Awarding levels in speaking endorsement

Ofqual requirements

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GCSE_Subject_Level_Conditions_and_Requirements_for_Modern_Foreign_Languages_and_C
ertificate_Requirements__2021_.pdf

Specified levels of attainment in spoken language assessments and their application
In relation to each spoken language assessment, an awarding organisation must ensure that –

(a) the specified levels of attainment are Pass, Merit and Distinction,

(b) the criteria used by Assessors to determine whether each Learner will be awarded a Pass, Merit or Distinction are those set out in Table 1 below, and

(c) a Learner who does not meet the criteria to be awarded a Pass, Merit or Distinction, or who has not been exempted on grounds of disability from the assessment but who does not take it, is issued a result of 'not classified'.

To be awarded a Pass, Merit or Distinction a Learner must –

(a) take part in different tasks that are varied across different themes,

(b) use language for different purposes, and

(c) meet all of the criteria at the level for the Communication and interaction aspect and all of the criteria at the same level for at least two of the three other aspects of assessment with one aspect permissible at the level below. This includes awarding a pass to Learners who fail to meet the criteria for one of Range of language, Accuracy or Pronunciation and intonation.

The criteria below are to be applied to Learners entering at either the foundation or higher tier

The application of the criteria enables a limited compensatory approach.

The key focus is on competence in Communication and interaction which is mandatory at the level to be awarded. To be awarded that level the expectations for Communication and interaction and two of the other aspects must be met in full. One of the other aspects may be one below the level to allow for a range of performance. (p.19)

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Table 1: The criteria for Pass, Merit and Distinction

Grade	Communication and interaction	Range of language	Accuracy	Pronunciation and intonation
Pass	To be awarded a pass, the Learner • gives some relevant information in generally short responses. • conveys simple opinions. • asks some straightforward questions. • may not always understand questions asked, but responses to those which are understood are comprehensible. • demonstrates a basic level of interaction.	To be awarded a pass, the Learner • uses mostly simple grammatical structures. • uses a limited range of familiar vocabulary and expressions. • makes reference to present and past and/or future events with occasional success.	To be awarded a pass, the Learner • is mainly correct when using familiar vocabulary and simple grammatical structures. • is likely to make errors, which sometimes impede communication.	To be awarded a pass, the Learner • uses pronunciation that is mostly understandable. • makes errors that sometimes impede communication. • there may be frequent native language interference.
Merit	To be awarded a merit, the Learner • conveys mainly relevant information with occasional longer responses. • expresses opinions with some simple justification. • asks some varied questions to obtain information. • responds to questions and develops some answers. • demonstrates a good level of interaction.	To be awarded a merit, the Learner • manipulates straightforward grammatical structures with some variation and occasional complex structures. • uses relevant and some varied vocabulary and expressions. • is generally successful in making reference to present, past and future events.	To be awarded a merit, the Learner • uses a generally good level of accuracy when using straightforward vocabulary and grammatical structures. • is likely to make errors, particularly when more complex language is attempted. Such errors sometimes hinder clarity of communication.	To be awarded a merit, the Learner • uses generally good pronunciation and intonation but with some inconsistency. • makes some errors that occasionally impede communication. • there may be some native language interference.

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Grade	Communication and interaction	Range of language	Accuracy	Pronunciation and intonation
Distinction	To be awarded a distinction, the Learner • communicates detailed and relevant information, including extended responses. • expresses a variety of opinions with justification. • asks a variety of questions using a range of question forms. • responds to a variety of questions, often developing their answers. • demonstrates a very good level of interaction.	To be awarded a distinction, the Learner • manipulates a variety of grammatical structures including some complex structures. • uses a range of relevant vocabulary and a variety of expressions. • is mostly successful in making references to present, past and future events.	To be awarded a distinction, the Learner • uses predominantly accurate language using a range of relevant vocabulary and some complex grammatical structures. • is likely to make errors that are usually minor or occur when complex structures and/or less familiar vocabulary are attempted. Such errors rarely hinder clarity of communication.	To be awarded a distinction, the Learner • uses pronunciation and intonation that are overall accurate and intelligible. • makes errors which rarely impede communication. • there may be only isolated native language interference.

Summary

There are 4 aspects:
- Communication and interaction,
- Range of language,
- Accuracy
- Pronunciation and intonation

1. To meet a level for any aspect, the expectations must be met in full (i.e. in checklist ALL the expectations must be ticked for the given level)

2. To combine the levels from the 4 aspects, the C&I is mandatory, i.e. is limiting i.e. you cannot get a higher level overall than you get for C&I

3. There must also be at least 2 of the other 3 aspects at the same or higher level, and if below, must not be more than one below

C&I aspect	Other 3 aspects Range of language, Accuracy or Pronunciation and intonation.	Overall
Distinction	All 3 at Distinction	Distinction
Distinction	2 at Distinction, 1 at Merit	Distinction
Distinction	2 at Distinction, 1 at Pass	Merit
Distinction	2 at Merit or Distinction, 1 at Pass	Merit
Distinction	1 at Merit or Distinction, 1 or 2 passes (i.e. max 1 "not met")	Pass
Distinction	0 at Merit or Distinction, 2 or 3 passes (i.e. max 1 "not met")	Pass
Distinction	2 or more "not met"	Not Classified
Merit	All 3 at Merit or Distinction	Merit
Merit	2 at Merit or Distinction, 1 at Pass	Merit
Merit	2 at Merit or Distinction, 1 "not met"	Pass
Merit	1 at Merit or Distinction, 1 or 2 Pass (i.e. max 1 "not met")	Pass
Merit	2 or more "not met"	Not Classified
Pass	max 1 "not met"	Pass
Pass	2 or more "not met"	Not Classified