ALM 1

Resource 4: Getting to know the specification

Getting to know the specification

Print the following questions onto card, cut up and use as ‘quiz’ questions.

Depending on the number of colleagues you are training, this activity could be done in various ways. For small groups, the question cards could be pulled out of a hat and/or answered against the clock. In pairs, one person could look at the question (without showing it to their partner), tell their partner the answer and the partner has to guess what the question was. For groups of six or more, organise a ‘speed-dating’ style room, where participants sit in pairs opposite each other. Place a few question cards on each table, making sure there is a different set on each table. Give the pairs a short time (e.g. two minutes) to discuss the questions on their table, and then at the sound of a buzzer/whistle/ hooter they all move one place to their left for the next two minutes. In this way everyone changes partners and gets a new set of questions each time. The question cards must stay on the table!

The aim of this activity is to generate discussion and to share ideas. If you wish to provide ‘answers’, they could be written on the backs of the cards.

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| 1. How long is the AS Speaking exam? | 7. Which skill carries the most marks at A2? |
| 2. What is the word limit for writing tasks? | 8. Are candidates permitted to write about their own country and culture? |
| 3. What % of marks is allocated to Listening? | 9. What NEW grammar is required at A2? |
| 4. What different types of questions are used to assess Reading? | 10. What are the names of the four units? |
| 5. Is any part of the exam in English? | 11. What are the rules/conditions regarding re-sits?  |
| 6. Are dictionaries, texts or notes allowed at any time (in any unit)? | 12. What are the AS topic areas? |