

GCSE Polish

Examination Board: AQA

Course Description

Language skills and cultural understanding are vital in our global society and economy. We are extremely lucky at Cardinal Wiseman to be able to offer Polish GCSE as an option for our KS4 students. Languages are valuable and useful tools in building pupils' confidence, especially when English is their additional language.

This qualification is linear. Linear means that students will sit all their exams at the end of the course.

Subject content

Students study all of the following themes on which the assessments are based.

Theme 1: Identity and culture

Theme 2: Local, national, international and global areas of interest

Theme 3: Current and future study and employment

Assessment

GCSE Polish has a Foundation Tier (grades 1–5) and a Higher Tier (grades 4–9). Students must take all four question papers at the same tier. All question papers must be taken in the same series. All papers are worth 25% of the total grade.

Paper 1 – Listening

Written exam: 35 minutes (Foundation Tier), 45 minutes (Higher Tier)

40 marks (Foundation Tier), 50 marks (Higher Tier)

Section A – questions in English, to be answered in English or non-verbally

Section B – questions in Polish, to be answered in Polish or non-verbally

Paper 2 – Speaking

Non-exam assessment

7–9 minutes (Foundation Tier) + preparation time

10–12 minutes (Higher Tier) + preparation time

60 marks (for each of Foundation Tier and Higher Tier)

The format is the same at Foundation Tier and Higher Tier, but with different stimulus questions for the Photo card and different stimulus materials for the Role play. The timings are different too:

- Role -play – 15 marks (2 minutes at Foundation Tier; 2 minutes at Higher Tier)
- Photo card – 15 marks (2 minutes at Foundation Tier; 3 minutes at Higher Tier)
- Gene ral conversation – 30 marks (3 –5 minutes at Foundation Tier; 5 –7 minutes at Higher Tier)

Paper 3 - Reading

Written exam: 45 minutes (Foundation Tier), 1 hour (Higher Tier)

60 marks (for each of Foundation Tier and Higher Tier)

Section A – questions in Eng lish, to be answered in English or non -verbally

Section B – questions in Polish, to be answered in Polish or non -verbally

Section C – translation from Polish into English (a minimum of 35 words for Foundation Tier and 50 words for Higher Tier)

Paper 4 – Wr iting

Written exam: 1 hour (Foundation Tier), 1 hour 15 minutes (Higher Tier)

50 marks at Foundation Tier and 60 marks at Higher Tier

Foundation Tier

- Question 1 – message (student produces four sentences in response to a photo) – 8 marks
- Question 2 – short passage (student writes a piece of continuous text in response to four brief bullet points, approximately 40 words in total) – 16 marks
- Question 3 – translation from English into Polish (minimum 35 words) – 10 marks
- Question 4 – structured writing task (s tudent responds to four compulsory detailed bullet points, producing approximately 90 words in total) – there is a choice from two questions – 16 marks

Higher Tier

- Question 1 – structured writing task (student responds to four compulsory detailed bullet points, producing approximately 90 words in total) – there is a choice from two questions – 16 marks
- Question 2 – open -ended writing task (student responds to two compulsory detailed bullet points, producing approximately 150 words in total) – there is a choice from two questions – 32 marks
- Question 3 – translation from English into Polish (minimum 50 words) – 12 marks

Year 11

Current Year 11 students are the last cohort to take the exam in the old specification

Assessment

Unit 1 Listening 46851	Unit 2 Reading 46852	Unit 3 Speaking 46853	Unit 4 Writing 46854
Examination 25% weighting	Examination 25% weighting	Examination 25% weighting	Examination 25% weighting
45 minutes (+ 5 minutes reading time)	1 hour	10 -12 minutes	1 hour
Combines with Unit 3 to form short course GCSE in Polish: spoken language	Combines with Unit 4 to form short course GCSE in Polish: written language	Combines with Unit 1 to form short course GCSE in Polish: spoken language	Combines with Unit 2 to form short course GCSE in Polish : written language
A range of question types based on pre - recorded spoken material in Polish	A range of question types based on written material in Polish	Students attend one session consisting of two sections	Students required to write in Polish in response to three questions

Progression Routes

Gaining Grade C or above could increase your chances to study AS and A2 Polish in the Sixth Form. For many newly arrived students A-level Polish is a passport to various university courses, including Law, Business, Sociology and Medicine.

Extracurricular Activities

All students who wish to develop their skills in speaking or writing Polish have the opportunity to attend an afterschool club every Thursday 3.20 – 4.20.