

Promoting languages in our schools

3 perspectives on promoting languages in our schools:

- A. Curriculum For Excellence entitlements**
- B. Government commitment**
- C. Skills for learning, life and work**

A. Curriculum For Excellence entitlements

B. Language entitlement for learners in Scotland:

“....we expect the majority of young people to achieve by the end of S3 a level of performance in each language skill which approximates to the level of performance associated with SCQF level 4. The achievement of fourth level outcomes represents a substantial and useful level of competence closely linked to Basic User level on the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (CEFR).”

Curriculum for Excellence, Modern Languages, principles and practice

http://www.ltscotland.org.uk/Images/modern_languages_principles_practice_tcm4-539990.pdf

B. The government commitment

“The Scottish Government wants to boost Scotland’s performance in languages and to enhance the opportunities for our young people to develop the confidence and skills that they will need to make their way in an increasingly globalised world.”

Dr Alasdair Allan, Minister for Learning and Skills, Engage for Education, June 2011

<http://www.engageforeducation.org/2011/06/introduction-to-the-new-minister-for-learning-skills/>

European model: 1 + 2

“We are committed to moving forward the “one plus two agenda”, meaning that all schoolchildren are given the chance to learn two languages in addition to their mother tongue...”

Dr Alasdair Allan, Minister for Learning and Skills, Engage for Education, June 2011

C. Skills for learning, life and work

Key points from the *CBI UK education and skills survey 2011*:

- **76% of employers are not satisfied with school/college leavers foreign language employability skills.**

This is the highest percentage of employer dissatisfaction in the report compared to all other employability skills.

- **61% of employers perceive shortfalls in international cultural awareness** among school and college leavers

- **Only a quarter (27%) of businesses say they have *no need* for Foreign Language skills**

Impact of decline in foreign languages on skills for learning, life and work

- 80% of UK businesses are unable to use foreign languages and 77% of these miss out on international trade contracts.
- 2/3 of businesses cite foreign languages as a barrier.
- 8 out of 10 feel challenged by cultural differences and etiquette.
- UK economy could be missing out on contracts worth up to £21 billion per year!
- 72% UK international trade is with non-English speaking countries.
- UK engineers do not have relevant language skills required for international companies based in the UK so are being outsourced for jobs by European counterparts.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld200910/ldhansrd/text/91203-0002.htm>

Quoting from CBI and Cardiff University Business School

Points for reflection...

Only 6% of world population are native English speakers. 75% don't speak English at all

In the UK, only 1 in 10 people speak a foreign language

Native English language speakers required:
chronic shortage of Interpreters in EU

Only 29% of internet "traffic" is in the English language

Also highlighted in the Worton review:

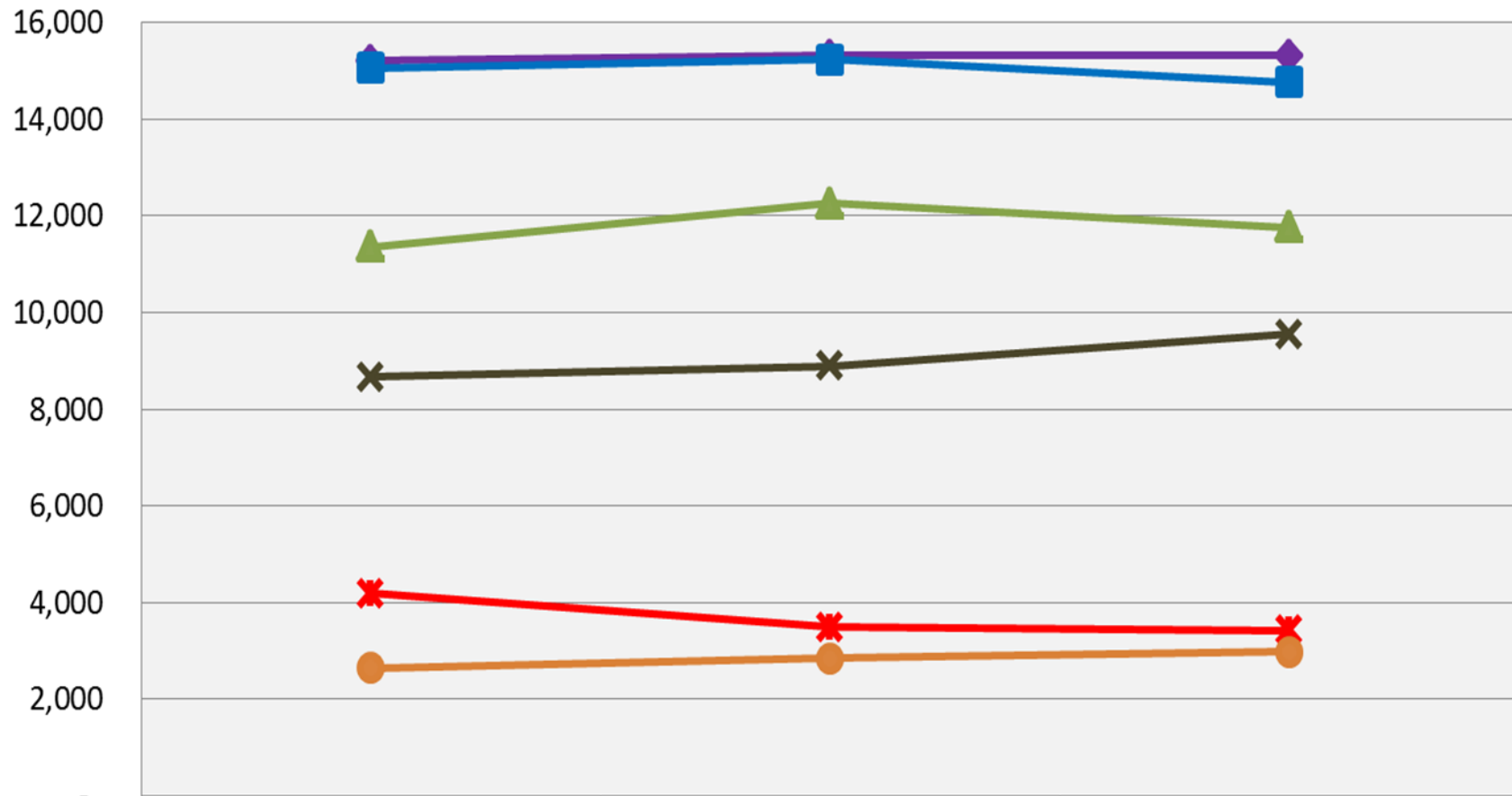
<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld200910/ldhansrd/text/91203-0002.htm>

