



香港考試及評核局
Hong Kong
Examinations and
Assessment Authority

Briefing Session for HKDSE Category C Subjects

HKEAA

10 September 2020



Rundown

- The exam: structure & constructs
- 2020 Results
- 2020 candidates' performances
- 2021 exam
- Teacher support
- Oral examiner recruitment
- Q & A



Exam Structure

(French, German, Japanese & Spanish)

Component	Weighting	Time
1. Speaking	30%	20 mins.
2. Reading & Writing	50%	1 hr. 45 mins.
3. Essay	20%	1 hr. 30 mins.



Exam Structure

(Hindi & Urdu)

Component	Weighting	Time
2. Reading & Writing	70%	1 hr. 45 mins.
3. Essay	30%	1 hr. 30 mins.



Structure of Component 1

Section	Mark Allocation	Time
1. Presentation	20	3 mins 30 seconds
2. Topic conversation	40	7 -8 minutes
3. General conversation	40	8-9 minutes



Component 1: Timing logistics

- Examiners will use a visible timer
- It will be set at 20 minutes
- A 1-minute sign will be held up after 2 mins. 30 secs. of presentation
- Section 1 will finish approx. 16 mins. 30 left
- Section 2 will start at approx. 16 mins left
- Section 3 will start at approx. 9 mins left



Component 1: Speaking

- Test constructs
 - What is being tested?



Section 1: Presentation (20 marks)

- Three domains:
 - Content and presentation (10 maximum)
 - Pronunciation and intonation (5 maximum)
 - Language (5 maximum)



Section 1: Presentation (20 marks)

- Content and presentation (10 maximum)
 - Coverage of topic
 - Organization and coherence
 - Opinions and facts
 - Delivery
 - Interest
- *N.B. If no specific reference to society or cultural heritage of country where language spoken- half marks for this domain, i.e. max. is 5.*



Section 1: Presentation (20 marks)

- Pronunciation & intonation (5 maximum)
 - Accurate pronunciation and intonation
 - Mother tongue influence / comprehensibility
 - *N.B. Not necessarily native speaker for full marks. May have some hesitation and errors for full marks.*



Section 1: Presentation (20 marks)

- Language (5 maximum)
 - Feel for language
 - Fluency
 - Accuracy
 - Use of relevant idiomatic language
 - Range of structures
 - Range of vocab
 - Clarity of meaning



Section 2: Topic conversation (40 marks)

- 5 domains
 - Comprehension & responsiveness (10 max)
 - Accuracy (10 max)
 - Feel for language (10 max)
 - Range of vocab & structures
(Providing info & opinion) (5 max)
 - Range of vocab & structures
(Seeking info & opinion) (5 max)



Section 2: Topic conversation (40 marks)

- Comprehension & responsiveness (10 max)
 - Extent candidate understands examiner
 - Naturalness in responses
 - Spontaneity and initiative
 - Ability to defend point of view



Section 2: Topic conversation (40 marks)

- Accuracy (10 max)
 - Frequency of errors
 - Understanding of grammatical usage



Section 2: Topic conversation (40 marks)

- Feel for language (10 max)
 - Naturalness
 - Fluency of expression
 - Appropriate idiom
 - Influence of or translation from mother tongue



Section 2: Topic conversation (40 marks)

- Range of vocab & structures
(Providing info & opinion) (5 max)
 - Variety
 - Confidence in use vs. limiting expression



Section 2: Topic conversation (40 marks)

- Range of vocab & structures (Seeking info & opinion)
 - Ability and number of questions asked
 - Spontaneity
 - Initiative
 - Accuracy and variety of question forms
 - Comprehensibility



Section 3: General Conversation (40 marks)

- 5 domains
 - Comprehension & responsiveness (10 max)
 - Accuracy (10 max)
 - Feel for language (10 max)
 - Range of vocab & structures
(Providing info & opinion) (5 max)
 - Range of vocab & structures
(Seeking info & opinion) (5 max)



Section 3: General Conversation (40 marks)

- Same as Section 2



Structure of Component 2

Passage	Question	Question type example	Mark allocation
Passage 1	1	Vocabulary: seeking synonym in text	5
	2	Grammatical manipulation	5
	3	Comprehension questions	20 (15+5)
Passage 2	4	Comprehension questions	20 (15+5)
Passage 1 & 2	5	(a) Summary of details from both texts (b) Personal response	20 (10 +5+5)



