

# **THE NATIONAL/FOUNDATION SKILLS CHALLENGE CERTIFICATE AND THE NATIONAL/FOUNDATION WELSH BACCALAUREATE (Year 11 candidates only)**

Administration Handbook 2025 - 2026

SEPTEMBER 2025

|                                                                                                 |           |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------|
| <b>1. INTRODUCTION .....</b>                                                                    | <b>4</b>  |
| 1.1 ABOUT THIS DOCUMENT .....                                                                   | 4         |
| 1.2 CONTACTS .....                                                                              | 5         |
| <b>2. REGISTRATION .....</b>                                                                    | <b>6</b>  |
| 2.1 REGISTRATION REQUIREMENTS .....                                                             | 6         |
| 2.2 REGISTRATION CODES .....                                                                    | 7         |
| 2.3 REGISTRATION BASE DATA .....                                                                | 7         |
| 2.4 REGISTRATION DATES AND FEES .....                                                           | 7         |
| 2.5 REGISTRATIONS WHEN A CANDIDATE MOVES CENTRES DURING A COURSE .....                          | 7         |
| <b>3. ENTRIES AND FEES .....</b>                                                                | <b>8</b>  |
| 3.1 ENTRY BASE DATA .....                                                                       | 8         |
| 3.2 NATIONAL/FOUNDATION SKILLS CHALLENGE CERTIFICATE .....                                      | 9         |
| 3.3 ENTRY DATES AND FEES .....                                                                  | 10        |
| 3.4 RE-SITS .....                                                                               | 10        |
| 3.5 CASH-IN RE-SIT .....                                                                        | 10        |
| 3.6 WORK OF A CANDIDATE WHO TRANSFERS CENTRES DURING A COURSE .....                             | 11        |
| <b>4. AGGREGATION INFORMATION .....</b>                                                         | <b>12</b> |
| 4.1 FORM AOI1 .....                                                                             | 12        |
| <b>5. E-SUBMISSION .....</b>                                                                    | <b>13</b> |
| <b>6. MODERATION .....</b>                                                                      | <b>14</b> |
| 6.1 SECURE STORAGE OF INTERNALLY ASSESSED WORK .....                                            | 14        |
| 6.2 SUBMITTING INTERNAL ASSESSMENT MARKS .....                                                  | 14        |
| 6.3 MODERATION SAMPLE .....                                                                     | 15        |
| 6.4 REQUIRED DOCUMENTATION .....                                                                | 16        |
| 6.5 INTERNAL MODERATION .....                                                                   | 16        |
| 6.6 EXTERNAL MODERATION .....                                                                   | 16        |
| 6.7 FEEDBACK .....                                                                              | 17        |
| 6.8 MODERATION DATES .....                                                                      | 17        |
| JANUARY 2026 .....                                                                              | 17        |
| JUNE 2026 .....                                                                                 | 17        |
| <b>7. RESULTS .....</b>                                                                         | <b>17</b> |
| 7.1 RESULTS .....                                                                               | 17        |
| 7.2 AGGREGATION ENQUIRIES .....                                                                 | 18        |
| 7.3 POST-RESULTS REVIEW OF MODERATION .....                                                     | 18        |
| 7.4 CERTIFICATES .....                                                                          | 19        |
| <b>8. SUPPORTING QUALIFICATIONS FOR THE WELSH BACCALAUREATE (YEAR 11 CANDIDATES ONLY) .....</b> | <b>20</b> |
| 8.1 SUPPORTING QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS .....                                                 | 20        |
| 8.3 ENGLISH AND MATHS QUALIFICATIONS ACHIEVED OUTSIDE OF THE UK .....                           | 21        |
| <b>9. GRADING AND REPORTING .....</b>                                                           | <b>22</b> |
| 9.1 NATIONAL/FOUNDATION SKILLS CHALLENGE CERTIFICATE .....                                      | 22        |

