



Year 9 GCHQ Language Challenge





GCHQ Linguists

Linguists working at GCHQ play an important role in keeping the country safe.

In their working lives, they are expected to demonstrate:

- ☐ Strong language skills
- ☐ Teamwork and good communication
- ☐ Research and analysis skills
- ☐ An interest in the language and culture of foreign countries
- ☐ Confidence in presenting findings to an audience



The Challenge

These are exactly the same skills that you will need to demonstrate whilst working on the Year 9 GCHQ Language Challenge.

You will be working in groups of between three and five to prepare a presentation on a town or region of your choice in a country where the main language is the one you are learning.

You will be asked to deliver your presentation to the class. The best group from each class will then battle it out. The winning team will be entered in a regional competition and, if selected, could represent the school at the Final held at GCHQ in Cheltenham in March.



The Finals

Teams from ten schools throughout the West Country will have the chance to attend the Final at GCHQ in Cheltenham, delivering their presentation in front of the other competing schools and the judging panel.

The day will also provide insights into the working life of GCHQ, as well as language taster lessons from GCHQ linguists in less common languages.

Prizes will be awarded to the winning team and runners up at this event.



Class Competitions

Your teacher will tell you when and how the initial class competitions will take place.

To start your project, you will need to identify and agree on the town or region you are choosing to focus on for your presentation.

If you are using PowerPoint to present your information, simply reading off the slides is not acceptable; you should plan a full script to accompany the information on your slides.

Your presentation should last between five and ten minutes. You are free to include embedded music or video clips as long as they don't take up more than two minutes in total.

What to talk about

Your presentation must include:

- ☐ An introduction to your town / region
- ☐ Your reasons for choosing this town / region

You should also then include a range of information selected from the following topics:

- ☐ History of the area
- ☐ Geographical situation
- ☐ Cultural and sporting highlights
- ☐ Current political and economic situation
- ☐ Any notable festivals or events
- ☐ Religious and cultural background
- ☐ Any particular challenges the town / region is currently facing

Reminders

- ☐ Groups of between 3 and 5
- ☐ Must be a town / region in a country that speaks the language you are learning
- ☐ Work together as a whole team, demonstrating the skills required by GCHQ – communication skills, research and analysis skills, an interest in the language and culture of your chosen location, presentation skills
- ☐ If using PowerPoint, don't just read from the slides
- ☐ The presentation should last for between 5 and 10 minutes
- ☐ A maximum of 2 minutes of music or video clips
- ☐ Everything must be in the foreign language – all information on the slides, everything you say, and any music or videos

Good luck...