



ASSESSMENT APPROACH FOR QUALIFICATIONS IN 2021 FAQs

The assessment approach for qualification 2021 adheres to the Qualifications Wales: Summer 2021 Guidance on alternative arrangements for approved GCSEs, AS and A Levels (version 2) document along with WJEC Guide to Centre Policy on assessment and quality assurance process. The information shared below is subject to change if further updates are received by the school.

Will coursework still be taken into account?

Most pieces of coursework are Non Examination Assessments (NEA's). These will be used as part of the evidence base to determine a grade. This will vary from subject to subject.

Will all students sit "mini assessments" as the same time?

Classroom based assessments will be sat in line with the school timetable. This will mean students will sit these at different times; however these are not examinations. Students will receive an overview of all assessments, content of individual subject assessments and be prepared within lessons. These assessments are used to judge a student's competence not a test of memory.

Is this assessment approach just for Croesyceiliog students?

The approach has been set out in the Guidance for Alternative Arrangements for Approved GCSEs, AS and A Levels documents produced by Qualifications Wales.

Are students likely to complete multiple assessments each week?

The assessment period is spread over the first half of the summer term. Students may have several assessments within a week however, the school is working closely with Directors of Faculties to ensure that the agreed timeframe supports students and does not cause anxiety.

Will Year 11 have a timetable of assessments?

Students will receive an overview of all assessments, content of individual subject assessments and be prepared within lessons. In addition, subject teachers for each class will inform their students of the specific day and lesson of an assessment to ensure students are fully informed for each class based assessment closer to the time.

How can it be said that 'poor online' learners will be disadvantaged?

The approach has been set out in the Guidance for Alternative Arrangements for Approved GCSEs, AS and A Levels documents produced by Qualifications Wales. This approach strives to ensure no students regardless of their lockdown experience is disadvantaged.

Will students be informed of the amount of assessments required for each subject?

Students will receive an overview of all assessments, content of individual subject assessments and be prepared within lessons. In addition, subject teachers for each class will inform their students of the specific day and lesson of an assessment to ensure students are fully informed for each class based assessment closer to the time.

Why are students' predictions not being used this year?

The approach outlined by Qualifications Wales and WJEC is different to the centre assessed grades process used last summer. This year schools are to determine grades based on three elements of evidence, these are:

- ✓ Class based assessments using adapted past paper questions;
- ✓ Non examination assessments (if applicable)

✓ Other contributing evidence:

- Teachers may use evidence from previously completed WJEC past-paper questions, which have been externally quality assured, with a published mark scheme, and where they have been completed under controlled conditions; and
- Assessments undertaken prior to the publication of the centre approach e.g. Mock Examinations (also known as 'Pre-Public Examinations') and/or other assessed work may only be used to help **confirm a judgement**. However, this evidence may not be used in isolation to determine grades since, at the time of completion, it is possible that students would not have been aware of the importance of these tasks. This is designed to ensure fairness and equity to all students.

Teachers will ensure there is sufficient opportunity for students to provide clear evidence to demonstrate competency against the key themes and skills, as specified in each WJEC Qualification Assessment Framework. It may be that relatively few pieces of clear evidence would be sufficient to demonstrate attainment across overarching key themes for many qualifications. Teachers will ensure that the generation of evidence does not create unnecessary duplication of work.

In determining grades, the school will be required to make 'best-fit' judgements. This means that students are not required to demonstrate all aspects of a grade descriptor to be awarded the grade; students should be awarded a grade which supports evidence of attainment across sufficient breadth of content, within the specified qualification, as determined by WJEC; and may achieve the same grades by demonstrating different combinations of knowledge, skills and understanding. This ensures that strengths in some areas counterbalance shortcomings in others. As a result, the 'best-fit' grade may be awarded.

Our students have received professional predictions this year as part of interim and full reports. It is perfectly acceptable to share these, if you so wish, with post 16 providers.

Will students have PE lessons?

PE/ Games lessons will continue to take place in line with the schools current COVID safe routines. Students should wear their school PE kit for the whole day when they are timetabled for PE.

Who do we contact about lateral flow device testing?

All the information, guidance and links to the consent forms have now been uploaded to our school website. If you have any questions please contact the school.

Students who struggled online, will that affect their grade?

The approach has been set out in the Guidance for Alternative Arrangements for Approved GCSEs, AS and A Levels documents produced by Qualifications Wales. This approach strives to ensure no students regardless of their lock down experience is disadvantaged.

Will we get to see the provisional grades before they are submitted to the WJEC?

Centre Determined Grades will be shared with students by 25 June.

Will BTEC students have a provisional grade on the 25th June?

We are still awaiting confirmation with regards to BTECs, but will share this with students/parents when we have this information.

Will there be consideration for students who have experienced bereavement?

Applications for special consideration can still be made for this series of assessments. Therefore the school will still make applications for students where necessary.

What is happening with BTECs for Year 10 students?

Centre determined grades will only be awarded for English literature as this is a full GCSE qualification for our year 10 students. Vocational subjects such as BTECS with unit assessments e.g. Teamwork, Sport and Travel and Tourism are Learning, Respect, Ambition

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not affected by this process. As usual these will be certificated at the end of year 11 2021/22. Therefore on going assessments will continue to be carried out in line with the current specifications for these courses.