

Announcement from Asset Languages

In response to your feedback, we are altering the scheduling of our external assessments. The schedule for 2009/10 is attached.

Three key changes

1. Reduction of exam series from five to four

In order to improve how our exam series complement the academic year, from 2009/10, external assessments will take place in November, March, May and June; we will no longer be offering external assessments in January. Also, the November series will begin later, allowing learners more teaching time before taking our exams. There have been a number of adjustments to the timing of other exam series to make them more convenient for centres – please see the schedule for details.

While multiple testing windows are an important feature of Asset Languages, only 5% of 2007/8 candidates entered for tests in the January series. Customer feedback has suggested that the varying length of the spring term is an ongoing issue which makes scheduling assessments more difficult. Nevertheless, we apologise for any inconvenience this change causes to the schools and colleges who have previously used the January series.

2. Early deadline for Speaking tests only

Centres no longer have to make estimated entries for Listening, Reading or Writing assessments.

If centres are planning to conduct Speaking tests at any point during 2009/10, they must request Speaking test materials by 5 October (and then make final entries by the appropriate final entry deadline). However, for Listening, Reading and Writing tests, they only need to make final entries by the appropriate final entry deadline.

Centres joining the Asset Languages scheme during the academic year and wishing to make entries for Speaking should request Speaking test materials as soon as possible. The materials will normally be despatched to these centres 4 weeks after receiving the request.

3. Results and certificates

From autumn term 2009, results and certificates will be despatched together on the same day, for the convenience of all schools and colleges. This will benefit candidates in May in particular who will receive their results and certificates before the end of June. Additionally those candidates entered for the June exam series will receive their results and certificates on the same day as the GCE A Level results, to help with university admissions processes.