Component 2: Reading & Writing

- **Question 1** : Seeking a phrase: Do not to omit words or to include extra words.
- **Question 2**: Rewriting phrases: Answers should fit back into the original text, retaining the same meaning.
- **Questions 3 and 4**: Comprehension of texts. Answer in their own words.
- Direct copying of four or more words from the text will usually invalidate an answer.
- **Question 5(a)**: Summary: Introduction, conclusions and vague generalizations not required. Specific, relevant details attract marks.
- **Question 5(b)**: Personal response: Give a point of view and, if possible, offer ideas which have not appeared in the texts.
- Total of 140 words / 280 Japanese characters for both parts in Question 5.



Component 3: Essay

Word guide	Mark Allocation
250–400 words (600–800 characters in Japanese)	40 marks total: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 24 marks: Quality of Language• 16 marks: Content



Component 3: Set topics

- 1 Generation gap
- 2 Health and fitness
- 3 Education
- 4 Technological innovation
- 5 Conservation



HKEAA website

- http://www.hkeaa.edu.hk/en/HKDSE/assessment/subject_information/category_c_subjects/





HOME > HKDSE > Assessment Information > Subject Information

Category C: Other Language Subjects

- ▶ Introduction
- ▶ Assessment Information
- ▶ Examination Administration
- ▶ Important Dates
- ▶ FAQs on HKDSE
- ▶ Information Corner
- ▶ Contact Us

Six language subjects are offered to candidates in the HKDSE. They are:

- French Language
- German Language
- Hindi Language
- Japanese Language
- Spanish Language
- Urdu Language

Question papers of the Advanced Subsidiary (AS) level from [Cambridge Assessment International Education](#) (Cambridge International)* are used for the examinations of these six subjects. Marking and grading are conducted by Cambridge International. Results are reported in five grades (a-e) on the HKDSE certificate, with grade "e" being the lowest and grade "a" being the highest. Achievement below grade "e" is designated as "Ungraded" and is not reported on the certificate.

Syllabuses for HKEAA Centre

2018	2019	2020-2022
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Instructions to Candidates

[2019 Examination Year - November 2018 Series](#)

- ▶ [Other Resources](#)
- ▶ [Frequently Asked Questions](#)

For further enquiries, please contact at dse@hkeaa.edu.hk or at (852) 3628 8860

*Remark: Formerly known as Cambridge International Examinations

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Quick Links

- ▶ [2019 HKDSE Handbook for Candidates](#)
- ▶ [Bad Weather during HKDSE](#)
- ▶ [Certificate of Examination Results](#)
- ▶ [Personal Data Request](#)

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Results 2020 examination (in number of candidates)

	A	B	C	D	E	U	Total
French	10	2	8	10	9	18	57
German	1	2	0	0	0	0	3
Hindi	0	4	1	0	0	4	9
Japanese	174	69	40	21	12	14	330
Spanish	3	2	1	3	2	2	13
Urdu	11	3	2	1	1	5	23

