

Old clichés to disappear in language spoken tests

GENERATIONS of teenagers have spent hours painstakingly memorising how to go into great detail about their extended family in French or German. But in future, they are more likely to be discussing tattoos or musical festivals.

Cambridge exam board OCR announced that tired old topics like such as "my holiday" or "Mathilde's school day" have been ditched from its new language GCSEs, in favour of new content it says will be more appealing to students. Candidates learning German could be asked to consider a film review of the thriller *Lola Rennt* (*Kun Lola Kun*), OCR said, while the new Spanish course includes tweets on the Olympic Games.

Katherine Smith, from OCR, said the courses were adopting skills similar to those taught on English as a Foreign Language (EFL) courses. She said: "This entails moving away from working too long on a clichéd topic until a student is bored with it to working on more appealing subjects, and with an important shift in emphasis on the skills that they can transfer across content."

The draft new courses, which would be taught from September next year, have been submitted to exams regulator Ofqual for approval.

