
p.11	Removal of ' <i>singular</i> ' and addition of ' <i>nous, vous, se</i> ' in relation to preverbal position of reflexive nouns
p.11	Addition of: ' <i>Where a word listed can be used as multiple types of pronouns (e.g., 'elle', 'nous', 'vous' as emphatic pronouns and subject pronouns, or 'lui' as an emphatic pronoun and an indirect object pronoun), these can be listed as one entry and used in each form, so long as all variations of use are set out in the entry.</i> '
p.12	Section on inflectional morphology softened slightly to allow for

	exceptions, and footnote added to clarify
p.12	<p><i>‘Some verbs change the spelling in their stems (e.g., accents change (mener, je mène); consonants are doubled (jeter, je jette), softened (manger, nous mangeons; commencer, nous commençons) or dropped (mettre, je mets)’.</i></p> <p>has been amended to</p> <p><i>‘Some verbs incur a change to the spelling in their stems usually in order to preserve a pronunciation pattern (e.g., accents change or are added (mener, je mène); a letter is added (jeter, je jette), softened, (manger, nous mangeons; commencer, nous commençons), dropped (mettre, je mets), or substituted’.</i></p>
p.12	<p><i>‘Such spelling changes will not be credit-bearing’</i></p> <p><i>Amended to (in this instance and throughout the document when referring to something being ‘non-credit bearing’)</i></p> <p><i>‘Such spelling changes would not normally be individually credit-bearing’</i></p>
p.13	‘Agreement of past participles’ added.
p.14	<i>Addition of: ‘no tenses should be used which are outside the current subject content and grammar annexes. Reflexives should be bound by the same rules as all other verbs - only being used in the tenses specified in the subject content and its annexes’</i> to the section on reflexive use of verbs
p.15	<p>À / de can be needed before a noun or a second verb following some verbs. These verb + preposition combinations will be listed in the Vocabulary List alongside the verb entry (e.g., <i>finir</i> ‘to finish’; <i>finir de</i> + infinitive ‘to finish + verb’; <i>dépendre</i> ‘to depend’; <i>dépendre de</i> ‘to depend on + noun’). Where the preposition changes or adds to the meaning of the verb, English translations will be listed (e.g., <i>arriver</i> ‘to arrive’; <i>arriver à</i> ‘to manage to’).</p> <p>has been amended to</p> <p>À / de can be needed before a noun or a second verb following some verbs and adjectives. Where the preposition changes or adds to the meaning of the verb, English translations will be listed (e.g., <i>arriver</i> ‘to arrive’; <i>arriver à</i> ‘to manage to’).</p>
p.16 / footnote 11	Footnote added to clarify derivational morphology within the grammar annexes
p.18	Softening of wording regarding use of emphatic pronouns to permit use of emphatics pronouns on their own e.g., for emphasis.

p.18	<p><i>'Relative clauses using wh- pronouns (où, quand, and que)'</i></p> <p>amended to</p> <p><i>'Relative clauses (with où and que)'</i></p>
p.23	<p>Infinitive constructions ohne/statt ... zu ...; um ... zu ...; verbs with zu ..., eg beginnen, hoffen, versuchen has been added to inflectional morphology (moved from higher tier)</p>
p.24	<p>Wording regarding adjectival phrases softened to allow for the use of singular adjectives without adjectives in some cases.</p>
p.25	<p>Wording surrounding comparative adjective structures softened.</p>
p.31	<p><i>'...and sometimes lose an accent'</i> added to the second bullet point in the section entitled 'formation of plural nouns'</p>
p.32	<p><i>'Reflexive use of plural forms of pronouns (including with reciprocal function) (e.g., nos vemos, os entendéis, se besan)'</i> and <i>'Highly irregular specific verb forms will be listed in the Vocabulary List. No tenses should be used which are outside the current subject content and grammar annexes.'</i></p> <p><i>Reflexives should be bound by the same rules as all other verbs - only being used by the tenses specified in the subject content and its annexes'</i> have been moved from higher tier to foundation tier.</p>
p.34	<p>Given that reflexive verbs are to be bound by the rules of all other (non-reflexive) verbs, the words <i>'and plural'</i> have been added to the <i>'reflexive use of verbs'</i> section.</p>
p.35	<p>Revised bullet points to the list under the section header 'adjectival phrases'</p>
p.35	<p>Deletion of <i>'... these verb + preposition combinations will be listed in the Vocabulary List alongside the verb entry (e.g., dejar 'to leave'; dejar de + infinitive 'to stop + verb'; ir 'to go'; ir de + noun 'to go (for/on) + noun, to go + -ing)'</i> from 'prepositions' section.</p>
p.36	<p><i>'Antes de, después de + infinitive'</i> added to 'prepositions' section.</p>