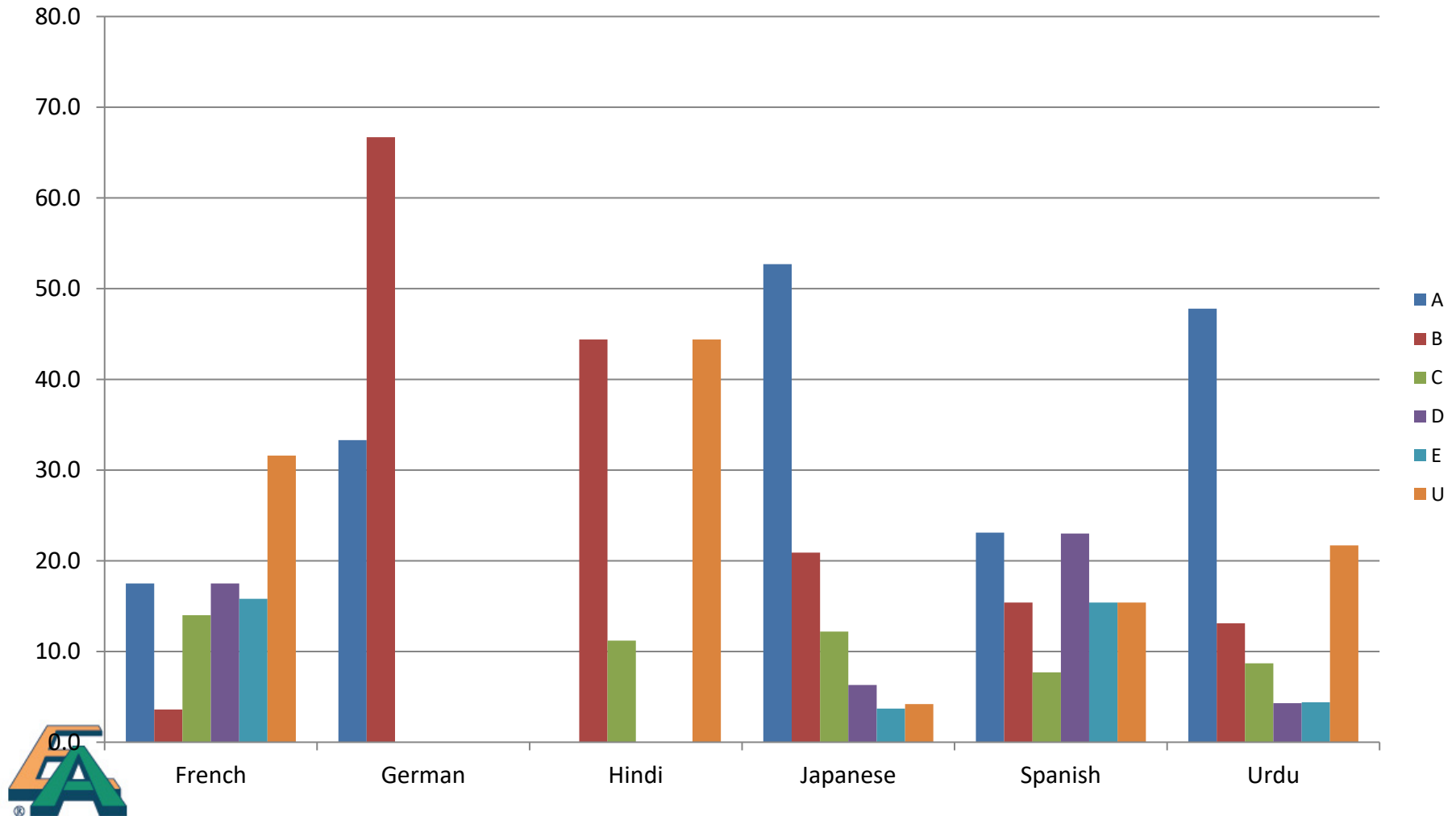


Results 2020 examination (in percentages)

	A	B	C	D	E	U	Total
French	17.5	3.6	14.0	17.5	15.8	31.6	100
German	33.3	66.7	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	100
Hindi	0.0	44.4	11.2	0.0	0.0	44.4	100
Japanese	52.7	20.9	12.2	6.3	3.7	4.2	100
Spanish	23.1	15.4	7.70	23.0	15.4	15.4	100
Urdu	47.8	13.1	8.7	4.3	4.4	21.7	100

