

ASSESSMENT ADVICE TO CENTRES SUBMITTING ENTRIES FOR EXTENDED PROJECT QUALIFICATION IN 2017

Many of our centres have been entering candidates for WJEC's Extended Project for several years, and we are aware that some centres may not have fully internalised the fact that there are changes to the specification (for teaching from September 2015 onwards). This short document is intended to allay any fears in centres about the assessment of projects in the next weeks and months. Indeed, all changes have actually been made to make the qualification less bureaucratic (especially for teachers) and to make assessment less problematic.

1. You will find that paperwork in terms of project administration process is potentially more straightforward. Perhaps most significant in this area is the decision to require for artefact projects only 1500 words of project outcome notes, rather than 2000 words. Candidates should be encouraged to cross-reference points from other parts of the project administration to streamline their writing and to avoid too much repetition.

The old specification EPQ File forms will not be accepted for Summer 2017 submissions.

2. In keeping with our wish to make the qualification and its assessment more coherent, the marks for each Assessment Objectives are shared in each case between two learning objectives. Firstly, the weightings of the AOs remain the same, as follows:

AO1 Manage	20 marks
AO2 Use Resources	20 marks
AO3 Develop and Realise	40 marks
AO4 Review	20 marks

Thus, with two learning objectives covered by each AO, there is added focus in the assessment.

Assessment Objectives	Learning Outcomes	Assessment Criteria	Max. Marks
AO1	LO1	Identify a topic supported by a rationale and design a project	10
	LO2	Produce plan and carry out project using range of strategies and methods to achieve objectives	10
TOTAL			20
AO2	LO3	Conduct research using range of resources, select and apply information/data relevant the planned outcome	10
	LO4	Interpret and analyse information/data showing understanding of links and connections within the complexities of the outcome	10
TOTAL			20
AO3	LO5	Select and use a range of skills, including new technologies, where appropriate, to reach critical decisions	20
	LO6	Produce a planned outcome and realise the project in its entirety	20
TOTAL			40
AO4	LO7	Make a presentation of (its) findings and conclusions by selecting and using a range of communication skills	10
	LO8	Understand and apply the principles of evaluation and review in relation to the planned outcome and own learning and performance	10
TOTAL			20
TOTAL MARKS			100



Each judgement is built upon reading and applying the descriptors across three mark bands. These should be best-fit judgements within one of the bands, or between two bands. e.g. 9/10 is secure in Band 3; 8/10 is, on balance, Band 3; 7/10 is very secure in Band 2. For Develop and Realise (AO3), the bands are much wider, so requiring quite fine-tuned judgements within bands.

As previously, we expect first-hand evidence to justify marks awarded, with support from the teacher in the form of balanced comments particular to an individual's performance.

We trust that you will quickly become familiar with the new arrangements, and find them workable.

Please feel free to contact Glenda Kinsey, Extended Project Qualifications Manager - glenda.kinsey@wjec.co.uk, or phone 02920 265348 should you require further advice and guidance on applying the marking criteria.