



Word Wizard

Teacher's Pack

Mandarin

What is Word Wizard 2016?

Word Wizard is a competition for pupils in S1-S3 learning French, Gaelic, German, Spanish or Mandarin (this pack is specifically for Mandarin competitors). The aim of Word Wizard is to encourage learners to practise and improve their vocabulary, spelling, pronunciation and memory skills in the target language.

Competition Stages

Word Wizard consists of three stages:

1. Class Competition
2. Semi-final
3. National Final

Who can enter?

The competition is open to S1-S3 learners of French, Gaelic, German, Mandarin and Spanish, who are not native speakers of that language.

Pupils who have native or near-native competence in the target language should not compete e.g. if they regularly speak the target language at home or have lived for a period of time in a country where the language is spoken.

Levels

There are two levels of competition - **Beginner** and **Intermediate**.

Beginner - pupils who are learning the language for the first year at secondary school. This could include S1 or S2 learners.

Intermediate - pupils who are in their 2nd year of learning the language at secondary school. This could include S2 or S3 learners.

- **S1** pupils can compete in **beginner** level only.
- **S2** pupils can compete at **beginner** level if they are learning the language for the first year at secondary school. They can compete at **intermediate** level if they are learning the language for the 2nd year at secondary school.
- **S3** pupils can compete in **intermediate** level only, and can only compete if this is their second year learning the language at secondary school.

Pupils cannot enter the same level of the competition twice.

Word lists

Pupils will be given 40 characters to learn at each stage of the competition. After each stage is complete, SCILT will email schools with the next 40 characters. By the time of the National Final in May 2016, competitors will be tested on a random selection from all 120 characters.

How to get started

Word Wizard should be introduced to learners when you receive your first set of word lists. Time can be spent in class teaching and practising the characters. As the competition progresses, pupils should be practising in their own time, during breaks or after school. Teachers could engage the help of Chinese language assistants or older pupils to help learners to practise. If your school competed in last year's Word Wizard, previous contestants could offer advice and support to this year's competitors.

The Rules

- Pupils should be tested individually and cannot use prompts.
- Pupils will have one minute to correctly recognise and translate as many characters as possible.
- The teacher should choose characters in a random order using the word lists or powerpoints provided:
 - The teacher displays the characters to the pupil.
 - The pupil says the word in Mandarin using the correct tone.
 - The pupil says the word in English.
 - The pupil is allowed to pass on any word by saying 'pass' in Mandarin: 过 guò.
 - When the pupil has finished translating, the teacher displays the next character.
 - This continues until the minute is over.
 - If the pupil begins translating a word when the timer goes, they are allowed to finish.

Scoring

Points will be awarded in the following way:

- Two elements will be taken into consideration: pronunciation and translation.
- Only if competitors get both elements correct will they be awarded one point for each word.
- This means that if they have the correct translation but pronounce the word incorrectly they are not awarded a point.
- It may be useful to think of the following chart:

	Correct Y/N
Pronunciation	
Translation	

- The teacher could put a mark next to each element that the pupil gets correct. If the pupil fails to get both elements correct they do not receive a point.

Stage 1 – Class Competition

The deadline to complete the Stage 1 Class Competition is Friday 22nd January 2016.

Guidelines for teachers:

- Introduce the first 40 characters to participating pupils as soon as possible.
- Ensure they can recognise the characters, pronounce the word using the correct tone and provide the English translation.
- Mock tests could be run as a starter or plenary.
- Hold your class competition by the end of January, using the rules outlined above.
- It is at your discretion how many pupils progress from Stage 1 to Stage 2 as this will be different for each school.

Stage 2 – Semi-final

This year there are 3 semi-finals taking place across the country. We would expect schools to attend the semi-final which is closest to them, but if this is not possible do let us know.

Semi-final 1

University of Strathclyde, Glasgow
Friday 4th March 2015

Semi-final 2

University of Dundee, Dundee
Wednesday 9th March 2016

Semi-final 3

University of Aberdeen, Aberdeen
Wednesday 16th March 2016

You will be asked at the point of registration to specify which semi-final you will be attending.

Guidelines for teachers:

- Introduce the second set of characters to the pupils who progressed past Stage 1.
- Participants can meet outside of class hours during breaks or after school. Mock tests could be given within class as a starter or plenary.
- Chinese language assistants could work with the competing pupils to practise.
- Each school will be able to enter a certain number of pupils per language and level for the Semi-final. This number will depend on the total number of pupils entering the competition and we will be able to tell you this nearer the time.
- How you choose the pupils to compete in the Semi-final is up to you; if you have a lot of pupils you may need to run more than one class competition.
- Competitors will be tested on a random selection of characters from Stage 1 AND Stage 2.
- Schools will not need to attend the full day, but will be assigned a time slot for their competing pupils.
- The highest scoring pupils in each language and level will progress to the National Final. The number of pupils progressing will depend on the total number entering; we will be able to tell you this nearer the time.

- Pupils will progress to the final on an individual basis, not as a school.
- Further details of the Semi-final and a reminder of the rules will be sent out in early 2016.

Stage 3 – National Final

The National Final will be held on Friday 27th May 2016 in the Scottish Parliament in Edinburgh. More details will be sent to you nearer the time.

Guidelines for teachers:

- Introduce the final 40 characters to the semi-final winners.
- Participants should practise weekly, in breaks or after school. Use older pupils or previous contestants to help.
- The National Final will follow the same rules as the semi-finals, but competitors will now be tested on a random selection from all 120 characters.
- The National Winners in each category will be announced on the day and there will be a prize-giving ceremony.
- Further details and a reminder of the rules will be sent out nearer the time.

CONTACTS

To register, receive your word lists or for any other questions please contact SCILT directly:

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