

WJEC Newsletter – January 2026

# GCSE MATHEMATICS AND GCSE MATHEMATICS-NUMERACY

## FREE ACCESS TO SCRIPTS

WJEC teachers will be able to access free marked exam scripts from the November 2025 assessment series from 8 January 2027 onwards, when the results are published.

Candidates' scripts will be available to download from [Portal](#) from results day onwards.

## PRINCIPAL EXAMINERS' REPORTS

Principal Examiners' reports are available for the Summer 2025 series for GCSE Mathematics and GCSE Mathematics-Numeracy, and the reports for the November 2025 series will be uploaded during January. They can/will be found under the Key Documents tab on the [legacy GCSE Mathematics webpage](#).

## PROFESSIONAL LEARNING (PL) TRAINING COURSES

A reminder that, with our focus now on the new GCSE, there will be no PL events or training courses for the remainder of this academic year. However, resources from previous years, which include valuable feedback on topic areas that continue to present challenges for candidates, remain available on [Portal](#).

## BLENDED LEARNING AND KNOWLEDGE ORGANISERS

A reminder that we currently have two blended learning webpages running in parallel, one for the [legacy qualification](#) and one for the [new qualification](#). While some topics overlap, it is important to ensure that students are directed to the correct resources page for the qualification they are following.

## FINAL LEGACY EXAMINATIONS

A reminder that in 2025–26, only candidates in Year 11 or above will be eligible to sit the legacy papers.

In 2026–27, resit opportunities will be available for post-16 learners who have previously cashed in on the legacy qualification. These will be offered in November 2026 (GCSE Mathematics), January 2027 (GCSE Mathematics-Numeracy) and Summer 2027 (both GCSE Mathematics and GCSE Mathematics-Numeracy), subject to demand.

# NEW GCSE MATHEMATICS AND NUMERACY (DOUBLE AWARD)

## UPDATES TO THE NEW SPECIFICATION

Please note that updated versions of certain documents have been released since their initial publication. Where applicable, a *Summary of Amendments* page has been included. As some teachers may have been working from separate spreadsheets or schemes of work, please ensure that these updates are applied across all relevant materials.

The most recent amendment states that the Terminal Rule will no longer apply to post-16 candidates.

Also, a reminder that there has been a significant change to certain Welsh-medium terminology. This concerns the Welsh-language terms for *speed* and *velocity*. Please refer to [Appendix 1](#) for the full statement.

## PROFESSIONAL LEARNING (PL) TRAINING COURSES

Materials from the Pan-Wales training events held in Spring 2025 are available on [Portal](#).

You will also find on Portal a set of student-facing examination walkthroughs, designed to help candidates prepare for assessments. These will not be publicly available initially, so teachers will need to download and share them directly with their students.

Additionally, our [new qualification webpage](#) hosts further resources. Under **Training → On Demand Courses**, you can access the *Specification Walk-Through* and a video recording of the *Specification Briefing* held in November 2024.

## BLENDED LEARNING AND KNOWLEDGE ORGANISERS

A reminder that we currently have two blended learning webpages running in parallel, one for the [legacy qualification](#) and one for the [new qualification](#). While some topics overlap, it is important to ensure that students are directed to the correct resources page for the qualification they are following.

## 2025-26 EXAMINATIONS

A reminder that in 2025-26, all Year 10 should be following the new GCSE course. They will not be permitted to sit any legacy papers. Their first opportunity to take assessments will be in Summer 2026, when Units 1 and 2 will both be available. Unit 3 will be offered in November 2026, which will also be the first opportunity for students to cash in their results.

# NEW LEVEL 2 ADDITIONAL MATHEMATICS

## New Made for Wales Level 2 Additional Mathematics

We are excited to launch the new Specimen Assessment Materials for Level 2 Additional Mathematics, to accompany the specification, which was published in September. The web page for the new qualification is here: [Level 2 Additional Mathematics - Teaching from 2026](#). Here are some key dates for your diaries including information on upcoming Professional Learning opportunities.