Quoting from CBI and Cardiff University Business School

Notes on slides 10 and 11

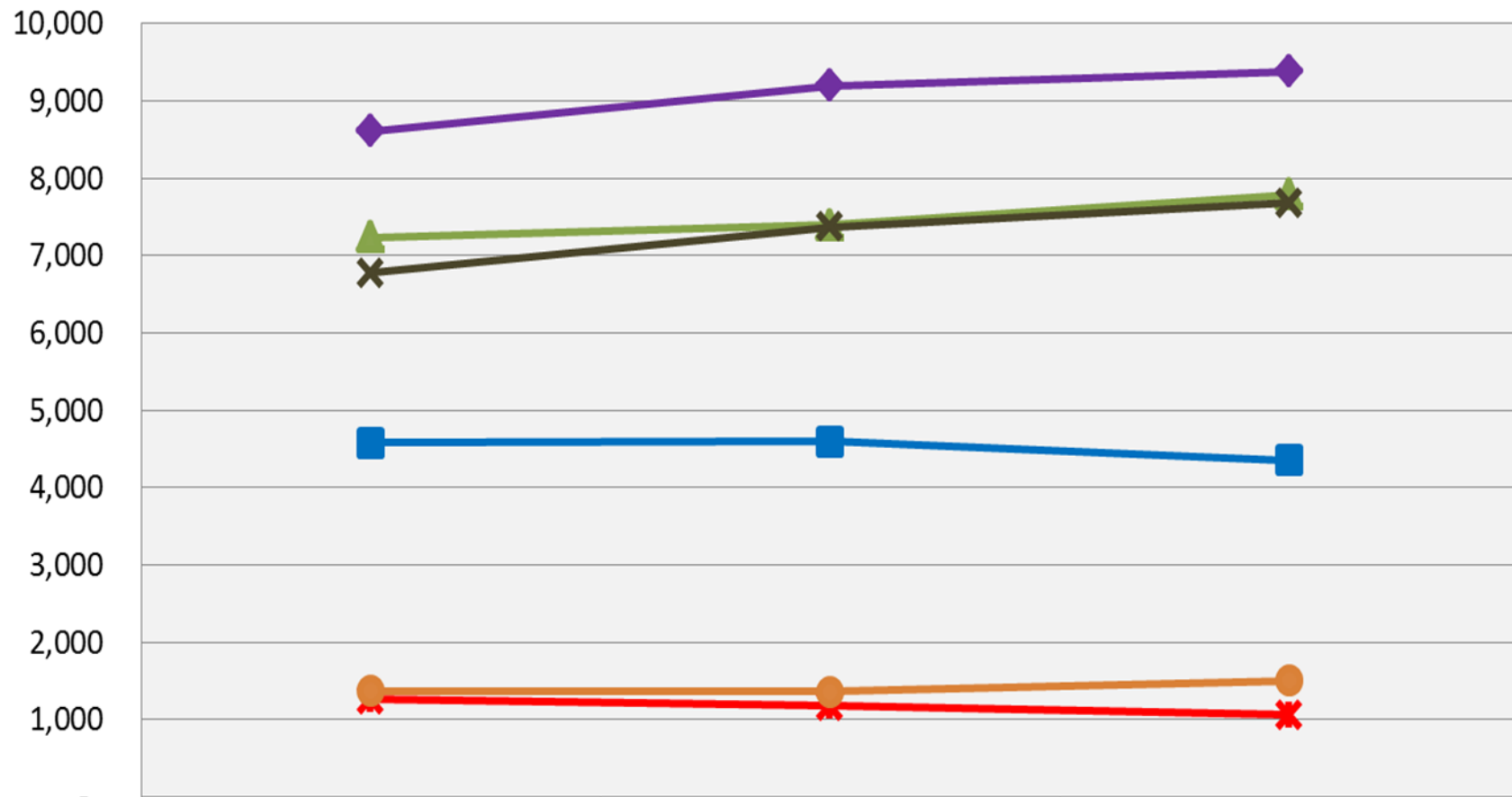
- The following slides compare languages uptake against social sciences, comparable subject areas
- **Sadly we cannot compare languages uptake with that of English, Maths, Sciences**
- Slide 10 shows that young people are engaging less with Languages at SCQF level 5
- **Since 2008-9, uptake of social sciences at SCQF level 5 has risen by 4%, while uptake of Languages has decreased by -3.3% over the same period.**