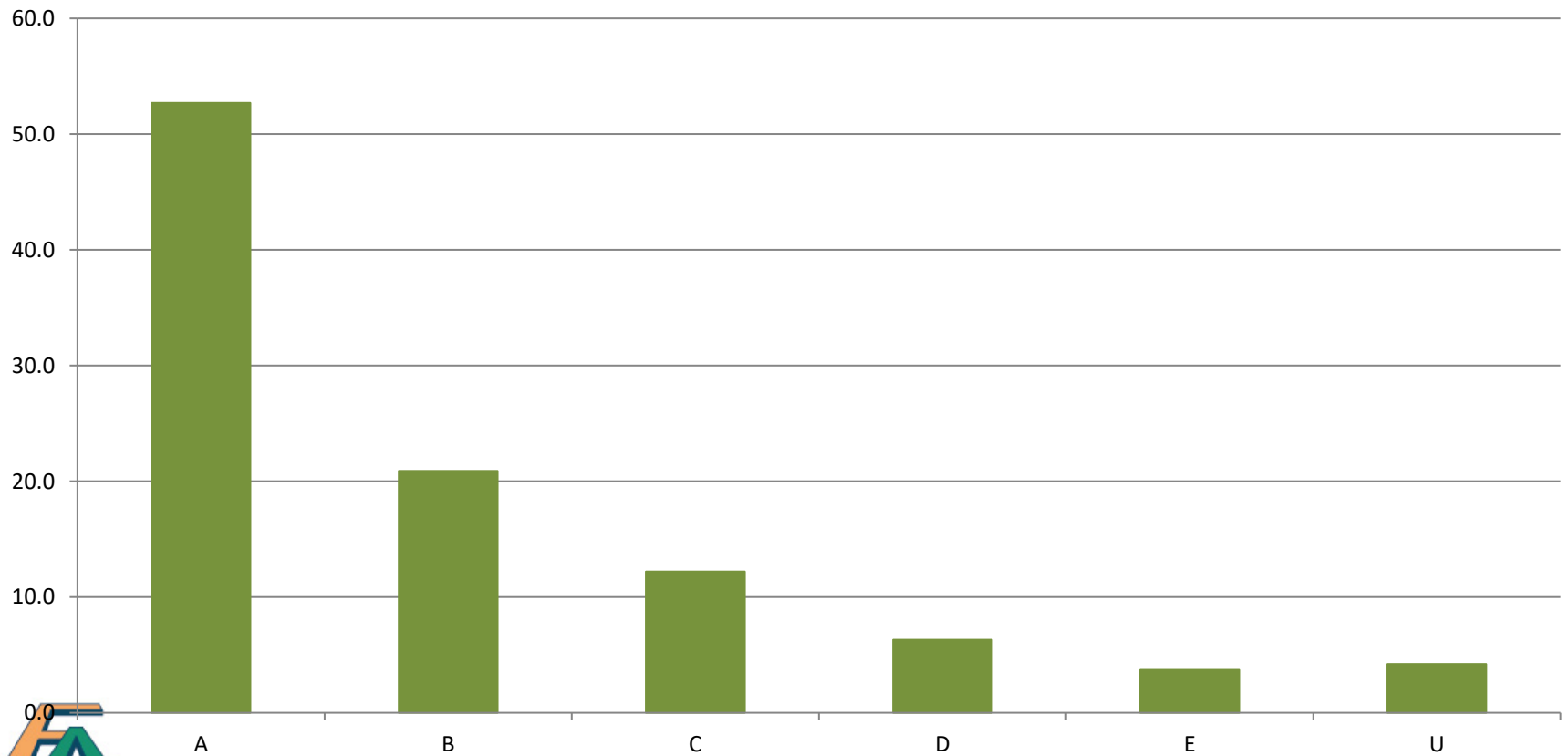


Results 2020 examination



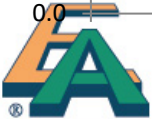
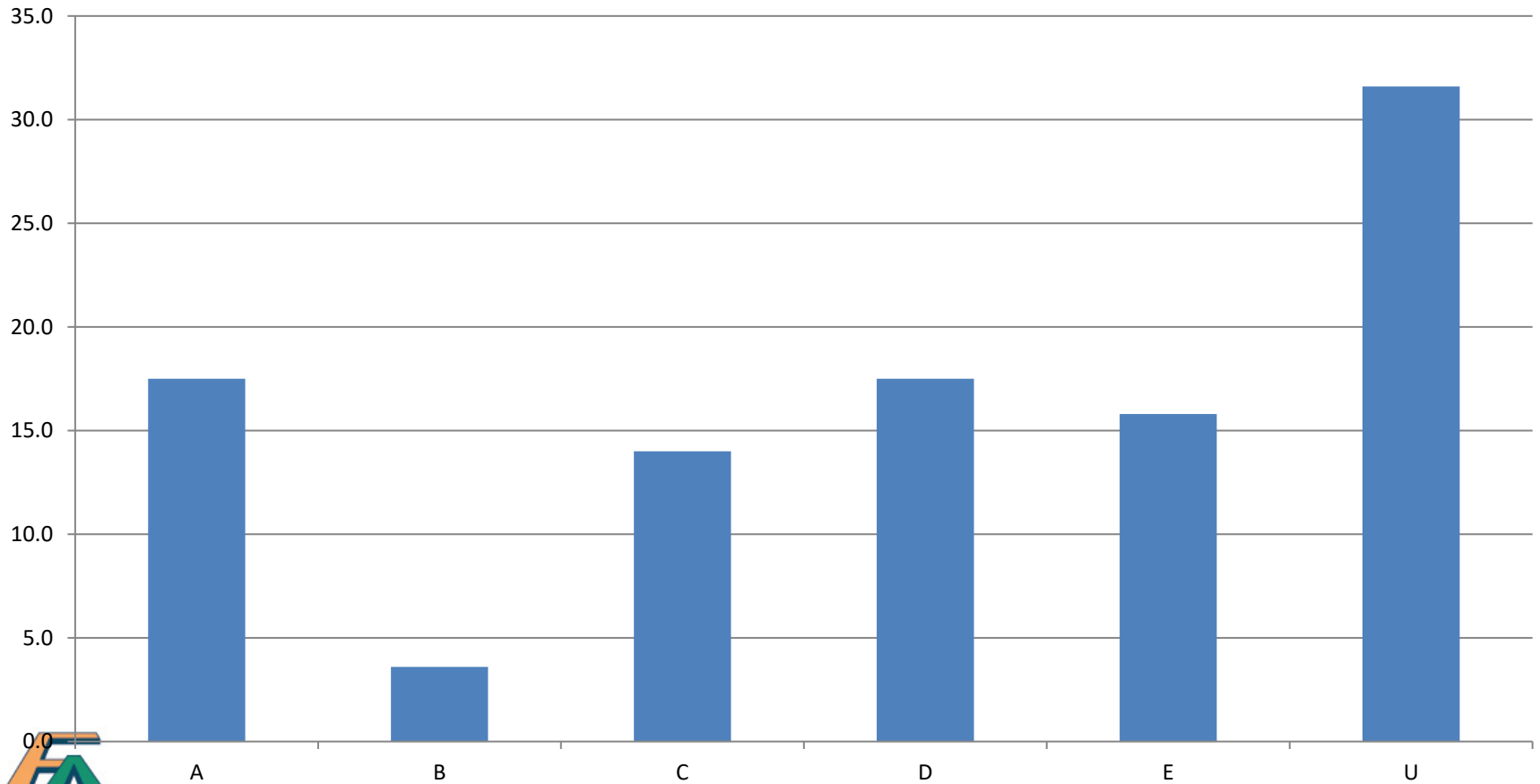
Results 2020: Japanese

Japanese



Results 2020: French

French



2020 Candidates' Performance

Component	Weighting	Time
1. Speaking	30%	20 mins.
2. Reading & Writing	50%	1 hr. 45 mins.
3. Essay	20%	1 hr. 30 mins.



2020 Performance: French

Key messages

- Make sure that the presentation is not just factual, but contains ideas and opinions and also allows further discussion in the Topic Conversation.
- Ask questions of the Examiner in both conversation sections and make every effort to ask more than one question on the topic under discussion in order to qualify for the full range of marks.
- Make sure your questions are relevant to the topic under discussion.



2020 Performance: French

Key messages (cont).

- Topic Presentation must make clear reference to a francophone culture or society:
- The presentation must demonstrate the candidate's knowledge of the contemporary society or cultural heritage of a country where the target language is spoken. This must be more than a passing reference. Many topics were borderline in this respect.
- It is better not to ask the Examiner direct questions during the Topic Presentation, as they disrupt the flow of the Presentation and do not count towards *Seeking Information* in the conversation sections.
- A number of candidates asked rhetorical questions in the Topic Presentation. Rhetorical questions are not a requirement of the Test, but they may constitute, if desired, an appropriate part of the Presentation. However, candidates should be aware that they do not count towards *Seeking Information* in the conversation sections.



2020 Performance: German

- The presentation, which should last between three and four minutes, should refer clearly to the culture or society of a German-speaking country and should also include some personal input.
- Presentations that are far too long should not receive high marks, as they cannot be considered to have been ‘well organised’, as in the published criteria.
- Candidates should ask the examiner at least two questions in the topic conversation and two questions in the general conversation and they should be prompted by the examiner if they ask only one question or none at all.
- No marks may be awarded for Seeking Information if a candidate asks no questions.
- It is important that the candidate’s two questions in each conversation should be asked within the allotted time; the questions should be integrated into the discussions and not left to the end.
- The questions a candidate puts to the examiner to seek information, should be varied, ‘Was denken Sie?’ or ‘Was ist Ihre Meinung?’ are useful questions, but a wider range is expected for a mark of five, or even four.