### Key dates

Publication of Sample Assessment Materials: 18th December 2025

Guidance for Teaching Published: 31st January 2026

### PL Events and Materials

PL Type	Aims	Format and Notes
Specification walk-through  <b>Available now:</b> <b>Visit the On Demand Courses section within the Training tab on the new qualification's webpage.</b> <a href="#">Level 2 Additional Mathematics - Teaching from 2026</a>	<i>To support your understanding of the specification document.</i>	<i>This asynchronous module is in the On Demand Courses section within the Training tab of the qualification page on the WJEC website. You will need to register to access a link to view.</i>
Parent / Options evening flyers  <b>Available now on the new qualification's webpage.</b>	<i>To support you to provide information to parents and learners before start of study.</i>	<i>This PDF is published on the qualification's home page.</i>
Recording of the Online Qualification Briefing and Q&A  <b>Available now:</b>	<i>To support your understanding of the new qualification, its content and assessment structure.</i>	<i>The Online Briefing was presented by the WJEC Mathematics Subject Adviser with support from the</i>

<p>Visit the <b>On Demand Courses</b> section within the <b>Training</b> tab on the new qualification's webpage.</p> <p><u><a href="#">Level 2 Additional Mathematics - Teaching from 2026</a></u></p>	<p><i>The recording also refers to resources and upcoming PL and answers questions that were put to our Subject Teams and specification experts during the live events.</i></p>	<p><i>WJEC Mathematics Subject Officer. The recording is in the On Demand Courses section within the Training tab of the qualification page on the WJEC website.</i></p>
<p>* Preparing to Teach (face-to-face)</p> <p><b>Available from 09/02/26 to 27/03/26</b></p> <p><b>Registrations for the Pan Wales INSET days will be collected via your head teacher. No registrations through WJEC's website.</b></p>	<p><i>To support teaching the new specification. There will be a focus on understanding the subject content and the assessment based on the specification, sample assessment materials and guidance for teaching. Teachers will see how the qualification builds on learners' prior mathematics experience, links with other subject areas and supports further study.</i></p>	<p><i>These days take place on designated regional INSET days – there are 12 days in this series held across Wales, including 2 Welsh medium days and 1 bilingual day.</i></p> <p><i>These events will be led by WJEC Subject Advisors and our expert presenting teams.</i></p>
<p>Exam Walk-throughs</p> <p><b>Available summer term 2026</b></p> <p><b>Access via Portal (the WJEC secure website)</b></p>	<p><i>To support you and your learners to understand the structure of question papers, question types, assessment objectives and marking methods.</i></p>	<p><i>These pre-recorded PowerPoint presentations will initially be published on Portal (the WJEC secure website) only.</i></p>

\* Your designated regional WJEC face-to-face INSET date (Preparing to Teach) can be found here: [Made-for-Wales GCSEs - Professional Learning | TGAU Gwneud-i-Gymru - Dysgu Proffesiynol](#)

## Blended learning and Knowledge Organisers

Blended learning packages, exam walkthroughs and knowledge organisers being developed for the new Level 2 Additional Mathematics qualification and will be published on the [WJEC Educational Resources Website](#) by the end of July 2026.

# LEGACY LEVEL 2 ADDITIONAL MATHEMATICS

## Principal examiner's report

The Principal Examiner's report for the Summer 2025 paper is available on the key documents tab on the Subject web page: [Level 2 Additional Mathematics](#)

## Assessment feedback materials

Assessment Feedback materials relating to the Summer 2025 series are available on [WJEC Portal](#). The materials can be accessed by first selecting 'Resources', then 'Subject-Specific Support Materials inc CPD & Exemplars'.

## Availability

The legacy qualification will be available for the last time in the Summer 2026 series. There will be a resit opportunity in the Summer 2027 series, but this is only for candidates who have previously been entered for the qualification.

# NEW ENTRY LEVEL / LEVEL 1 FOUNDATION MATHEMATICS AND NUMERACY

## MADE FOR WALES QUALIFICATIONS

A subject page for the **NEW Entry Level / Level 1 Foundation Mathematics and Numeracy** qualification will be available in due course. The qualification is for first teaching from September 2027. Please see the [Made for Wales](#) webpage for further updates.

## Availability of legacy qualification (Entry Level Mathematics-Numeracy)

The legacy qualification will be available for the last time in Summer 2027. There will be a resit opportunity in Summer 2028.

# GCE MATHEMATICS AND GCE FURTHER MATHEMATICS

## PROFESSIONAL LEARNING (PL) TRAINING COURSES

Materials from all of the Professional Learning events that have taken place this academic year for GCE Mathematics and GCE Further Mathematics are available on [WJEC Portal](#). The materials can be accessed by first selecting 'Resources', then 'Subject-Specific Support Materials inc CPD & Exemplars'. The documents can be found quickly by entering 'Mathematics', 'WJEC' and 'GCE' in the first three search boxes.

## KNOWLEDGE ORGANISERS AND OTHER RESOURCES

Visit the [Home Page WJEC Educational Resources Website](#).

