

Change of rules for certification in GCSE sciences

As a result of an agreement between WJEC and the other Awarding Bodies the certification and recertification rules are changing, with immediate effect, for the following GCSE science subjects:

GCSE Science
GCSE Additional Science
GCSE Biology
GCSE Chemistry
GCSE Physics

Re-certification

Following certification ('cash-in') it is now possible for a candidate to take one or more units of any of these science subjects again and to request re-aggregation and certification of the same subject title. Up to now the rule has been that **all** units must be re-taken. This is no longer the case.

Example: A candidate has 'cashed in' GCSE Additional Science and subsequently wishes to improve her grade. She retakes Chemistry 2 and the Additional Science Internal Assessment and requests a reaggregation. The previously taken units still count towards the qualification. The actual results used towards the new aggregation are those with the highest uniform mark in each unit.

Please note the following points:

- In normal circumstances, it is not possible for a centre to request re-aggregation unless at least one unit is retaken.
- Candidates may not decline a grade.
- Once a unit result has been used, as part of aggregation towards a particular qualification title, it cannot be subsequently used for a different title, e.g. in the above example: If the new Chemistry 2 result is an improvement and replaces the original Chemistry 2, the original result cannot subsequently be used in a GCSE Chemistry aggregation.

Simultaneous certification of Separate Science and Science and/or Additional Science

It is now possible to 'cash-in' several qualifications at the same session, even if the qualifications have common units. Up to now this has not been possible.

Example: A candidate has amassed the following unit results:

Biology 1, Chemistry 1, Physics 1, Science Internal Assessment, Physics 1, Physics 2, Physics 3, Physics Internal Assessment.

This candidate can cash in Science and Physics at the same time.

The following rule applies

- When 'cashing-in' a separate science and Science and/or Additional Science, the separate science 'cash-in' is performed first. In the above example, the better of the two Physics 1 results would contribute towards GCSE Physics. The remaining Physics 1 result would contribute towards GCSE Science.

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