

Regarding the discussion element:

- Pupils are invited to speak for one minute (without notes) in the target language (they must choose from French, German, Mandarin and Spanish). The language of discussion will be assumed to be the 'core' language that has been specified unless we are advised otherwise in advance.
- Pupils can choose what they speak about and will often choose a topic they have been studying at school. They will then be asked a few sympathetic follow-up questions in the language for us to get a sense of their level of language.
- This will be followed by a short discussion in English of what the pupil's background is in the language – i.e. length of study, previous experience of living in the country if applicable and so on.
- The main aim of the spoken component is NOT to rank pupils on what they can do now, but to understand their background so that we can assess their needs when they get here, and also to be able better to judge the potential they show in the written paper.