

HSC Beginners courses

Chinese, French, German, Indonesian, Italian, Japanese, Korean, Modern Greek, Spanish

This document should be read in conjunction with the [Stage 6 Assessment Policy](#) document, which can be found on the NSW School of Languages website.

School-based assessment and the final HSC result

To obtain the final HSC mark, NESA adds together and averages

- the **percentage mark obtained in the HSC examination**
- and
- the **moderated assessment mark** (also a percentage mark).

To arrive at the moderated assessment mark there are two steps:

- the student completes a number of assessment tasks set by the school, the results of which are combined to form the **final school assessment mark**.
- the school provides NESA with all of its students' final assessment marks, and NESA applies statistical procedures to the marks to ensure that marks from all schools are comparable. This procedure produces the moderated assessment mark for each student.

This means that half of the available marks for the final HSC result are reserved for the **moderated assessment mark**.

Please note that the moderating procedure may alter a student's actual mark, but it does not alter the student's position in the group studying that course at the same school. This means that, if a student's original final school assessment mark places that student at 5th place in the school course group, then the moderated assessment mark for that student will be at 5th place even though the actual mark may change.

As mentioned above, the final school assessment mark is the combination of marks from a number of assessment tasks held throughout the HSC year.

NESA requires that the final school assessment mark be compiled in such a way that the marks available for each of a number of defined **components** of the course make up a fixed percentage or **weighting** of the final mark. These components are called the **assessment components** for the course.

Organisation of assessment tasks

The [timetable](#) of the NSW School of Languages Year 12 Assessments with specific dates is available on the NSW School of Languages website. [Assessment Task information notices](#) will be posted on the NSW School of Languages **two weeks prior to** the assessment tasks. They will also be available through **Canvas**.

Students should be aware that it is a condition of enrolment that they sit for assessment tasks under the conditions specified by NSW School of Languages. Failure to attempt these assessment tasks may render the student ineligible to sit for this subject at the Higher School Certificate Examination.

NSW School of Languages Beginners HSC Courses Assessment 2023-24

Component	Task 1		Task 2		Task 3		Task 4 (TRIAL)		Total Weighting %
	Term 4 Week 7 22 November 2023		Term 1 Week 8 18 - 22 March 2024		Term 3 Week 2 29 July - 2 Aug 2024		Term 3 Week 2 29 July - 2 Aug 2024		
	Outcomes assessed Refer to Assessment Notice		Outcomes assessed Refer to Assessment Notice		Outcomes assessed 1.2, 1.2, 1.3, 1.4		Outcomes assessed 2.1, 2.2, 2.3, 2.4, 2.5, 2.6, 3.1, 3.2, 3.3, 3.4		
	Marks	Weighting %	Marks	Weighting %	Marks	Weighting %	Marks	Weighting %	
Listening			20	20			30	10	30
Reading	20	20					30	10	30
Speaking			10	10	20	10			20
Writing	10	10					20	10	20
Total %		30		30		10		30	100

Objectives and outcomes assessed

The table below sets out the **Objectives** and **Outcomes** required by NESAs to be assessed in the school's assessment program for this course. However, a particular assessment task may assess only **some** of these objectives and outcomes.

Objectives	Outcomes
<p>Objective 1 – Interacting</p> <p>This objective relates to the assessment components: Speaking, Listening, Reading and Writing.</p>	<p>1.1 establishes and maintains communication in the target language</p> <p>1.2 manipulates linguistic structures to express ideas effectively in the target language</p> <p>1.3 sequences ideas and information</p> <p>1.4 applies knowledge of the culture of the target language-speaking communities to interact appropriately</p>
<p>Objective 2 – Understanding texts</p> <p>This objective relates to the assessment components: Listening and Reading.</p>	<p>2.1 understands and interprets information in texts using a range of strategies</p> <p>2.2 conveys the gist of and identifies specific information in texts</p> <p>2.3 summarises the main points of a text</p> <p>2.4 draws conclusions from or justifies an opinion about a text</p> <p>2.5 identifies the purpose, context and audience of a text</p> <p>2.6 identifies and explains aspects of the culture of the target language-speaking communities</p>
<p>Objective 3 – Producing texts</p> <p>This objective relates to the assessment components: Speaking and Writing.</p>	<p>3.1 produces texts appropriate to audience, purpose and context</p> <p>3.2 structures and sequences ideas and information</p> <p>3.3 applies knowledge of diverse linguistic structures to convey information and express original ideas in the target language</p> <p>3.4 applies knowledge of the culture of the target language-speaking communities to the production of texts</p>

Criteria used to judge performance in tasks

Listening

In their answers students will be assessed on:

- how well they identify, summarise and interpret general and/or specific aspects of texts
- how accurately they convey the relevant information in English
- how well they identify and explain aspects of the culture of the [language]- speaking communities.