|                                                                                      |           |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------|
| <b>10. ACCESS ARRANGEMENTS &amp; SPECIAL CONSIDERATION .....</b>                     | <b>23</b> |
| 10.1 DEFINITIONS .....                                                               | 23        |
| 10.2 APPLYING ACCESS ARRANGEMENTS TO THE CHALLENGES AND THE INDIVIDUAL PROJECT ..... | 23        |
| 10.3 APPLYING SPECIAL CONSIDERATION TO THE INDIVIDUAL PROJECT .....                  | 24        |
| 10.4 LOST CENTRE ASSESSED WORK .....                                                 | 24        |
| 10.5 EXEMPTIONS .....                                                                | 24        |
| 10.6 POSSIBLE SCENARIOS.....                                                         | 25        |
| 10.7 FURTHER INFORMATION .....                                                       | 25        |
| <b>11. MALPRACTICE.....</b>                                                          | <b>26</b> |
| <b>12. GLOSSARY .....</b>                                                            | <b>27</b> |
| <b>13. APPENDICES .....</b>                                                          | <b>28</b> |
| 13.1 INDIVIDUAL PROJECT OVERLAPS WITH OTHER QUALIFICATIONS.....                      | 28        |

**Please note: this document is subject to change. It is advisable to check the electronic version available on the WJEC website for the latest information.**

# 1. INTRODUCTION

## 1.1 About this document

The Administration Handbook provides WJEC centres in Wales with the essential information for operating the administration of the National/Foundation Skills Challenge Certificate and National/Foundation Welsh Baccalaureate for 2025/2026. The National/Foundation Welsh Baccalaureate qualification will be awarded in full for the last time in Summer 2026, with only a re-sit opportunity available in 2027. From September 2025 candidates will be embarking on the National/Foundation Skills Challenge Certificate only. Please refer to circular No. 129.

The Skills Challenge Certificate consists of four components.

- Individual Project
- Enterprise and Employability Challenge
- Global Citizenship Challenge
- Community Challenge

Candidates must complete the Individual Project plus any two of the three Challenge components.

The combined outcomes of the three components will determine the outcome of the Skills Challenge Certificate, and candidates must achieve 3 components to be awarded the Skills Challenge Certificate. This alongside the required supporting qualifications (for those achieving in 2026) will determine the outcome of the overarching Welsh Baccalaureate.

The Welsh Baccalaureate is based on a Skills Challenge Certificate alongside other supporting qualifications.

The Administration Handbook **must** be used with the following publications:

- The qualification specification(s) for the specific National/Foundation Skills Challenge Certificate and Welsh Baccalaureate qualification(s) being delivered;
- WJEC Instructions for conducting Controlled Assessments;
- The Teacher Handbooks for the specific National/Foundation Skills Challenge Certificate and Welsh Baccalaureate qualification(s) being delivered;
- [WJEC Entry Procedures and Coding Information.](#)

The qualification specification, the Centre Code of Practice and the Teacher Handbooks can be found on the relevant qualification page on [www.wjec.co.uk](http://www.wjec.co.uk)

The Entry Procedures and Coding Information document can be found under [Entries](#) in the [Administration](#) section of the website.

## 1.2 Contacts

For any enquiries about operational matters referred to in this document please contact the Welsh Baccalaureate Operations team below:

| <b>For general administrative enquiries please contact:</b>        |                                                               |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |  |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--|
| 02922 404250 or <a href="mailto:wbq@wjec.co.uk">wbq@wjec.co.uk</a> |                                                               |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |  |
| Laura Hughes                                                       | Customer Support –<br>Senior Officer (Skills and<br>Pathways) |  029 2026 5001<br> <a href="mailto:laura.hughes@wjec.co.uk">laura.hughes@wjec.co.uk</a> |  |
| Helen Hibbert                                                      | Customer Support –<br>Welsh Baccalaureate<br>Administrator    |  02920265186<br> <a href="mailto:helen.hibbert@wjec.co.uk">helen.hibbert@wjec.co.uk</a> |  |
| Aggregation enquiries after release of results                     |                                                               |  <a href="mailto:wbq@wjec.co.uk">wbq@wjec.co.uk</a>                                                                                                                      |  |

## 2. REGISTRATION

### 2.1 Registration requirements

**All National/Foundation candidates** embarking on the National/Foundation Skills Challenge Certificate from September 2025 **must** be registered with WJEC by October 31<sup>st</sup>, 2025.

