

## WJEC GCSE English Language Online Briefing Q&A Report

03/09 & 04/09

**Q: Will the group discussion task for the November 2020 series be the same as last summer or is there a new task?**

The same group discussion stimulus materials for entry in summer 2020 are to be used for entry in November 2020.

**Q: Will the March deadline for Unit 1 be pushed back?**

The Unit 1 submission deadline for summer 2021 is 24<sup>th</sup> March.

**Q: Are there any adaptations at all for November resit?**

There are no adaptations for the November 2020 series.

**Q: Will there still be a maximum file size restriction, given files recorded via teams may be a larger file size?**

As yet, there are no changes to the maximum file sizes for Surpass upload for November 2020 and summer 2021, however this will be reviewed by our e-Submissions team with any changes made communicated to centres.

**Q: Is Oracy still worth 20%?**

Yes, the weighting of Unit 1 remains at 20%.

**Q: Can presentations already recorded by students during lockdown (while at home and not via Teams) period be submitted?**

This practice will only be permitted where the controlled conditions outlined in the specification have been followed and the presentation has been delivered to the teacher.

**Q: Can a student's presentation be used for entry in summer 2021 if it was recorded for entry in summer 2020?**

Yes, this is completely fine.

**Q: When students are presenting their IRPs remotely, do they need to provide their name and candidate no on the recording?**

Yes, as it is helpful with candidate identification during the external moderation process.

**Q: Is it possible for all students to remotely record their presentations, or is this just an option for those with attendance issues?**

This adaptation has been designed to support centres where there are attendance issues affecting staff and students during the pandemic i.e. self-isolating, quarantine, closure.

**Q: If they are recorded remotely, are you expecting them to be video files? Or will audio only still be acceptable?**

Audio-only recordings will still be permitted.

**Q: If performing solo presentations in a school setting, how many pupils should make an audience (in addition to the teacher) please?**

An audience can consist of just the teacher if necessary.

**Q: Will it be possible for FE centres to obtain the oracy tasks that were recorded in the schools where the students have come from?**

Yes, schools should provide these recordings along with the cover sheets and notes for each of the students requested by FE centres.

**Q: As a Further Education Centre we did upload marks onto the WJEC system for Unit 1 prior to the college closing in the wake of the nationwide lockdown. On the basis we effectively 'banked' those marks and submitted a sample for moderation can our learners carry those marks forward for the November series?**

As the summer 2020 exam series was cancelled and replaced with centre assessed grading, no Unit 1 mark exists for candidates that were entered in summer 2020.

**Q: In light of Unit 1 (I.R.P.) now being worth double at 20%, could preparation time be doubled to two weeks? It seems unfair to pupils who struggle to speak in front of a camera to be penalised by having this unit be worth so much.**

As the presentation is still marked out of 40 marks and the recommended timing remains at 5-7 minutes, the week's preparation will continue to stand.

**Q: With regards to carry-forwards, will learners resitting in 2021/22 be able to take marks from the previous academic year in light of this year's changes? Or is it too premature to ask? This is a very common practice in FE.**

A carry-forward of the Unit 1 mark for re-sit candidates will continue as normal, however, as no marks were accepted in summer 2020, this is the only exam series where this practice will not be permitted.

**Q: I understand that the adaptations are only applicable to the June 2021 exam and not November 2020 and I wonder why are the adaptations not applicable for the November exam when the learners have still been disadvantaged by the same set of circumstances?**

Qualifications Wales requested that adaptations be applied to the summer 2021 exam series only.

**Q: Regarding Unit 3, could we have more clarity on which text types will be assessed? By this I mean, argumentation and persuasion writing still means lots of different text types need to be covered. I appreciate you can't tell us which actual text types are on the exam but if we could have a limited range of text types, e.g. leaflet, etc., then I feel we would all feel more comfortable. I don't believe this request affects the integrity of the exam.**

The only adaptation to unit 3 was to provide a choice of writing task in Section B as opposed to both being compulsory.

**Q: Are these the final proposed changes, and can we make them public to our learners please?**

The proposed adaptation stage concluded last term. The four adaptations that have been communicated to centres can be share with all concerned.

**Q: What was the rationale behind the removal of narration writing over the others?**

Each Unit 2 question paper features two writing types from three. Next summer's Unit 2 doesn't feature narration writing.