GCSE

WJEC GCSE
DIGITAL MEDIA AND FILM

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

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Ready for the world.

General

Q: How are the units assessed?
A: Please refer to the Specification, page 4, where there is a summary of assessment.

Q: Where can I find the entry codes?
A: The entry codes can be found on page 29 of the specification.

Q: Where can I find Professional Learning materials?
A: All Professional Learning materials are available on the WJEC Portal website under Resources.

Q: Where can I find teaching and learning resources?
A: Resources for GCSE Digital Media and Film are available on the WJEC Educational resources website. These include blended learning modules, knowledge organisers and film factsheets. Information about how to adapt these resources can be found under the training tab on the subject homepage.

Q: Should the units be taught in a particular order?
A: Unit 2 and Unit 3 could be completed any time during the two years and submitted to WJEC in the final year of the course. However, centres should ensure that assessment of both Unit 2 and Unit 3 is completed only when learners have undertaken the necessary teaching and learning and developed the required skills and knowledge. Unit 1 must be assessed in the final year of the course.

Q: In the specification, what is the difference between the terms 'including', 'for example', and 'such as'?
A: The use of the word 'including' indicates that the specified content must be taught and could be subject to assessment. The use of the words 'for example' or 'such as' indicates that the specified content is for guidance only, and alternative examples could be chosen.

Q: What is the NEA submission deadline?
A: For GCSE, all marks must be submitted, and all required samples uploaded by **5 May**. This date is the same each year and does not change, even if it falls on a weekend. Centres should submit their marks ahead of this date to allow time to receive details of the sample candidates and submit their work.

Q: Can the marksheets be completed and signed digitally?
A: Yes, both handwritten and typed/digital signatures and forms are acceptable.

Q: Where can I find the grade boundaries?
A: Grade boundaries will be available from the first award of the qualification in August 2028. They will be available on the WJEC website: Grade Boundaries

Q: Can this qualification be delivered in centres in England?
A: This qualification has been written specifically as part of the new Made for Wales suite of qualifications and to align with the curriculum and principles of progression. As such it has not been approved for delivery in England.

Q: Can centres in Wales still offer Eduqas GCSE Film Studies?
A: With the new Made-for-Wales qualifications, there are changes to how media and film subjects are offered in Wales. With the introduction of the Digital Media and Film qualification in September 2026, Welsh centres will no longer be able to teach the Eduqas GCSE Film Studies qualification.

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Unit 1: Exploring key concepts and issues

Q: Where can I access the films?
A: Please see the availability guide on the subject homepage for guidance about where you can access or stream the films. It is recommended that centres purchase a copy of the films on DVD or Blu-ray as films are only licensed for limited periods on streaming platforms.

Q: How were the films selected?
A: The prescribed films for this unit were selected through careful consideration to ensure that they are fit for purpose and that they allow learners to study the full range of content on the specification. Considerations such as accessibility and diversity have also played a part in the selection process.

Q: When will the films be reviewed/changed?
A: The film pairings are reviewed every three to five years. Where appropriate, they will be updated to ensure the specification remains relevant. Centres are notified about specification changes via circulars sent to centres via the Exams Officer.

Q: What if one of the films is a 15? When should I teach this?
A: It is the centre's responsibility whether to select films classified 15 for study and to provide content notes if necessary. If you do not feel a 15 is suitable for your learners, there are other options you can choose.

Q: Would video games that were created prior to 2010 but have since been re-released or remastered be acceptable for study?
A: New versions of existing franchises should be fine. It is recommended that centres check the criteria in the specification for studying video games to ensure they choose a game that is suitable for representations and contexts. Examples and guidance for selecting a video game extract can be found in the Guidance for Teaching document and Blended Learning resources.

Q: Which theorists/theories should I teach?
A: There are no specific theorists/theories listed in the specification. They can be taught if useful but are not a requirement.

Q: Do the contemporary news events have to be hard news stories?
A: No, the specification does not stipulate that they must be hard news events. However, the news events must be within two years of learners studying the qualification.

Q: When will the on-screen examination take place?
A: The on-screen examination will take place at the end of the two years.

Q: How is the on-screen examination structured?
A: The examination will consist of questions requiring objective responses, short and extended answers. An example of the on-screen examination can be found in the Unit 1 Sample Assessment Materials on the subject homepage.

Q: How do centres gain access to the on-screen examination?
A: Access to the on-screen examination will be through Surpass. Information on how to prepare for this can be found on the On-screen Exams page.

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Q: What skills will be assessed in the exam? Will there always be a comparative element in Welsh and Global Films?

A: Yes, learners should be able to compare the pair of films selected from the list of films set for study and consider taught content from 1.1.1 to 1.1.4 in the specification.

Q: Where will learners encounter unseen material?

A: There will be unseen in section B and/or C, and it will be linked to content in the specification.

Q: Can learners be assessed on content that uses the stem 'learners should be aware of'?

A: Yes, learners could be assessed on their awareness of this content.

Q: In the on-screen examination, how much should learners be expected to write in extended answers?

A: Learners need to address all elements of the question that is set and be guided by the number of marks available. There is no prescriptive approach to an exam question and there are different ways to fulfil the assessment criteria. However, learners do need to address the question in sufficient depth to demonstrate their knowledge and understanding. The SAMs give further indications of the likely responses at the different bands of the mark scheme.

