

# Explanation Sheet for Teachers



These activities provide an ideal opportunity for your students to:

- apply existing knowledge of foreign languages;
- explore new languages through engaging activities;
- use and improve their speaking and listening, reading and writing skills in foreign languages;
- develop their team work and creativity whilst drawing on a range of skills across ICT, Geography, Languages, Food Technology, Art and Design, English and Music.

## Overview of the tasks

The Challenge involves 7 tasks from which the students choose 6 to complete. These are described in more detail on the Task Information Sheets but the summary below provides a quick overview of what is involved. Students get to choose the language they use for each task.

Task	Suggested Response Format
<b>1. Bake-Off</b> Choose a recipe and present it in a different language.	Short video or PowerPoint with commentary
<b>2. Lights, Camera, Action !</b> Choose a scene from a sitcom, film or factual programme and re-enact it in another language.	Video clip or Comic strip with captions
<b>3. Holiday Adventure</b> Design a 5-day tour around a country or region of your choice in another language. Enter the tour on a map and make sure to include a timeline, images, and information about the places you will visit.	Electronic map such as Zee maps <a href="http://www.zeemaps.com">www.zeemaps.com</a> or Annotated & illustrated printed map
<b>4. Ancient Tales</b> Find an older person who speaks another language and get them to tell you a story they know. Record the story and translate it into English.	Audio recording + written translation (may be added to the Language Landscape project <a href="http://www.languagelandscape.org">www.languagelandscape.org</a> )
<b>5. Wonders of the World</b> Choose an incredible building from anywhere in the world and produce a detailed, annotated poster/presentation about it in another language.	Annotated poster – hard-copy or electronic
<b>6. Sing it your Way</b> Choose one of your favourite songs and rewrite it in another language. You can keep the music and the mood but you must write your own lyrics. You can also write a whole new song, if you wish.	Video clip or Audio file + translation
<b>7. Star Athlete Profile</b> Choose a male or female athlete from another country who speaks a language other than English. Research some basic facts about them and produce a poster profile with sentences in the athlete's own language.	Any relevant software or handmade



## Languages Challenge Rules

- Students must enter in teams of 4–10.
- Every student in the team must contribute to the Challenge but tasks can be divided up to play to different individuals' strengths.
- The Challenge is open to all students in Years 8, 9 and 10 and a team can include members from more than one year group.
- Schools can enter as many teams as they like but individual students are not allowed to participate in more than 1 team.
- Teams are encouraged to use a variety of languages across their chosen 6 tasks but **only one language per task**.
- Students should consider using their oral as well as writing skills whenever possible.
- Teams are encouraged to use a range of formats and skills across the different tasks. There is no set rule for this but teams who show a variety of skills will do best.
- After completing a task, students should think about the skills they used. They should then complete the relevant box on the entry form.

## Suggestions for Teachers

It is up to schools to decide how to use the Challenge, but it has been designed to encourage students to develop independent study skills. Here are some suggestions starting with those requiring the least teacher time!

- Advertise the Challenge via posters/newsletters/assemblies etc and leave it to students to collect the necessary resources and organise their own entries.
- Recruit some 6th Formers to advertise the Challenge and supervise students' entries. This could be part of prefect duties or count towards other schemes such as the Duke of Edinburgh Award.
- Run the Challenge with a whole class (divided into teams). Set the tasks during lesson time as a cross-curricular project, perhaps towards the end of term.
- Run the Challenge as an after-school or lunchtime club.
- Run the Challenge over a few weeks during form time/tutor period.
- Use the Challenge as a reward for students who have completed other work early. These students can use lesson time to start tasks and then complete them outside of lessons.
- Run the Challenge during an activity day/week when the school timetable has been suspended.
- Set the Challenge tasks as homework projects over the course of a term or half-term.



## Language Challenge Key Values

The following values are printed on each of the Task Information Sheets. We hope teachers will refer students back to these where appropriate to help promote a productive work ethic as students complete the tasks.

- 1. Team work:** Each member of the team will have different skills to contribute. These could include a language they speak; a particular piece of computer software they know how to use, or a talent for artistic design. The best entries will be those from teams where each member has had a chance to contribute.
- 2. Content:** All of the tasks require some element of learning. Judges will be looking for evidence of effort towards completing each task. *Teams which carefully choose the information they use, produce multiple drafts, and use oral and written skills will do far better than those which simply cut and paste.*
- 3. Creativity:** Learning languages is not just about being able to order a drink in a foreign café. It's about gaining the skills to be imaginative and expressive with a whole new set of words. Judges will be much more interested in the creativity of entries than whether spelling and grammar are 100% perfect.

**The winning teams will be invited to an awards ceremony in London. Date to be confirmed.**

**The deadline for submitting entries is 1 May 2016.**

**To submit an entry, please complete a copy of the Submission and Entry form for each individual team. Send them with the competed tasks to:**

**[routes@soas.ac.uk](mailto:routes@soas.ac.uk)**

or

**Routes into Languages  
SOAS  
Thornhaugh Street  
London WC1H 0XG**

Tasks should be submitted together whenever possible. In the case when some files are in hardcopies and some in electronic format, this should be specified in the space provided. Please ensure that all tasks are clearly labelled to avoid delays in judging.

## Evaluation and Feedback

Your assistance with evaluating the impact of our activities is most appreciated. A copy of our pre-activity questionnaire can be found in the student booklet. Please ask your students to complete it before they start on the Challenge and then post the completed copies to the address provided above.

## Research project

We would like to hear from teachers who are interested in conducting research on the impact of the challenge on students' motivation and perception of languages. Please contact Capital L's Project Manager for an informal conversation on 020 7898 4745 or email her on [ra4o@soas.ac.uk](mailto:ra4o@soas.ac.uk).

# Languages Challenge Submission Form



One copy of this form must be completed and sent with the entry form below for each team.  
Forms submitted separately will not be accepted.

The deadline for entries is **1 May 2016**.

## Section 1: Information about the school

School: \_\_\_\_\_

School contact name: \_\_\_\_\_

School contact email: \_\_\_\_\_

School contact tel: \_\_\_\_\_

**Team Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

## Section 2: Team members

*Please complete for each team member:*

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ School Year: \_\_\_\_\_ Gender: **M / F**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ School Year: \_\_\_\_\_ Gender: **M / F**

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