Centres will be required to register individual candidates' personal details:

- Candidate number;
- Candidate name;
- Unique Candidate Identifier (UCI);
- Unique Learner Number (ULN);
- Gender;
- Date of birth;
- Qualification they will be registering for.

Centres **must** use the **Unique Learner Number (ULN)** in all EDI files submitted that may be used for aggregation of the Welsh Baccalaureate.

#### ULN

The ULN is a 10-digit number designed to enable a lifelong record of achievement. The Welsh Government facilitates the allocation of ULNs for all pupils aged 14 and over in maintained schools in Wales.

Candidates registering for National/Foundation for the first time will not have access to a ULN at the time of registration. Centres **must** attach the ULN to the entry of a Challenge at the first opportunity that the ULN becomes available.

Registrations **must** be submitted in either of the following formats:

- Electronic Data interchange (EDI);
- WJEC Portal

Information regarding this process can be found in the Entry Procedures and Coding document which can be downloaded from <http://www.wjec.co.uk/exam-officers/entries/>

## 2.2 Registration codes

| Qualification                                         | Code English medium | Code Welsh medium |
|-------------------------------------------------------|---------------------|-------------------|
| WJEC National/Foundation Skills Challenge Certificate | 9009Q0              | 9009C0            |

## 2.3 Registration base data

Base data can be downloaded from the WJEC website at:

<https://www.wjec.co.uk/home/administration/entries/basedata/>

WJEC examination series and board codes required for base data are:

| Examination Level                                             | Series                       | Series Code | Board Code |
|---------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------|-------------|------------|
| National/Foundation Skills Challenge Certificate Registration | Registrations September 2025 | 9W          | 41         |

## 2.4 Registration dates and fees

Registration dates and fees can be found in the WJEC [Entry fees](#) document available on the Administration page of the WJEC website.

Registrations **must** be made at the start of the course (e.g. in year 1 of a 2 year course).

**A late fee** and **very late fee** will be applied where centres do not register candidates by the published registration deadlines.

Registrations must be in place before entries can be accepted.

**No** registrations will be received after July 31 for each academic year.

**No** refunds on registrations can be given.

## 2.5 Registrations when a candidate moves centres during a course

Where a candidate has an existing registration made by another centre, the new centre does not need to make a new registration. The new centre will be able to make entries on the candidate's behalf.

Please contact [wbq@wjec.co.uk](mailto:wbq@wjec.co.uk) with the candidate's name, UCI and date of birth to confirm the existing registration, and any previous components the candidate has been entered for.

### 3. ENTRIES AND FEES

The Individual Project plus any two of the Challenges **must** be entered separately. For candidates achieving in 2026 the Welsh Baccalaureate cash-in and the Skills Challenge Certificate cash-in **must** be entered simultaneously in order for the entry to be accepted – neither cash-in can be entered as a standalone qualification, in the first instance, (please see section 3.6 for more information).

Entries may be submitted in either of the following formats:

- Electronic Data Interchange (EDI);
- WJEC Portal.

Further information regarding the entry process can be found in the WJEC document Entry Procedures and Coding available from <http://www.wjec.co.uk/exam-officers/entries/>

#### 3.1 Entry base data

Base data can be downloaded from the WJEC website at:

<https://www.wjec.co.uk/home/administration/entries/basedata/>

WJEC examination series and board codes required for base data are:

| Examination Type    | Series       | Series Code | Board Code |
|---------------------|--------------|-------------|------------|
| Welsh Baccalaureate | January 2026 | 1W          | 41         |
| Welsh Baccalaureate | June 2026    | 6W          | 41         |

## 3.2 National/Foundation Skills Challenge Certificate

Entries for the Challenges can be submitted either for the January or June Series during the two years of the course. Individual Project entries **must** be submitted during the second year of the course in either the January or June series.