2020 Performance: Japanese

- Candidates should prepare their presentation on a topic related to Japan or Japanese culture which is of interest to them.
- Candidates should try to learn interesting and advanced vocabulary on their chosen topic but be careful not to make it too difficult for themselves, as this can lead to difficulty in manipulating the language in their presentations.
- Candidates should actively seek to engage the Examiner in conversation.
- Candidates should be encouraged to not only prepare their presentation, but also anticipate some of the directions the topic conversation might take, and think about what they might contribute to the conversation.
- Candidates should continue to work on their pronunciation and intonation.
- Candidates should be taught to address the Examiner as 'sensei' rather than 'anata'.



2020 Performance: Spanish

- Candidates' own interests should play a part in the choice of the subject for the presentation.
- Clear reference should be made to Hispanic culture or society.
- It is important to structure the presentation to fit into the allowed time, and to express not only facts, but ideas and opinions.
- Presentations ideally provided a personal overview of the issue to lead to the basis of a debate in the topic conversation. Candidates who spoke in a casual or disjointed manner and who made little attempt to engage the examiner lost some credit here.
- Focus on the questions asked and be sure to answer what is asked.
- We remind candidates to ask the Examiner questions in both conversation sections.
- To gain access to the higher levels of the mark scheme, candidates needed to show competence in dealing with hypothetical and abstract situations as well as factual or descriptive areas.



Component 2: Reading & Writing

- Key messages

- **Question 1:** the word or words chosen as the answer must be interchangeable in every respect with the word or words given in the question. Additional or missing words invalidate the answer.
- **Question 2:** start the sentence with the prompt provided and be careful with the consequent grammatical changes in the new sentence. Do not alter vocabulary or meaning unnecessarily.
- **Questions 3 and 4:** candidates should not simply 'lift' items unaltered from the text. They need to manipulate or re-phrase the text in some way.
- In **Question 5**, candidates should respect the word limit. Any material in excess of the published word count is ignored. Candidates should not write a general introduction.
- **Question 5(b):** candidates should express their own ideas (instead of merely copying ideas from the text).



Component 3: Essay – Key Message

- Select the title with which they feel most comfortable.
- Write a response that is clearly relevant, well illustrated, coherently structured and well informed.
- Use target language which is accurate and of a suitably advanced nature, as well as demonstrate a good use of idiom and appropriate topic-related vocabulary.
- Use sentence patterns which show some evidence of complexity in a style which is easy to follow.
- Leave some time at the end of the examination to check for avoidable language errors.
- Stay within the prescribed word limits (250-400 words / 600 – 800 Japanese characters).
- Do not to use transliterations of English words instead of the appropriate vocabulary items in Hindi / Urdu.



