

The A Level Content Advisory Board

Modern languages, A level and AS level

Illustrative content: themes, works and topics for individual projects

Revised December 2014

In developing the illustrative lists below, the panel has had in mind a number of principles. It has aimed to identify themes and works which are likely to be interesting and stimulating for young people, have the potential to be linked to one another, offer the opportunity to engage with wider issues and relate to different eras. The panel has also aimed to give illustrations of themes and works balanced across, and related to, the different places in which the language of study is used.

In identifying examples of suitable works, the panel has also aimed for a reasonable balance between male and female authors, and for works which are accessible while repaying detailed study in their own right.

As the panel emphasised in its initial report, the illustrative lists are just that – illustrations. It is a matter for awarding organisations to identify themes and works they wish to offer. These may or may not include themes or works from the lists below.

Illustrative examples of themes

The panel has recommended study of a series of themes as part of the strand to develop knowledge, understanding and critical analysis of the society and culture of the countries of the language of study, based on material in the language. By ‘themes’ the panel means subjects of study within the following thematic areas, studied through the lens of the language and cultures of study:

- **Social issues and trends**
- **Political and/or intellectual and/or artistic culture**

The following indicative lists illustrate potential areas of study under each theme. It is, however, for awarding organisations to devise themes for study.

Social issues and trends

French:

- L'école dans le monde francophone (*Schooling in the French-speaking world*)
- Les provinces, les régions et les DOM-TOM (*Provinces, regions, and French overseas departments and territories*)
- La laïcité (*Secularism/laicity*)

- La liberté d'expression (*Freedom of expression*)
- Sciences et technologie dans la France moderne (*Science and technology in modern France*)
- La télévision contemporaine (*Contemporary television*)

German:

- Identität und Integration im deutschsprachigen Raum (*Identity and integration in the German-speaking world*)
- Die Beziehung zwischen Religion, Kultur und/oder Staat im deutschsprachigen Raum (*The relationship between religion, culture and/or the state in the German-speaking world*)
- Standort Deutschland (*Location Germany*)
- Debatten zu Umweltfragen im deutschsprachigen Raum (*Environmental debates in the German-speaking world*)
- Naturwissenschaftliche und/oder technologische Kontroversen im deutschsprachigen Raum (*Scientific and/or technological controversies in the German-speaking world*)
- Bildung und Ausbildung im deutschsprachigen Raum (*Education and training in the German-speaking world*)
- Mediale Kommunikation – Debatten im deutschsprachigen Raum (*Media communication – debates in the German-speaking world*)
- Sport in der deutschen Gesellschaft (*Sport in German society*)

Spanish:

- La diversidad de la lengua castellana (*Diversity of the Spanish language*)
- Los avances para la mujer en la sociedad post-franquista (*Advances for women in post-Franco society*)
- El islamismo en España (*Islam in Spain*)
- La recuperación de la memoria histórica en la España post-franquista (*Truth and reconciliation in post-Franco Spain*)
- La deforestación en Amazonas (*Deforestation in Amazonia*)
- Las lenguas minoritarias en la Península Ibérica (*Minority languages in Iberia*)
- Desarrollo y sostenibilidad en América Latina (*Development and sustainability in Latin America*)
- Activismo social en la España contemporánea (*Social activism in modern Spain*)
- Guerras y guerrillas en América Latina (*War and insurgency in Latin America*)
- Los cambios demográficos en España (*Demographic change in Spain*)

Political and/or intellectual and/or artistic culture

French:

- Les valeurs républicaines (*Republican values*)
- La révolution française (*The French revolution*)

- L'empire français et la décolonisation (*Empire and decolonisation*)
- L'Affaire Dreyfus et le renouveau de l'antisémitisme (*The Dreyfus case and the revival of antisemitism*)
- La guerre d'indépendance algérienne (*The Algerian war of independence*)
- L'Occupation (*The Occupation*)
- La droite et la gauche en France (*Right and Left in France*)
- La culture québécoise (*Québécois culture*)
- L'engagement politique (political activism)
- Le surréalisme (*Surrealism*)
- La nouvelle vague (*The New Wave*)
- La musique populaire, de la chanson au rap (*Popular music, from chanson to rap*)
- La peinture impressionniste (*Impressionist painting*)
- La négritude/la créolité (*Négritude/créolité*)

German:

- Staatliche Systeme im deutschsprachigen Raum (*State systems in the German-speaking world*)
- Deutschlands Bezug zu Europa (*Germany's relationship with Europe*)
- Bekämpfung der Armut in der Innen- und Außenpolitik der deutschsprachigen Länder (*Combating poverty in the domestic and foreign policy of the German-speaking countries*)
- Die DDR – Ideale und Realitäten (*The GDR – ideals and realities*)
- Museen und Gedenkstätten im deutschsprachigen Raum (*Museums and memorial sites in the German-speaking world*)
- Aspekte und Persönlichkeiten der deutschsprachigen intellektuellen Tradition (*Aspects and personalities of the German-speaking intellectual tradition*)
- Deutsche Sprachen? (*German languages?*)
- Das Berliner Kulturleben damals und heute (*Berlin cultural life then and now*)
- Theater und Cabaret im deutschsprachigen Raum (*Theatre and Cabaret in the German-speaking world*)
- Der Neue Deutsche Film (*New German Film*)

Spanish:

- Los Premios Nobel del mundo hispánico (*Nobel Prizes in the Spanish-speaking world*)
- El Boom latinoamericano en la literatura (*The Latin American literary boom*)
- El cine mexicano (*Mexican cinema*)
- La aportación cultural y científica del al-Ándalus (*The cultural and scientific achievements of al-Ándalus*)
- El surrealismo español (*Spanish surrealism*)
- El franquismo (*The Franco regime*)
- Líderes, caudillos y dictadores en América Latina (*Leaders and dictators in Latin America*)
- La revolución cubana (*The Cuban revolution*)

Illustrative examples of works

The panel has recommended study of one work for AS and two works for A level. At least one of the works studied for A level must be a piece of fiction or drama or life writing or collection of poetry. The following indicative list illustrates suitable works for each language at AS and A level, with those printed works viewed as suitable for AS marked with an *. The selection of works, however, is the responsibility of awarding organisations.

French:

A. Films

- *Aux yeux du monde*, dir. Éric Rochant (1991)
- *La Bataille d'Alger*, dir. Gillo Pontecorvo (1966)
- *Chocolat*, dir. Claire Denis (1988)
- *Le Dernier Métro*, dir. François Truffaut (1980)
- *Entre les murs*, dir. Laurent Cantet (2008)
- *L'Esquive*, dir. Abdellatif Kechiche (2003)
- *Un Héros très discret*, dir. Jacques Audiard (1996)
- *Le Jour se lève*, dir. Marcel Carné (1939)
- *Ma vraie vie à Rouen*, dir. Olivier Ducastel & Jacques Martineau (2002)
- *Monsieur Lazhar*, dir. Philippe Falardeau (2011)
- *La Règle du jeu*, dir. Jean Renoir (1939)
- *Rue Case-Nègres*, dir. Euzhan Palcy (1983)
- *La Haine*, dir. Mathieu Kassovitz (1995)

B. Printed works

- Émile Ajar, *La Vie devant soi* (1975)
- Guillaume Apollinaire, *Calligrammes* (1918)
- Beaumarchais, *Le Barbier de Séville* (1775)
- Samuel Beckett, *En attendant Godot* (1953)
- Calixthe Beyala, *Le Petit Prince de Belleville* (1992)*
- Mehdi Charef, *Le Thé au harem d'Archy Ahmed* (1983)
- Colette, *Le Blé en herbe* (1923)
- Maryse Condé, *Le Cœur à rire et à pleurer* (1999)
- Marguerite Duras, *La Douleur* (1985)
- Annie Ernaux, *La Place* (1983)*
- Claire Etcherelli *Élise ou la vraie vie* (1967)
- Eugène Ionesco, *La Cantatrice chauve* (1950)*
- Camara Laye, *L'Enfant noir* (1953)*
- Marivaux, *Le Jeu de l'amour et du hasard* (1730)
- Guy de Maupassant, *La Maison Tellier* (1881)†*
- Prosper Mérimée, *Carmen* (1845)†
- *Modern French Short Fiction*,†* ed. Johnnie Gratton and Brigitte Le Juez (Manchester, Manchester University Press, 1994)
- Patrick Modiano, *La Place de l'Étoile* (1968)

- Molière, *Le Tartuffe* (1669)
- Soraya Nini, *Ils disent que je suis une beurette* (1993)
- Amélie Nothomb, *Stupeur et tremblements* (1999)
- Ferdinand Oyono, *Une Vie de boy* (1956)*
- Francis Ponge, *Le Parti pris des choses* (1942)
- Jacques Prévert, *Paroles* (1946)*
- Raymond Queneau, *Zazie dans le métro* (1959)
- Jean Racine, *Andromaque* (1667)
- Noëlle Renaude, *Madame Ka* (1999)
- Leïla Sebbar (ed.), *Une Enfance algérienne* (1997) [selected texts]
- Ousmane Sembène, *Les Bouts de bois de Dieu* (1960)
- Voltaire, *Candide* (1759)
- Joseph Zobel, *La Rue Case-Nègres* (1950)

†Collection of short stories.