For 2025/2026, **cash-in entry codes must** be applied in order for aggregation to occur and an overall grade for the Skills Challenge Certificate and the Welsh Baccalaureate to be awarded. This will only be available for the June series when the candidate has previously achieved or been entered for all components and will be completing the supporting qualifications.

An entry must be made for the Individual Project and two Challenges only and the one cash-in that corresponds with the Challenges chosen, as outlined in the tables below

|            | National/Foundation<br>Skills Challenge Certificate<br>Cash in code |         |
|------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------|---------|
|            | English                                                             | Welsh   |
| Route A*   | 90S9 PA                                                             | 90S9 LA |
| Route B**  | 90S9 PB                                                             | 90S9 LB |
| Route C*** | 90S9 PC                                                             | 90S9 LC |

**Route A\*** Individual Project, Enterprise & Employability and Global Citizenship

**Route B\*\*** Individual Project, Enterprise & Employability and Community

**Route C\*\*\*** Individual Project, Global Citizenship and Community

| National/Foundation<br>Cash in |         |
|--------------------------------|---------|
| English                        | Welsh   |
| 9009 Q0                        | 9009 C0 |

### 3.3 Entry dates and fees

Entry dates and fees are published in September and can be found on the WJEC website in the document WJEC Entry fees 2025-26 available here:

[https://www.wjec.co.uk/home/administration/entries/#tab\\_0](https://www.wjec.co.uk/home/administration/entries/#tab_0)

Key Dates for National/Foundation Welsh Baccalaureate can be found here:

[https://www.wjec.co.uk/home/administration/key-dates-and-timetables/#tab\\_2](https://www.wjec.co.uk/home/administration/key-dates-and-timetables/#tab_2)

### 3.4 Re-sits

Candidates will have one re-sit opportunity for each assessed component i.e. the Challenges and the Individual Project.

Candidates who choose to re-sit a component must sit a different assessment from their originally assessed work. This means:

- they cannot improve on work that has already been previously submitted for assessment.
- the title of the work must be different from that which has been previously submitted.

Failure to meet these requirements could constitute malpractice and as such would be dealt with by WJEC Compliance.

#### **Re-sit rules**

Candidates are allowed one re-sit per component with the higher of the marks counting towards the grade of the qualification. Should candidates wish to enter any components for a third time, no results from components taken previously may be used in aggregating the new grade. Therefore, all components in the qualification must be taken again.

### 3.5 Cash-in re-sit

At a candidate's first cash-in opportunity both the Skills Challenge Certificate and the overarching Welsh Baccalaureate cash-in must be entered simultaneously. Candidates who are awarded the Skills Challenge Certificate but do not meet the supporting qualifications criteria to be awarded can then be re-entered for Welsh Baccalaureate cash-in only in the next available series. This will ensure that, providing the required evidence has been received, aggregation will take place and any further supporting qualifications that have been attained will be taken into consideration

### 3.6 Work of a candidate who transfers centres during a course

Any component result that has been previously awarded by WJEC will transfer with the candidate. However, in some cases a candidate may move centres after a component has been started but not completed or, has been fully completed but not submitted to WJEC.

Where work has been fully completed, marked and declarations signed but not submitted to WJEC the following applies:

- Either the 'completing' centre or the 'new' centre may choose to enter work on behalf of the candidate, **at their discretion**.
- Where work is entered by the 'completing' centre, the centre should:
  - put the entry in as normal, in the next available series,
  - ensure the work is available for moderation (should it be called).
  - Arrange with the candidate for them to pick up their results from the centre when they are released.
- Where the work is entered by the 'new' centre, the 'new' centre may make an entry on behalf of the candidate providing:
  - The work has been transferred from the 'completing' centre to the 'new' centre via the Exams Officers.
  - They are satisfied the work has been completed under the correct controlled conditions.
  - The work has been assessed to the correct standard and has been subject to an internal standardisation process.
  - The work has been kept securely between completion and submission.

