

AQA Specification
For teaching from September 2024
onwards For GCSE exams in 2026
onwards

Topics

Theme 1: People and Lifestyle

Topic 1: Identity and relationships with others

Topic 2: Healthy living and lifestyle

Topic 3: Education and work

Theme 2: Popular culture

Topic 1: Free-time activities

Topic 2: Customs, festivals and celebrations

Topic 3: Celebrity culture

Theme 3: Communication and the world around us

Topic 1: Travel and Tourism, including places of interest

Topic 2: Media and Technology

Topic 3: 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

(25 % of total grade)

Foundation

35 minutes

40 marks:

Section A (answers in English) - 32 marks

Section B (dictation) - 8 marks

Higher

45 minutes

50 marks:

Section A (answers 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

Exam papers

Paper 2 Speaking

(25 % of total grade)

1. **Role play** → 10 marks (Foundation & Higher 1.5–2 mins)
Prompts in English; all in social settings, none transactional
2. **Read aloud text** (5 marks) and **4 follow-up questions** (10 marks) → 15 marks
(Foundation 2–2.5 mins, Higher 3–3.5 mins)
3. **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.

Exam papers

Paper 3 Reading

(25 % of total grade)

Foundation

45 minutes

50 marks:

Section A (answer in English) – 40 marks

Section B (translation into English) – 10 marks

Higher

60 minutes

50 marks:

Section A (answers in English) - 40 marks

Section B (translation into English) - 10 marks

Exam papers

Paper 4 Writing

(25 % of total grade)

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