

## Frequently asked questions (FAQs)

### **Why have changes been made now?**

Following the first full series of the latest GCE MFL AS and A2 examinations, a review was held of the qualification between Awarding Bodies and the Qualifications and Curriculum Authority (QCA). Edexcel, influenced by feedback from centres, has taken this opportunity to remove Assessment Objective 4 (Demonstrating knowledge and understanding of aspects of the chosen society) from Units 4 and 6. In June 2003, the QCA approved this (and related changes to assessment grids) as a 'minor revision' to the specification.

### **Which GCE language qualifications have been amended?**

The changes affect Advanced Subsidiary and Advanced GCE qualifications in French (8190/9190), German (8230/9230), Spanish (8590/9590), Italian (8330/9330), Russian (8570/9570) and Urdu (8643/9643).

### **When will students be assessed against the new grids?**

The new grids will apply from June 2004.

### **Has the choice of topics and texts changed?**

There has been no change of choice of topics or texts that will affect examinations in 2004. However, some changes to topics and texts for German\* and Russian\* (first examination June 2005) and for French and Spanish (first examination in 2006) are outlined in the Notice to centres.

### **Will my centre automatically receive a copy of the newly revised specification?**

No. Instead, two copies of the Notice to Centres have been produced for each centre (one copy for the Head of Department and one for the examinations Officer). Further copies of this can be downloaded from the Edexcel website. A copy of the revised specification (Issue 4) is being prepared and will soon appear on the website.

### **What are the implications for teaching?**

The Notice to Centres should be read in conjunction with the specification. Please note that the format of the papers has not changed. Students should be advised that they will **only be assessed for knowledge and understanding** of the culture and/or society of the target-language country/community **in Units 3 and 5**. Although it is quite logical for students to provide evidence of this knowledge in other units, this will not be assessed.

\* As advised in Issue 3 of the current specification