Q: Will learners be assessed on the quality of written communication and literacy skills?

A: A candidate's literacy skills may affect the quality of their communication. However, there are no dedicated marks for spelling, punctuation and grammar in Unit 1.

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Unit 2: Distribution and exhibition strategies of digital media and film industries in Wales

Q: Where can I find the brief for Unit 2?
A: The brief for Unit 2 will be available on Portal from September 2026.

Q: When will the brief change?
A: Unit 2 is a static brief so will remain unchanged for the lifetime of the specification. Centres are notified about specification changes via circulars via the Exams Officer.

Q: How much supervision is required?
A: Each assessment pack contains information for teachers about how to manage arrangements for assessment. This includes information about conditions, resources, supervision and authentication of candidate work. Please refer to this guidance when completing this unit.

Q: How long should learners have to complete the assessment?
A: Learners must be allowed 18 hours to complete the assessment.

Q: Is there a recommended time scale for when the 18 hours should be completed?
A: This will be determined by individual centres. Centres must ensure that learners have the required skills and knowledge to complete the task and that the NEA is completed in advance of the WJEC moderation deadline.

Q: Can all learners research the same production company and products?
A: We would advise not as the research must be independently undertaken. Collaboration is not permitted and teachers should ensure that learners are researching independently.

Q: Can learners research a product that they have studied in Unit 1?
A: No, the research investigation must be independent work, and therefore learners must not research a text that they have already studied in class.

Q: Are pupils allowed to use AI in Unit 2?
A: AI can be used as a tool to aid research but **must not** be used to produce the final work on the candidate's behalf.

Q: Are learners allowed to use found images as part of their exhibition product?
A: Learners must use original footage, images or text for the majority of their exhibition product. In certain circumstances, it may be necessary to include non-original, found images or footage. In such cases, found material may be used provided it is not the main focus of the product and is only used as supporting images or footage. Candidates who do not use original footage, images or text for the majority of the production may only be awarded marks up to the top of band 2. Candidates are required to clearly reference any sources and any Artificial Intelligence tools used in the work on the Candidate Declaration Form.

Q: What needs to be submitted for moderation?
A: For each candidate in the sample, centres must submit:

- Task 1: Research
- Task 2: Distribution Strategy and Exhibition Strategy
- Candidate Declaration Form
- Unit 2 Candidate Mark Record Form.

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Unit 3: Creating digital media and film content

Q: Where can I find the brief for Unit 3?
A: The brief for Unit 3 will be available on Portal from September 2026.

Q: When will the brief change?
A: The stimulus will be changed every three years. However, the briefs will always be for a marketing campaign for a new film, video game or series for a streaming site.

Q: How much supervision is required?
A: Each assessment pack contains information for teachers about how to manage arrangements for assessment. This includes information about conditions, resources, supervision and authentication of candidate work. Please refer to this guidance when completing this unit.

Q: Can learners create a production based on the product idea from their Unit 2 digital portfolio?
A: Yes, learners can use the same product idea, but they must produce new work and ensure that they are not reusing content submitted for Unit 2.

Q: Is collaboration permitted?
A: Collaboration is not permitted. A candidate's work must be their own, and only one candidate can be credited for a piece of work in this unit.

Q: What technology/programmes are recommended/required for the NEA?
A: We have not set specific requirements as every centre will be different. There will be a range of options for Unit 3.

Q: Are learners permitted to use pre-populated templates?
A: No, learners must be responsible for the layout and design of their work.

Q: Is there a prescribed format for the reflective log?
A: There is no prescribed format regarding the presentation of the reflective log. Candidates can choose to submit the task in any of the formats noted below (or any other suitable format):

- audio presentation
- audio visual presentation
- PowerPoint
- written prose

Q: Can learners include images in their reflective log?
A: Yes.

Q: What is an unassessed participant?
A: An unassessed participant is any participant in a production apart from the candidate being assessed, e.g. actors/models etc.

Q: Are learners required to complete research and planning?
A: It is not a requirement for learners to submit research and planning as part of their assessment; however, they should be encouraged to engage with these pre-production processes to help shape, organise and refine their ideas.

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Q: What needs to be submitted for moderation?
A: For each candidate in the sample, centres must submit:

- Production brief including one audio-visual element, and one digital/online element
- Reflective log
- Candidate Declaration Form
- Unit 3 Candidate Mark Record Form

Where can I find…?	
Specification	Subject homepage
Options evening flyer	Subject homepage
FAQs	Subject homepage
Guidance for Teaching	Subject homepage
SAMs	Subject homepage
NEA briefs	NEA assessment packs (Portal)
Teacher NEA checklist	Guidance for Teaching on Subject homepage
Links to useful resources/websites	Guidance for Teaching on Subject homepage
Glossary	Guidance for Teaching on Subject homepage
Film availability guide	Subject homepage
Blended Learning resources	Educational resources website
Knowledge organisers	Educational resources website
Film factsheets	Educational resources website
Assessment grids	NEA assessment packs (Portal)
Upcoming CPD events	Under the training tab on the Subject homepage
Examples and guidance on set products	Guidance for Teaching on Subject homepage
Word counts/stipulations for NEA tasks	NEA assessment packs (Portal)
As always, our dedicated Subject Team are here to support you. **For further questions, please contact:** **media@wjec.co.uk**	

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