

National Qualifications 2027: Advanced Higher Modern Languages Performance–talking

Visiting assessment guidance for teachers and lecturers,
January 2027

This edition: October 2026

Copyright © Qualifications Scotland 2026



Note

The modern languages covered by this guidance are Cantonese, French, Gaelic (Learners), German, Italian, Mandarin (Simplified and Traditional) and Spanish.

1 Date and arrangements

The visiting period is **15 February to 25 March 2027**. The assessment must be carried out during this time. You need to be as flexible as possible when arranging a date with the visiting assessor (VA).

If the date and/or time proposed by the VA is unsuitable, or if the majority of learners will not be available, you must immediately contact the Visiting Examining Helpdesk.

The Helpdesk opening hours are:

Monday – Thursday: 08:30 – 16:30

Friday: 08:30 – 15:30

(call 0345 213 6612 option 3 or email visiting.examining@qualifications.gov.scot)

This is necessary to minimise disruption of the VA's programme of visits.

Please notify Qualifications Scotland of any change in the numbers of learners.

2 Assessment arrangements

It is not the VA's role to make any decision on assessment arrangements. You must contact Assessment Arrangements Team (VAA@qualifications.gov.scot) to agree assessment arrangements before your VA visits.

The deadline for submitting assessment arrangement requests is **27 November 2026**.

Please discuss any assessment arrangements that are in place for your learners with your VA.

3 Environment

Please provide suitably quiet surroundings for conducting the assessment — any distracting noise may adversely affect learners' performance.

- Learners **must not** bring mobile phones or other types of mobile technology with them to the assessment.
- You **must not** be present during the assessment.

4 Procedure

Learners are assessed individually, and co-ordinators must ensure that they are available in good time for the start of their scheduled appointment. Learners are normally assessed in alphabetical order of surnames. However, if some learners can be more conveniently assessed out of this order, you can arrange a revised timetable.

As soon as the VA arrives, you must inform them of any change to the order of learners being assessed, and/or provide them with a revised timetable.

5 Timings

The assessment of each learner takes approximately, and no more than, 20 minutes. Learners must be available at 25-minute intervals. Six learners can be presented in a session. The normal times of assessment sessions are:

Morning session 9:15 – 12:00

Afternoon session 13:15 – 16:00

These times can be modified, in consultation with the VA, to suit local conditions or the VA's travel arrangements. You do not need to inform us about any changes in session schedules.

6 Recording

VAs record all learner performances on Qualifications Scotland's equipment. You do not need to provide equipment for this purpose.

7 Changes in learners' entries

If you are presenting additional learners, you must inform the Visiting Examining Team as soon as possible and well in advance of the VA's visit. You must also ensure that a completed STL/AH form is provided for each additional learner and submitted to the Visiting Examining Team.

Your co-ordinator must inform us through your centre's management information system (for example Connect or SEEMiS) about additional or withdrawn learners and learners who have changed level.

Your co-ordinator must also complete a Visiting Examining Attendance Register Supplement form for any additional learners, which the VA will return to us along with the Ex6 Attendance Registers. This form is available on our [web page](#).

8 Absent learners

It is important that learners are available on the day of the assessment: they may not be absent without good reason.

If any learners are absent during the VA's visit, it is your responsibility to submit an absentee form for a return visit. You should complete this immediately once the VA has finished, along with details of acceptable cause for absence.

A request for a revisit can only be made if the learner is unwell or is representing their country in a sporting event. Please note that a holiday is not a valid reason for a revisit.

You can submit an absentee form here: [Absentee Form - Visiting Examining](#)

You don't have to submit a medical certificate with your request for a revisit. We only require the reason the learner was absent from the assessment.

If an absentee learner is unlikely to be able to be assessed within the visiting period, please inform us as soon as possible.

9 Withdrawn learners

If a learner has withdrawn or is absent with no acceptable reason, you must inform the VA who will record this on the Ex6 Attendance Register and return it to us.

10 The assessment

The assessment is a discussion between the learner and the VA, sampling at least one context and related topics studied by the learner as part of the Advanced Higher course. This sampling also includes discussion of the work the learner has undertaken in compiling the portfolio.

Learner performance is assessed against marking information in the [Advanced Higher Modern Languages Course Specification](#).

Before the assessment takes place, you must provide us with a completed STL/AH form for each learner. You can find guidance on how to complete this form under the Visiting Examining tab on the [Advanced Higher Modern Languages web page](#).

It is important that learners complete the form in English.

You should submit these forms to visiting.examining@qualifications.gov.scot no later than **22 January 2027**. If your centre has learners entered for more than one language, you should submit their STL/AH forms for each modern language in separate emails.

Please note that we only accept forms that have been scanned into PDFs or completed as Word documents. This allows teachers to monitor and check learners' submissions.

It is important to remember that the performance–talking is not a presentation: it is an opportunity for learners to give their opinions and views on aspects of the course.

11 Feedback on the day

VAs may provide you with a brief overview of learners' performance but will not disclose any marks awarded.

12 Problems or disagreements

If any problems or disagreements arise during the VA's visit, you must inform the head of centre and/or deputy and forward a detailed report to us at visiting.examining@qualifications.gov.scot. The VA must not be contacted directly by centres, learners or parents.

Frequently Asked Questions

Why hasn't the VA contacted our centre to arrange dates?

VAs do not receive their allocation until the end of January. You should contact the Visiting Examining Helpdesk if your VA has not been in touch by the start of the visiting assessment period.

What happens if we are unable to agree a mutually suitable date with the VA?

Contact the Visiting Examining Helpdesk and provide the reason you can't reach a suitable date.

Why has the VA not arrived at the scheduled time?

Contact the Visiting Examining Helpdesk, who will attempt to contact the VA.

We have a learner who is to be assessed at another centre. What do we need to do?

You will have received an email explaining this process on 26 October 2026. This email also contains a link to the online Alternative Assessment Centre form, which you should complete and submit to us so that we can make the necessary arrangements. Your learner will be assessed at the alternative centre.

It is your centre's responsibility to ensure that travel arrangements for your learner are in place on the day of the assessment.

We have a learner who is being presented by another centre but is sitting their assessment at our centre. What do we need to do?

The VA will be provided with contact details for your centre and will be in touch with your co-ordinator to arrange the visit.

A learner has missed their assessment due to illness. What should we do?

You must submit an absentee form as detailed in section 8.