

Dear Germanist,

1. Ofqual MFL and Grade standards consultations

Alles neu macht der Mai - you can't say we're not used to changes in the world of education! This time, however, you can have your say and respond to not just one but two Ofqual consultations as per Helen Bowles's message below.

The deadlines are:

MFL/Ancient Languages consultation: 23 May 2014

Setting the grade standards for new GCSEs consultation: 30 June 2014

Message from Ofqual:

Last week we launched our consultation on the structure and assessment of new GCSEs in Modern Foreign Languages (MFL) and Ancient Languages, which are due to be introduced for first teaching in 2016.

We would encourage you to read and respond to the consultation, which closes on Friday 23rd May 2014. You can access the consultation at: <http://comment.ofqual.gov.uk/modern-foreign-and-ancient-languages/>

We will be running consultation events soon, giving you the opportunity to discuss our proposals and feedback your thoughts to us, and will be in touch with the dates of these as soon as possible.

These events will also cover our consultation on 'Setting the Grade Standards of new GCSEs in England'. This consultation sets out our proposals for how standards should be set for new GCSEs and can be accessed here: <http://comment.ofqual.gov.uk/setting-the-grade-standards-of-new-gcses-april-2014/>. Again, we would encourage you to respond to this consultation, which will close on 30th June 2014.

If you have any queries, or require any further support in responding to the consultations, please email consultations@ofqual.gov.uk or call our helpdesk on 0300 303 3346.

With kind regards

Helen Bowles

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2. British Academy Schools Language Awards

Applications open for 2014!

Do you want to see more students taking a language to a higher level?
Do you want more of them to go on to A'level or to study a language at university?
How would you use £4,000 to make that a reality?

Last year the British Academy awarded a total of £60,000 to schools, colleges and other providers, including supplementary schools, to encourage excellence in language learning.

In 2014 the British Academy is again offering a series of Awards throughout the UK for projects that encourage larger numbers of students to take languages to advanced and degree level. Tell the British Academy what you would do to increase numbers or attainment in your school – or schools you are working with – and you could win £4,000 or more for your school.

For further details see the British Academy Schools Language Awards 2014 webpage: <http://www.britac.ac.uk/policy/BASLAs.cfm> .

The deadline for applications is 30 June 2014.

3. Resources round-up: video

Video is gaining in popularity in language teaching, and German is no exception. Here are just a few links to some free online videos you might find useful :

- Deutsche Welle: Bandtagebuch. <http://www.dw.de/deutsch-lernen/bandtagebuch/s-13891>
40 short episodes plus 13 music videos featuring the band EinsHoch6 from Munich. Includes interactive activities, and a 'Für Lehrer' section with downloadable worksheets. You can even book the band to run a workshop at your school! Our favourite song (hopefully the weather will oblige soon): Sommer in der Stadt <http://www.dw.de/deutsch-lernen/das-bandtagebuch-folge-4/s-100455>

- BBC Class clips: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/learningzone/clips/>
Select 'German' under 'Primary' or 'Secondary' level as appropriate, and then select again by topic.

- Youtube: <https://www.youtube.com/>
The link takes you to the Youtube home page for a reason: you can make your own playlist and select clips to show and work with in class. Search for 'Hallo aus Berlin', 'Muzzy German', 'Learn German', or something specific that fits in with your topic right now- you'll be amazed what comes up. For a bit of fun try this one: 'Get Germanized'. (Top tip for sharing sites such as Youtube: always, always watch the whole video by yourself first just to make 100% sure it really is suitable and doesn't contain anything that may offend!)

If you've come across any good free German videos you'd like to share, please do send us the links. Your feedback and comments are always welcome!

Mit vielen herzlichen Grüßen

Heike

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