



Welcome to the world of languages

We have chosen to offer new assessments for languages, called Asset Languages. This is a short introduction to the qualifications.

What is Asset Languages?

Asset Languages is a new assessment scheme for languages. It is designed to give learners of all ages and abilities recognition for their language skills.

The scheme is an important part of the Government's National Languages Strategy to improve and increase the learning of languages. Asset Languages qualifications are accredited on the UK's National Qualifications Framework and linked to the Common European Framework of Reference for languages qualifications.

They have been developed by leading UK awarding body, OCR, on behalf of the DfES.

Why have we chosen Asset Languages?

These assessments are 'tried and tested'. Asset Languages assessments have been successfully run in England and Wales since 2005. Over 10 000 learners have already been assessed using these qualifications.

How does it work?

Asset Languages assessments measure language abilities using a framework called the Languages Ladder.

- The Ladder has six rungs or stages in total and runs from complete beginner to mastery.
- Each stage is made up of three grades.
- There is a Can Do statement for each of the skills of listening, speaking reading and writing for each grade.
- The Can Do statement describes clearly what the learner has achieved for that skill and level.

For example:

Breakthrough Grade 3 Listening Can Do statement
"I can understand the main points from a short spoken passage."

Preliminary Grade 5 Speaking Can Do statement
"I can give a short prepared talk, on a topic of my choice, including expressing my opinions."

Preliminary Grade 6 Writing Can Do statement
"I can write a simple text, e.g. a letter, giving and seeking information."

Intermediate Grade 7 Reading Can Do statement
"I can understand longer texts and recognise people's points of view."

www.assetlanguages.org.uk

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separately.



What are the assessments like?

Asset Languages tests the four skills separately. This benefits learners because they can make progress more quickly where their skills are strongest.

Tests are short and can be taken when the learner is ready. Asset Languages rewards what the learner can do, not what they have memorised. The emphasis is on language learning not revision and test preparation. There is no coursework or project work to complete.

Learners' language confidence can also be built up by using the informal Asset Languages teacher assessment material – this measures achievement against the grade steps within a stage. Teacher assessment provides a good preparation for the external assessments.

Are Asset Languages qualifications equivalent to a GCSE?

Yes. As each skill is tested separately with Asset, learners would need to have taken four external Asset Languages qualifications at Preliminary or Intermediate stage to equate a GCSE standard. The skills do not all have to be in the same language or at the same level.

Where can I get more information?

You can find more information on the Asset Languages website, www.assetlanguages.org.uk

Information about the value of studying languages can be found on the Languages Work website, www.languageswork.org.uk

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