German:

A. Films

- *Aimée und Jaguar*, dir. M. Färberböck (1999)
- *Alles auf Zucker!* dir. D. Levy, (2004)
- *Auf der anderen Seite*, dir. F. Akin (2007)
- *Berlin 36*, dir. K. Heidelberg (2009)
- *Das Leben der Anderen*, dir. F. Henckel von Donnersmarck (2006)
- *Das weiße Band*, dir. M. Haneke (2009)
- *Das Wunder von Bern*, dir. S. Wortmann (2003)
- *Der blaue Engel*, dir. J. v. Sternberg (1930)
- *Der Untergang*, dir. O. Hirschbiegel (2004)
- *Die Blechtrommel*, dir. V. Schlöndorff (1979)
- *Die Ehe der Maria Braun*, dir. R.W. Fassbinder (1979)
- *Die Fälscher*, dir. S. Ruzowitzky (2007)
- *Die fetten Jahre sind vorbei*, dir. H. Weingartner (2004)
- *Good Bye Lenin!* dir. W. Becker (2003)
- *Lola rennt*, dir. T. Tykwer (1998)
- *Nirgendwo in Afrika*, dir. C. Link (2001)
- *Rosenstraße*, dir. M. v. Trotta (2003)

B. Printed works

- Volker Braun, *Unvollendete Geschichte* (1977)
- Bertolt Brecht, *Leben des Galilei* (1939/1943)
- F.C. Delius, *Der Sonntag, an dem ich Weltmeister wurde* (1994)*
- Friedrich Dürrenmatt, *Die Physiker* (1962)*
- Julia Franck, *Bauchlandung. Geschichten zum Anfassen* (2000)
- Julia Franck (ed.), *Grenzübergänge. Autoren aus Ost und West erinnern sich* (2009)

- Jana Hensel, *Zonenkinder* (2002)*
- Judith Hermann, *Sommerhaus, später* (1998)
- E.T.A. Hoffmann, *Der Sandmann* (1816)
- Barbara Honigmann, *Ein Kapitel aus meinem Leben* (2004)
- Franz Kafka, *Brief an den Vater* (1919)
- Franz Kafka, *Die Verwandlung* (1912/1915)
- Wladimir Kaminer, *Russendisko* (2000)
- Navid Kermani, *Kurzmitteilung* (2007)
- Inka Parei, *Die Kältezentrale* (2011)
- Bernhard Schlink, *Der Vorleser* (1995)
- Peter Schneider, *Der Mauerspringer* (1983)*
- Peter Schneider, *Vati* (1987)*
- Uwe Timm, *Am Beispiel meines Bruders* (2003)*
- Birgit Vanderbeke, *Das Muschelessen* (1990)*
- Frank Wedekind, *Frühlings Erwachen* (1891)
- Peter Weiss, *Die Ermittlung* (1965)
- Stefan Zweig, *Schachnovelle* (1942)*

Spanish:

A. Films

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- *Barrio*, dir. Fernando León de Aranoa (1998)
- *Belle Époque*, dir. Fernando Trueba (1992)
- *Cría cuervos*, dir. Carlos Saura (1976)
- *Diarios de motocicleta*, dir. Walter Salles (2004)
- *El bola*, dir. Achero Mañas (2000)
- *El laberinto del fauno*, dir. Guillermo del Toro (2006)
- *El sur*, dir. Víctor Erice (1983)
- *El viaje a ninguna parte*, dir. Fernando Fernán Gómez (1986)
- *La historia oficial*, dir. Luis Puenzo (1985)
- *La lengua de las mariposas*, dir. José Luis Cuerda (1999)
- *Los lunes al sol*, dir. Fernando León de Aranoa (2002)
- *Los santos inocentes*, dir. Mario Camus (1984)
- *Machuca*, dir. Andrés Wood (2004)
- *Mar adentro*, dir. Alejandro Amenábar (2004)
- *Ocho apellidos vascos*, dir. Emilio Martínez-Lázaro (2014)
- *Todo sobre mi madre*, dir. Pedro Almodóvar (1999)
- *Volver*, dir. Pedro Almodóvar (2006)

B. Printed works

- Josefina Aldecoa, *Historia de una maestra* (1990)
- Isabel Allende, *Cuentos de Eva Luna* (1990) †*
- Isabel Allende, *La casa de los espíritus* (1982)
- Dulce Chacón, *Algún amor que no mate* (1996)*