Where work has been started but not fully completed the following applies:

- The 'new' centre may choose to accept the previous work and allow the candidate to complete it, **at their discretion**, providing:
  - The work has been transferred from the previous centre to the 'new' centre via the Exams Officers.
  - The work has been kept securely between sessions.
  - They are satisfied any work started has been subject to the correct controlled conditions and meets their centre standards.

It is down to an individual centre's policy whether they accept and submit previous work or request that the candidate completes new work in line with their internal standards.

The head of centre in the entering centre must be satisfied that the work has been conducted, maintained securely and marked in accordance with WJEC's Instructions for Conducting Controlled Assessments.

## 4. AGGREGATION INFORMATION

To achieve the overarching Welsh Baccalaureate in 2026 candidates must achieve the Skills Challenge Certificate together with specified supporting qualifications. Two methods are used to obtain this information.

In order to find evidence of this WJEC requests information from other Awarding Organisations regarding entry data and prior achievements to match to Welsh Baccalaureate candidates.

Once information has been supplied by other Awarding Organisations this is matched with candidates entered in the current series.

To find information to support this WJEC require centres to complete an AOI1 form.

### 4.1 Form AOI1

Completing this form for summer 2026 will let WJEC know which Awarding Organisations we need to collect data from. We will only need to know which AOs a centre is sitting Level 1, Level 2, vocational qualifications within the forthcoming series. There may be occasions where WJEC cannot find data for a specific candidate. These cases maybe where a candidate has: moved centres, changed names, a qualification was achieved abroad, or Literacy/Numeracy qualifications achieved before 2012. Centres should make note of this on the form.

## 5. E-SUBMISSION

All candidate work must be submitted electronically for moderation using Internal Assessment Mark Input System (IAMIS) upload. Guidance on using the system is available online by clicking on the Step-by-Step Guide button on the top of the IAMIS screen.

The work must be uploaded by the deadline dates as listed on page 17 of this document.

General guidance to the e-submission process, including FAQs can be found on the on the [E-Submission](#) page of the Administration section of [www.wjec.co.uk](http://www.wjec.co.uk).

## 6. MODERATION

Centre marks will be externally moderated by WJEC to ensure that standards are applied accurately and consistently within and across centres.

### 6.1 Secure storage of Internally Assessed work

The Challenges of the Skills Challenge Certificate must be completed under controlled assessment conditions. These controls are specifically indicated in the Managing Assessment table in the relevant Teacher Handbook for each level found on the subject webpage:

**National/Foundation:** [National/Foundation Skills Challenge Certificate \(wjec.co.uk\)](http://wjec.co.uk)

Please note, that it is the responsibility of the centre to ensure that all assessment material (including student work) is stored securely within the centre, usually in a locked cupboard and in accordance with JCQ requirements. The materials and work must be stored securely throughout the assessment period and until the deadline for post results services has passed. Work produced over several sessions must be collected at the end of each session and stored securely. Work produced electronically must be saved securely to ensure it cannot be accessed or amended between sessions. Work stored on memory sticks must also be collected in after each session and kept securely.

Failure to comply will constitute malpractice and can result in work being ineligible for assessment. Any cases of malpractice must be reported to WJEC's Compliance Team and will be investigated fully.

### 6.2 Submitting Internal Assessment Marks

Once entries have been submitted and processed by WJEC, centres **must** log on to WJEC's Portal and click the 'internal assessment mark input' (IAMIS) button. A web page will be available for each component for which the centre has entries; this will be pre-populated with candidate names and numbers. Centres will need to insert the **marks and assessor initials** for all candidates in the spaces provided. Further information and support will be available on the various mark-input screens.

