

From: Alistair Drewery

4th April 2006

Dear Colleague,

Re: QCA Consultation of GCE AS/A level subject criteria for Modern Foreign Languages (MFL)

As you may be aware, draft criteria for new GCE AS/A level subject criteria have become available and can be viewed on the Qualifications and Curriculum Authority (QCA) website: <http://www.qca.org.uk>.

QCA has also placed a linked questionnaire on the website which you may wish to contribute to.

Once the criteria have been finalised, Edexcel will revisit and redesign its specifications in line with these. We look forward to flexible criteria and weightings that will permit the development of four unit models for main languages. Importantly, this would reduce the number of end assessments for students in line with the specifications in most other curriculum areas.

Although Edexcel has maintained student numbers since the introduction of Curriculum 2000, there is a general decline in the number of GCE language learners and many are reluctant to progress from AS to A2. It is feared that learners could be further deterred from continuing with language study if GCE qualifications involve more units than the alternatives.

We hope that the new criteria will also allow Edexcel to continue offering GCE provision for languages with reduced candidatures through 'single' AS and A2 units.

More information about the Edexcel suite of language GCE qualifications will be placed on the Edexcel website in due course.

The online consultation must be undertaken before 8th May.

Yours faithfully,



Alistair Drewery

Qualifications Leader - Languages