- Miguel Delibes, *Los santos inocentes* (1981)
- Los Fernando Fernán Gómez, *Las bicicletas son para el verano* (1984)*
- Gabriel García Márquez, *El amor en los tiempos de cólera* (1985)
- Gabriel García Márquez, *El coronel no tiene quien le escriba* (1961)
- Gabriel García Márquez, *Los funerales de la mamá grande* (1962) †*
- Luis García Montero, *Ropa de calle* (2011)
- Adelaida García Morales, *El sur* (1981)
- Almudena Grandes, *Modelos de mujer* (1996) †
- Molina Antonio Muñoz, *El dueño del secreto* (1994)
- Pablo Neruda, *Veinte poemas de amor y una canción desesperada* (1924)
- Manuel Rivas, *El lápiz del carpintero* (1998)
- Manuel Rivas, *La lengua de las mariposas* (1996)*
- Juan Rulfo, *Pedro Páramo* (1955) †*
- Juan Rulfo, *El llano en llamas* (1953)
- Ernesto Sabato, *El túnel* (1948)*

Illustrative examples of individual projects

The panel has recommended that an individually chosen and researched project should be required for A level, but not for AS. The project should be sharply focused and related to a country where the language of study is an official or national language. Students should be able to choose the subject for their project within a framework provided by awarding organisations. Topics should be suitable for an extended discussion involving the expression of views and complex arguments. The panel has drawn up the following indicative examples of topics for each language of study.

French:

- A historical event or building such as: L'Arc de Triomphe, le Centre Pompidou, le Mémorial de la Déportation, le massacre du 17 octobre 1961, la prise de la Bastille (14 juillet 1789), mai 68.
- A person such as François Mitterrand, José Bové, Léopold Sédar Senghor, Marie Curie, Toussaint Louverture, Jeanne d'Arc, Louis Pasteur
- Performers such as MC Solaar, or Amadou & Mariam
- An issue such as 'Les langues minoritaires en France'
- A phenomenon such as 'La Sape'
- A topic related to a personal interest such as 'La France (/l'Algérie/La Côte d'Ivoire/La Belgique etc.) et la Coupe du Monde de football', 'Les sentiers de grande randonnée', 'la mode en France'
- A comparative topic such as 'Les partis politiques de gauche [ou de droite] en France et en Grande-Bretagne', 'L'art contemporain en France et en Grande-Bretagne', 'La gastronomie en France et en Grande-Bretagne'
- Les Grands Projets (*Monumental building projects*)

German:

- A historical event or building such as: 'Berlin am 13. August 1961', 'Der Reichstag'
- A political figure (e.g. 'Angela Merkel'), writer or artist (e.g. 'Bertolt Brecht', 'Käthe Kollwitz'), group (e.g. 'Kraftwerk') or movement (e.g. 'Bauhaus')
- An issue such as 'Tierrecht in Deutschland' (*Animal rights in Germany*), 'Einwanderung in der Schweiz' (*Immigration in Switzerland*)
- A case study such as 'Das Phänomen Aldi und Lidl' (*The Aldi and Lidl phenomenon*), 'Azubis bei Volkswagen' (*Trainees at Volkswagen*)
- A topic related to a personal interest such as 'Der Nürburgring' (*The Nürburgring*), 'Deutsche Hunderassen' (*German dog breeds*), 'Deutsche Computerspiele' (*German computer games*), 'Die X. deutschsprachige Poetry Slam Meisterschaft' (*The Xth German National Poetry Slam*)
- A comparative topic such as 'Die Ausbildung zum Dolmetscher in Deutschland und Großbritannien' (*Training for a career as interpreter in Germany and the UK*), 'Premier League und Bundesliga' (*Premier League and Bundesliga*), 'Deutsche und englische Mode' (*German and English fashion*)

Spanish:

- A historical event or building such as: 'el golpe de estado chileno' (*the Chilean coup d'état*) or la Alhambra
- A person or group such as Eva Perón, Augusto Pinochet, Hugo Chávez, Che Guevara, Violeta Parra or Víctor Jara
- An issue such as 'el sistema de autonomías en España' (*the system of devolved government in Spain*) or 'la narcoguerra mexicana' (*the Mexican drug war*)
- A case study such as 'el síndrome tóxico en España de 1981' (*the Spanish "cooking oil scandal" of 1981*), 'el Caso Nani' (*the Nani case*), 'los atentados del 11-M' (*the terrorist attacks at Atocha station on 11 March 2004*)
- A topic related to a personal interest such as 'Real Madrid y la décima copa de Europa' (*Real Madrid and their 10th European Cup*) or 'la moda española' (*Spanish fashion*)
- A comparative topic such as 'los partidos políticos en España y el Reino Unido' (*political parties in Spain and the UK*), 'América Latina frente a los Estados Unidos' (*Latin America and the USA*) or 'los países anglosajones frente a los países latinoamericanos en el Índice del Planeta Feliz' (*Anglo Saxon and Latin American countries in the Happy Planet Index*).