



ALL Briefing No. 44

Date: September 2025

Theme: GCSE Languages - subject content - table of changes

Background:

The Subject Content for GCSE French, German and Spanish in England was first published in 2022.

The table referenced here collates changes to that document in the interim period.

Key messages:

This table published in February 2025 combines changes to requirements from 2022 and 2025, and has been effective from September 2024. The changes are to the 2022 original document *French, German and Spanish GCSE subject content*:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/gcse-french-german-and-spanish-subject-content>. They are sometimes textual corrections or clarifications and sometimes changes of emphasis; those listed here are purely illustrative; the full document (8 pages) is available here:

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/67b606759ae06ef4a71cf2e8/Table_of_changes_made_to_the_GCSE_subject_content_for_French_German_and_Spanish_Feb_2025.pdf

Sample quotations:

Page numbers refer to the associated document : [French, German and Spanish GCSE subject content](#); there are also two annexes on the same webpage.

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Updated the subject content to include the plural forms of reflexive verbs to align with grammar content. Expanded the vocabulary list to include reflexive emphatic pronouns. Clarified that derived forms must be listed in the vocabulary list unless clearly recognisable to students.

From May 2022 - 28 changes are listed: below are some examples only; please check for context against the associated document above.

(sic) indicates that the wording is copied accurately but may be unclear.

P 7 para 19	Parameters from which vocabulary can be selected softened slightly. 85% of words <i>should</i> be selected from the 2,000 most frequently occurring words (previously <i>must</i>)
P 11	'Verbs used with plural reflexive pronouns, with reflexive and reciprocal meanings (e.g. <i>nous nous écrivons; vous vous parlez; ils se regardent</i> ' has been moved from higher tier to foundation tier as reflexive verbs are to follow the same rules as non-relective (sic) verbs in terms of tenses and persons of the verb to be learnt.
P 13	'Agreement of past participles' added
P 23	Infinitive constructions ohne/statt ... zu, ...; um ... zu ...; verbs with zu ..., eg beginnen, hoffen, versuchen, has been added to inflectional morphology (moved from higher tier) (sic)
P 24	Wording regarding adjectival phrases softened to allow for the use of singular adjectives without adjectives in some cases. (sic)
P 32	' <i>Reflexive use of plural forms of pronouns (including with reciprocal function) (eg nos vemos, os entendéis, se besan) and 'Highly irregular specific verb forms will be listed in the Vocabulary List. No tenses should be used which are outside the current subject content and grammar annexes. Reflexives should be bound by the same rules as all other verbs – only being used by the tenses specified in the subject content and grammar annexes'</i> have been moved from higher tier to foundation tier.

From January-May 2022 – 29 changes are listed; again these are examples only; please check for context against the associated document above.

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P 14	Use of contracted forms of <i>an, bei, in, von</i> and <i>zu</i> with the definite article, (i.e. <i>ans, am, beim, ins, um, zum, zur</i> , <u>will be listed in the Vocabulary list</u>). – (words underlined added).
P 56; p 73; p 128; p 141	'Relative pronoun' removed from grammar feature column for French and German required words for foundation and higher.
P 60 / p 78 / ; P61 / p 79	'faisais; faisais de' and 'faisait; faisait de' added to Annex E French higher require word list
P 88	'Après (sic) avoir + infinitive' replaced by Après (sic) avoir +pp'
P 105; 123	'dites' added to French foundation and higher optional word list
P 168; p 180	<i>Juez; Jueza; president; presidenta</i> removed from Spanish required words foundation and higher

References:

NB These are selected details only. Please consult the full document if required.

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/67b606759ae06ef4a71cf2e8/Table_of_changes_made_to_the_GCSE_subject_content_for_French_German_and_Spanish_Feb_2025.pdf

The changes are to the original document here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/gcse-french-german-and-spanish-subject-content>

Track changes here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/gcse-french-german-and-spanish-subject-content#full-publication-update-history>

This Briefing is largely for updating of members.

This Briefing has been prepared by volunteers from the ALL Council and is for the benefit of ALL members.

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