**Submission of outcomes** – by submitting outcomes to WJEC you are declaring that:

- All internal moderation has taken place;
- All marks submitted are genuine and correct;
- All candidate work is complete and available for external moderation.

**Amending marks after submission** – Once marks have been submitted via IAMIS they cannot be amended by the centre. If it is noticed that an incorrect mark has been submitted, centres must complete and submit the request form. The request form can be found on the Internal assessment mark/outcomes input page on WJEC Portal. Please note that we will contact you for further information if required.

WJEC monitors centres requesting amendments to candidates' marks. In certain circumstances, the Head of Centre may be contacted and asked to provide additional information WJEC reserve the right to request to view any work related to a request to amend marks.

**Amending marks after issuing of results** – if a teacher notices that an incorrect mark has been submitted after the issuing of results, the Head of Centre **must** send a written request to the address below for the mark to be amended, clearly outlining the circumstances. The actual work (or copy) together with a completed signed and dated internal mark sheet **must** accompany this written request. This information will be referred to the subject officer. After consideration of the evidence the mark may be altered, or the request may be refused. All requests to alter centre submitted marks **must** be received by **9th April** (January series) and **20th September** (June series).

**WJEC monitors amendments to centre submitted marks and may undertake additional checks.**

### 6.3 Moderation Sample

The size of the sample will be based on the number of candidates entered, which will give a minimum sample size, and then on the number of assessors; with at least three candidates selected from each assessor. The sample will cover the range of marks awarded, including the top and bottom mark of the centre. Samples will automatically be selected and viewed via IAMIS and must be uploaded by the specified date.

#### National/Foundation and Advanced

| <i>Total number of candidates</i> | <i>Minimum sample size</i> |
|-----------------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1 – 10                            | All                        |
| 11 - 100                          | 10                         |
| 101 - 200                         | 15                         |
| 201 - 500                         | 25                         |
| 501 - 999                         | 50                         |

**Individual Candidates** - work selected in the sample **must** be available for moderation. If a candidate's work is not available, then the mark will be recorded as 0.

**Entries made after submission of marks** – centres should not make entries after the sample has been made available. If entries are made WJEC reserves the right to request the work to be sent to the moderator in addition to the original sample. Work that is not forwarded to the moderator when requested will be recorded as a 0.

**Authentication** - Candidates must be made aware that they are responsible for ensuring that the work submitted for assessment is their own. The JCQ document, Information for Candidates – Controlled Assessments, available on the JCQ website ([www.jcq.org.uk](http://www.jcq.org.uk)), provides instructions and guidance.

## 6.4 Required Documentation

**The Candidate Assessment booklet** – must be completed and submitted alongside candidate work. The booklet contains the assessment sheet, candidate and assessor declaration, and the assessment time sheet for National/Foundation level. The booklet can be found on WJEC Portal under All Services > Examinations & Assessments > Non-Examination Assessment Tasks. A Candidate Assessment booklet must be completed for all candidates in the cohort (not only those included in the moderation sample). Electronic typed signatures are acceptable.

## 6.5 Internal Moderation

The sample is intended to be **representative** of the marking standard at the centre. It is essential that a process of internal moderation takes place **prior** to the final submission of the marks to WJEC. Suitable methods of achieving this will depend on the individual centre's organisation. One person **must** take responsibility for the final moderation procedure within a centre. **A sample of each assessor's candidates must be reassessed by the lead assessor.**

## 6.6 External Moderation

The WJEC moderator will consider the sample that has been submitted. Should a query arise WJEC may request a further sample to be provided.

In most circumstances where WJEC requests to see more work the following protocols will be implemented:

- Moderators will contact the centre's Examinations Officer via email to alert them that more work has been requested.
- The extra pieces of work will be requested via the IAMIS system, with the extra work requested appearing in an updated sample list for the centre.
- The centre must upload the requested work and supporting administration documentation to IAMIS within 3 working days of the request being made.