Selected Entries at SCQF Level 5 (SG Credit + Intermediate 2) 2009-2011



	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11
History	15,208	15,310	15,319
French	15,056	15,233	14,769
Geography	11,355	12,254	11,767
Modern Studies	8,666	8,896	9,552
German	4,191	3,490	3,428
Spanish	2,648	2,844	2,976

Selected Entries at SCQF Level 6 (Higher Grade) 2009-2011



	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11
History	8,605	9,193	9,379
French	4,577	4,595	4,352
Geography	7,234	7,395	7,787
Modern Studies	6,773	7,371	7,680
German	1,261	1,178	1,054
Spanish	1,364	1,361	1,498

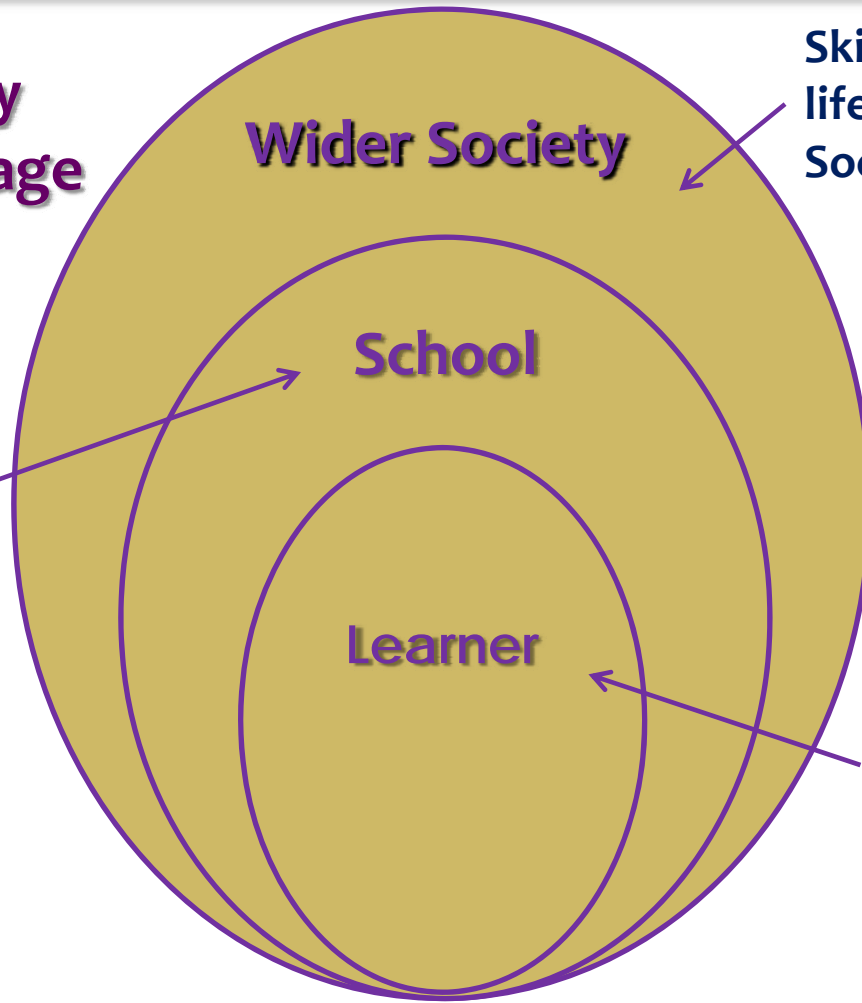
“English is NOT enough”

Together we must help Scotland’s youngsters realise that “English is enough” is a dangerously misleading myth.

Modern Languages Excellence Report

There are so many benefits to language learning...

Global citizenship, international Education, interdisciplinary learning opportunities, staff motivation...



Skills for learning, life and work, Social cohesion...

Employability, sustained positive destinations, literacy, cognitive skills, communication skills, organisational skills, interpersonal skills..

..and the alternative is..

“Unless the decline in Modern Languages is reversed, Anglophone Britons will become **one of the most monolingual peoples in the world**, with **severe consequences** for our economy, for business competitiveness, for international reputation and mobility and for community cohesion at home.”



**Promoting
languages
is as easy as
A, B, C!**