2021 Examination

	No of candidates
French	39
German	1
Hindi	10
Japanese	363
Spanish	21
Urdu	28

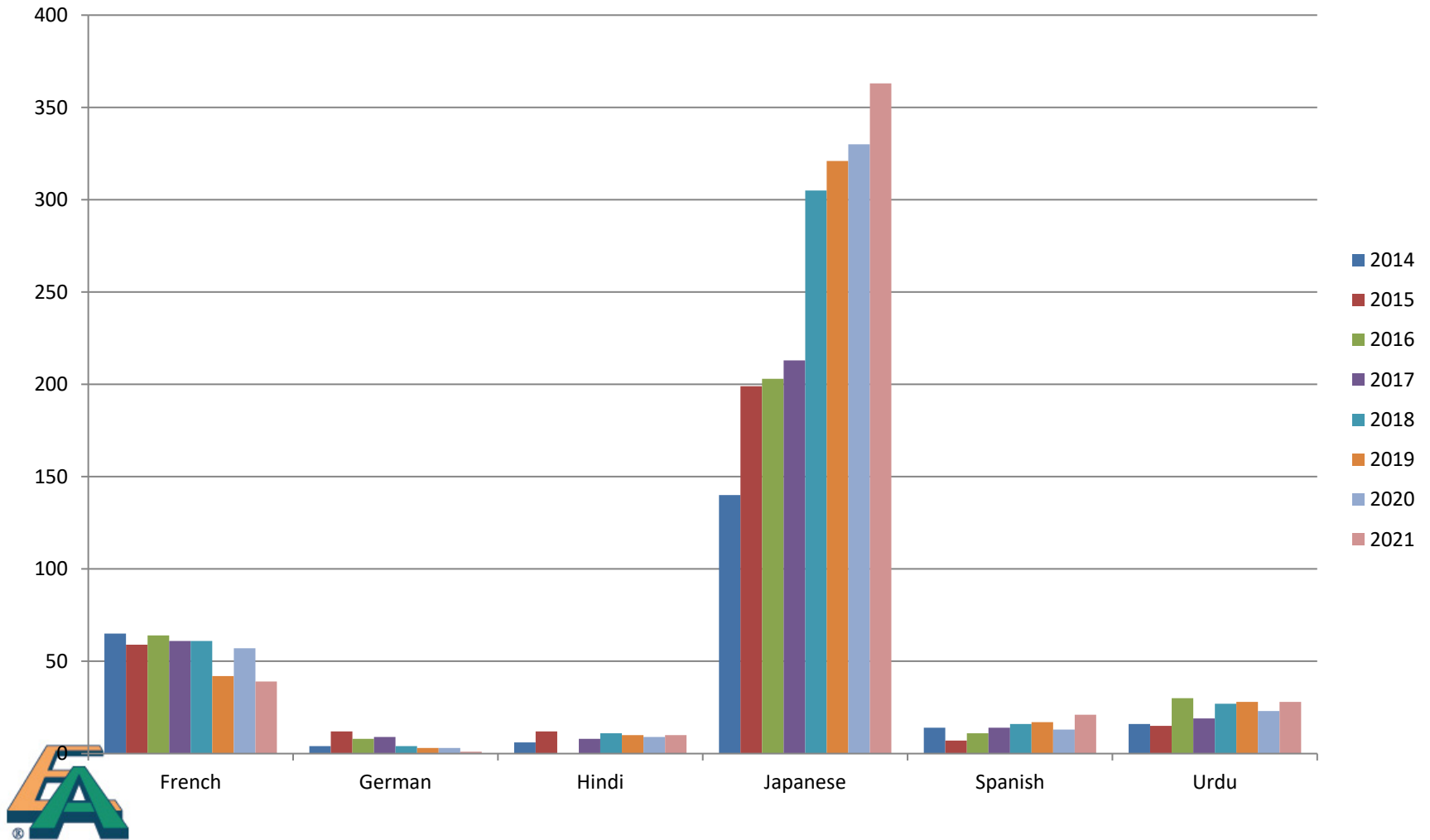


2012-21 Candidate Numbers

	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
French	88	89	65	59	64	61	61	42	57	39
German	3	1	4	12	8	9	4	3	3	1
Hindi	10	8	6	12	0	8	11	10	9	10
Japanese	135	114	140	199	203	213	305	321	330	363
Spanish	9	20	14	7	11	14	16	17	13	21
Urdu	5	13	16	15	30	19	27	28	23	28
TOTAL	250	245	245	304	316	324	424	421	435	462



2012-21 Candidate Numbers



2021 Exam (Nov. 2020 series)

- Dates:
 - Component 1 (Nov. series)
 - 1 October – 18 October 2020
 - Component 2 and 3
 - 1 October – 27 October 2020

[https://www.hkeaa.edu.hk/DocLibrary/HKDSE/Exam Timetable/Cat C Nov 2021 Timetable E.pdf](https://www.hkeaa.edu.hk/DocLibrary/HKDSE/Exam%20Timetable/Cat%20C%20Nov%202021%20Timetable%20E.pdf)



Precautionary Measures at Examination Centres



Teaching support

- **Education Bureau**
- Curriculum Development:
 - HON Siu-fung, Pablo
honsiufung@edb.gov.hk
 - Tel: 28926403



Oral examiner recruitment

- Berenice Kwok:
 - bkwok@hkeaa.edu.hk

for application form.



Examination support

Hong Kong Examinations and Assessment Authority

- Exam logistics:
- Christine Lee: yhlee@hkeaa.edu.hk
- Speaking exam administration:
- Cameron Smart: cjsmart@hkeaa.edu.hk

