



**Paul Farrelly MP**  
**House of Commons**  
**London**  
**SW1A 0AA**

1 July 2019

Dear Mr Farrelly,

**Parliamentary Question 263090: Languages: GCE A-level and GCSE**  
**To ask the Secretary of State for Education, whether he plans to grade foreign language GCSE and A-level subjects in accordance with the common European framework of reference for languages after the UK leaves the EU.**

The Rt Hon Nick Gibb MP has asked Ofqual to respond to you directly regarding your recent parliamentary questions. A copy of this response will be placed in the Libraries of both Houses.

We are reviewing the grading standards of 9–1 GCSE modern foreign languages (MFL). This follows our review of A level (GCE) MFL standards, the outcomes of which are published and available on our website<sup>1</sup>.

As part of the work on 9–1 GCSE MFL we are looking at a range of evidence which will contribute to our overall decision about grading standards in 9-1 GCSE MFL, including comparisons with qualifications measured against the common European framework of reference (CEFR). The various strands of work include considering statistical evidence of relative subject difficulty, the views of teachers and other stakeholders, and an evaluation of how the new assessments are functioning.

While the CEFR provides a means to understand and describe students' performance in language qualifications, and the standards of other language qualifications, we do not plan to use the CEFR to grade GCSEs.

We expect to publish our decision, together with information about the evidence we have considered, in the autumn.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/reviewing-inter-subject-comparability>

I do hope this information is useful.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "S Collier", with a long horizontal flourish extending from the end of the name.

**Sally Collier**  
Chief Regulator