Table of changes made to the GCSE subject content for French, German, and Spanish 2022 between January 2022 to May 2022

Page number	Description of change
p.14	Change of order in the sentence so that the irregular examples follow the regular – this happens twice on the page.
p.15	'i.e.,' and 'will be listed in the Vocabulary List' added to the brackets in para 3.
p.17	In the 'inflectional morphology' section of the French Higher tier grammar annex, ' <i>only</i> ' has been removed and ' <i>; plus the additional forms laid out below for the anchor verbs' has been added</i> (bullet 1).
p.17	In the 'inflectional morphology' of the French Higher tier grammar annex, 'singular' has been removed from bullet point 5.
p.24	Use of contracted forms of <i>an, bei, in, von</i> and <i>zu</i> with definite article, (<u><i>i.e. ans, am, beim, ins, im, vom, zum, zur</i></u> will be listed in the Vocabulary List). – (<i>words underlined added</i>).
p.29	Contraction of definite article ' <i>el</i> ' after prepositions <i>de</i> and <i>a</i> (<u><i>i.e., del, al</i></u> will be listed in the Vocabulary List). – (<i>words underlined added</i>).
p.35	'(The <i>pedir</i> cluster will be credit-bearing as at Foundation') has been added.
p.37	Deletion of ' <i>to be able to accurately transcribe and read aloud unknown words</i> ' from the section 'key stress positions and associated spelling rules' in Spanish grammar annex.
p.54	Asterix removed from 'Les' – 5 th column from bottom of the page.
p.55; p.71	' <i>c</i> ' added to headword column of ' <i>ce/cet</i> ', and ' <i>it</i> ' added as an English translation.
p.56; p.73; p.128; p.141	'Relative pronoun' removed from grammar feature column for French and German required words for foundation and higher.
p.65; p.83	Brackets added to the English translation 'how to' for ' <i>savoir</i> '; ' <i>sais</i> '; ' <i>sait</i> ' ' <i>savons</i> '; ' <i>savez</i> '; and ' <i>savent</i> '.
p.66; p.87	'than' replaced with 'that' as English translation of <i>que</i> (conjunction) in French required words foundation and higher tables.
p.67; p.88	'On' added as English translation to ' <i>a</i> ', and 'on the' added as English translation to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - '<i>au/à l</i>'; - '<i>à la/à l</i>';

	- aux
p.73	'ne...plus' added to Annex E French higher required words.
p.60; p.78; p.61; p.79	'faisais; faisais de' and 'faisait; faisait de' added to Annex E French higher required word list.
p.73	'again' added as English translation to 'encore' in French higher required word list.
p.82	'is' added to 'it' as English translation to ' <i>il est + time</i> '.
p.83	'one) would like ' added as English translation to ' <i>voudrait</i> ' in French higher required word list.
p.87	Brackets added around 'than' in English translation column of ' <i>plus (...que).</i> '
p.88	'Après avoir + infinitive' replaced with 'Après avoir + pp'
p.105; p.123	'dites' added to French foundation and higher optional word list
p.127; p.140	'euere' corrected to 'eure'
p.128; p.141	'that' added as an English translation to ' <i>das</i> ' in German required words foundation and higher
p.147	'below' and 'among' added as English translations to ' <i>unter</i> ' in German required words higher.
p.168; p.180	<i>Juez; Jueza; presidente; presidenta</i> removed from Spanish required words foundation and higher
p.176	'comparative structures' entries at Spanish required words higher have been amended to match that of foundation
p.176; p.192	'than' replaced with 'that' as English translations to <i>que</i> (conjunction) for Spanish required words foundation and higher.
p.192	'(subj)' deleted from English translation to <i>que</i> (conjunction) for Spanish required words foundation and higher.