### Get in touch

If you have any queries, please get in touch with us via e-mail ([mathematics@wjec.co.uk](mailto:mathematics@wjec.co.uk)) or telephone (02922 404 251).

## Appendix 1

Following a consultation under the guidance of Canolfan Bedwyr, which is Bangor University's Centre for Welsh Language Services, Research and Technology (who are responsible for Y Termiadur Addysg), a decision was made to change the Welsh language terminology currently in use for 'speed' and 'velocity'. An important point to make here is that Canolfan Bedwyr consulted with WJEC, mathematics and physics subject specialists, the national literacy tests specialist panel and teachers who currently teach these subjects in secondary schools.

### The problem

The central issue with the current terminology is the inconsistency which exists between:

- Language in common, everyday use:  
The word 'cyflymder' is used for 'speed' outside school including in professional situations (such as any discussion relating to speed limits etc). 'Buanedd' is an old historical term which doesn't form part of everyday language.
- Primary education:  
Pupils learn the term 'cyflymder' for 'speed' in primary school.
- Secondary education:  
When they reach secondary school, pupils need to change to using 'buanedd' for 'speed' without understanding why that is. Years later, the use of 'cyflymder' for 'velocity' is introduced.
- Educational subjects:  
'Cyflymder' is used for 'speed' in subjects like Physical Education and Information Technology but then 'cyflymder' is also used for 'velocity' in the subjects of Physics and Mathematics.

This inconsistency confuses pupils, especially as they move from primary to secondary education or in resources or activities which encompass both periods. The recent national numeracy tests are such an example, where a decision has to be made as to which term to use, with these tests being given to primary and secondary pupils. This problem will continue despite the fact that changes will be coming to these tests over the next few years.

### The change

- To use 'cyflymder' for 'speed' across all levels of education (reconciling with common speech)
- Coin the new term 'felosedd' for 'velocity'
- Dispose of the term 'buanedd' as a technical term

### Arguments for change

- It would reconcile terminology across primary and secondary education
- It would reconcile school terminology with common speech
- It would follow modern terminology principles (that is keeping familiar words for familiar concepts)

## Implementing the change

### New GCSE/Level 2 specifications (teaching from 2025/2026)

Based on the recommendations of Canolfan Bedwyr therefore, 'cyflymder' (speed) and 'felosedd' (velocity) will be used in the following new qualifications:

- GCSE Mathematics and Numeracy (double award) specification - teaching from 2025
- Level 2 Additional Mathematics specification - teaching from 2026
- GCSE The Sciences (double award) - teaching from 2026
- GCSE Integrated Science - teaching from 2026

In order to mitigate for any confusion which may be caused by this change, the English terms will be put in brackets the first time the terms appear in an examination paper.

## Current GCSE/Level 2 specifications

**Please note: these changes relate to the new specifications only, there will be NO change to the terms used in the current specifications.**

'Buanedd' (speed) and 'cyflymder' (velocity) will continue to be used in the following specifications:

- GCSE Mathematics/Numeracy specification (current)
- Level 2 Additional Mathematics specification (current)
- GCSE Science specifications (Biology, Chemistry, Physics, Science Double Award, Applied Science Single Award/Double Award) (current)

From 2026 onwards, the terms in English will also be placed in brackets in the examination papers of the above specifications. This is to avoid any confusion for the candidates sitting one of the current GCSE Science specifications and the new GCSE Mathematics and Numeracy specification (teaching from 2025).

## Current GCE specifications

### GCE Mathematics / Further Mathematics specifications

**For now, 'buanedd' (speed) and 'cyflymder' (velocity) will continue to be used in these specifications.**

However, the AS units of these specifications will be changed to align with the GCSE specification **from September 2027 onwards**. Then **from September 2028 onwards**, the A Level units of these specifications will also be changed. In fairness to all candidates sitting/resitting GCE Mathematics/Further Mathematics over the next few years, the English terms will be placed in brackets in the examination papers from 2026 onwards.

### GCE Biology / Chemistry / Physics specifications

**For now, 'buanedd' (speed) and 'cyflymder' (velocity) will continue to be used in these specifications.**

However, the AS units of these specifications will be changed to align with the GCSE specification **from September 2028 onwards**. Then **from September 2029 onwards**, the A Level units of these specifications will also be changed. In fairness to all candidates sitting/resitting GCE Biology/Chemistry/Physics examination papers over the next few years, the English terms will be placed in brackets in the examination papers from 2026 onwards.

**Implementing these changes will cause an additional burden initially in the short term, but we do feel that pupils will benefit from making this change in the long term in order to ensure consistency of terminology across their entire educational journey.**