Speaking

In their answers students will be assessed on how well they:

- engage in a conversation
- select and incorporate particular vocabulary and structures to achieve specific communication goals
- structure information and ideas coherently
- demonstrate clarity of expression (intonation, stress).

Reading

In their answers students will be assessed on:

- how well they identify, summarise and interpret general and or specific aspects of texts
- how accurately they convey the relevant information in English
- how well they convey an intercultural understanding of [language]- speaking communities.

Writing Part A

In their answers students will be assessed on how well they:

- communicate relevant ideas and information
- write text appropriate to context, purpose and audience
- structure and sequence information and ideas
- demonstrate control of vocabulary and language structures in [language].

Part B

In their answers students will be assessed on how well they:

- communicate relevant ideas and information
- write text appropriate to context, purpose and audience
- structure and sequence information and ideas
- demonstrate control of a range of vocabulary and language structures in [language].

External assessment (HSC examination)

The examination will consist of a written paper worth 80 marks and an oral examination worth 20 marks.

Written examination (80 marks)

Time allowed: 2 hours and 30 minutes plus 10 minutes reading time.

The stimulus texts and the writing tasks will relate to the topics as listed in the syllabus.

Monolingual and/or bilingual print dictionaries may be used.

The paper will consist of three sections.

Section I – Listening (30 marks)

- There will be approximately 10 questions.
- Each question will be based on an aural text in the target language.
- Each text will be read twice. There will be a pause between the readings and a longer pause after the second reading to allow students to answer the question.
- The total time for one reading of all the texts will be approximately 8 minutes.
- The texts will include a range of text types.
- There will be a range of question types such as short-answer questions including those which may require the completion of a table, list or form, and objective response questions.
- Questions may contain parts.
- Questions/parts will be phrased in English for a response in English.
- There will be no more than 13 items in total.
- There will be at least one item worth 5 marks.

Section II – Reading (30 marks)

- There will be approximately five questions.
- Each question will be based on a written text in the target language.
- The total length of the texts will be approximately:
 - 750 words in French, German, Indonesian, Italian, Modern Greek and Spanish
 - 800 characters in Chinese
 - 1600 *ja* in Korean
 - 1500 *ji* in Japanese.
- Questions may contain short-answer and objective response parts.
- Questions/parts will be phrased in English for a response in English.
- There will be approximately 12 items in total.
- There will be at least one item worth 5 marks.

Section III – Writing in the target language (20 marks)

This section will consist of two parts.

Part A (10 marks)

- There will be two short-answer questions, worth 4 marks and 6 marks, phrased in English requiring a response in the target language.
- Questions will specify the audience, purpose and context of the response.
- Questions may include stimulus material in the target language.
- The total expected length of the two responses will be approximately:
 - 125 words in Arabic, French, German, Indonesian, Italian, Modern Greek and Spanish
 - 150 characters in Chinese
 - 300 *ja* in Korean
 - 250 *ji* in Japanese.

Part B (10 marks)

- There will be a choice of two questions phrased in English and the target language requiring a response in the target language.
- Students will be required to answer one question.
- Each question will specify the audience, purpose and context of the response, and will require the same text type.
- The expected length of the response will be approximately:
 - 125 words in Arabic, French, German, Indonesian, Italian, Modern Greek and Spanish
 - 150 characters in Chinese
 - 300 *ja* in Korean
 - 250 *ji* in Japanese.

Oral examination (20 marks)

Time allowed: approximately 5 minutes.

The oral examination will consist of a conversation between the student and the examiner. In the conversation, the student will respond to the examiner's questions, which will relate to the prescribed syllabus topics from the perspective of the personal world.

School-based assessment vs HSC examination

As the tables below indicate, there is a direct correlation between the internal and external assessment components.

Internal assessment	Weighting
Listening Objectives 1 & 2	30
Reading Objectives 1 & 2	30
Writing Objectives 1 & 3	20
Speaking Objectives 1 & 3	20
Total	100

External assessment (HSC)	Mark
Written examination	(80)
Section I – Listening	30
Section II – Reading	30
Section III – Writing in the target language	
Part A	10
Part B	10
Oral examination	20
Total	100

Venue for the HSC examination

- **No HSC examinations will be conducted at NSW School of Languages.**
- NESAs will notify students individually via *Students Online* where and when to attend.
- The HSC Oral examination will be conducted at a special Examination Centre. Students must be proactive in collaborating with their home school to schedule their oral examination and, in some cases, choose the venue. This scheduling usually takes place in June.
- The HSC written examination will be conducted in the same Examination Centre students attend for all their other HSC examination subjects.
- Students must use their NESAs ID and PIN to access all HSC examination details.

Making further enquiries

Any enquiries students may have regarding their HSC studies at NSW School of Languages should be directed to their teacher on the phone number posted on the NSW School of Languages website.