Please note, WJEC staff will not enter into discussion with anyone other than the Examinations Officer and cannot discuss the reason that further work has been requested.

In certain circumstances WJEC will visit the centre to view any further requested work.

WJEC reserves the right to request more work or make a visit to a centre at short notice or without prior notification.

## 6.7 Feedback

Feedback regarding moderation is provided on publication of results, through a moderator's report, available on IAMIS. The moderator's report will provide feedback on:

- (i) the efficiency of the centre's administration;
- (ii) the accuracy of the centre's assessments against the criteria and in relation to the agreed standard for each learning outcome of the component;
- (iii) whether the centre's marks have been adjusted and detail of the reasons.

## 6.8 Moderation dates

### January 2026

#### National/Foundation

| January 2026                    |                    |
|---------------------------------|--------------------|
| IAMIS available from            | <b>21 November</b> |
| Deadline for submission of work | <b>19 December</b> |

### June 2026

#### National/Foundation

| June 2026                       |                 |
|---------------------------------|-----------------|
| IAMIS available from            | <b>10 March</b> |
| Deadline for submission of work | <b>5 May</b>    |

## 7. RESULTS

### 7.1 Results

Results are issued via WJEC Portal and by EDI file, and takes place on the following dates:

| January series      |         |
|---------------------|---------|
| National/Foundation | 5 March |

| June series         |           |
|---------------------|-----------|
| National/Foundation | 20 August |

## 7.2 Aggregation enquiries

Centres can enquire about the **aggregation** of candidates' results from the day of results until 20<sup>th</sup> September (June Series).

Aggregation includes missing supporting qualifications.

In order to minimise post results aggregation enquiries, it is essential that centres provide WJEC with accurate information and meet deadlines especially in candidate identification and data e.g. accurate and consistent name, UCI to identify candidate across all qualifications.

Please note aggregation enquiries will be dealt with in chronological order of receipt. **Aggregation queries must be sent to the [wbq@wjec.co.uk](mailto:wbq@wjec.co.uk) email address.**

| <b>Acceptable Evidence</b> - Evidence to support aggregation enquiries should be:                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |           |                                                                                                                                                                                           |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Official documentation from the awarding organisation responsible and should include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The candidate name and date of birth</li><li>• The awarding organisation name and logo;</li><li>• The full name of the qualification;</li><li>• The result achieved;</li><li>• The date awarded.</li></ul> Examples: a certificate, a screenshot from the AO's portal/ website showing candidate achievement etc. | <b>OR</b> | A scanned print out from a candidate's Personal Learning Record (PLR) from the gov. Learning Records Service, as evidence of achievement, providing it contains the relevant information. |
| Evidence can be scanned and emailed to <a href="mailto:wbq@wjec.co.uk">wbq@wjec.co.uk</a> but must be clear and legible.<br><br>A statement of results produced from a centre's own MIS is inadmissible and will not be accepted as evidence.<br><br><b>WJEC reserve the right to reject evidence if it does not meet the criteria listed.</b>                                                                                                  |           |                                                                                                                                                                                           |

## 7.3 Post-results review of moderation

This is a review of the original moderation to ensure that the assessment criteria have been fairly, reliably and consistently applied. Please note that if your centre's marks have been accepted without change by WJEC this service is not available.

When applying for a post-results review of moderation, the following should be taken into account:

- The application should be submitted to WJEC through the normal method.
- Candidate consent is not required.
- For the January series requests **must** be received by 9<sup>th</sup> April; for the summer series, the request **must** be received by the awarding organisation by 20<sup>th</sup> September.

- The deadline for completion is within 35 calendar days of the moderator receiving the original sample of work from the centre.
- Review of moderation will be undertaken on the original sample of candidates' work.
- Review of moderation may include feedback similar to that provided following the original moderation.
- If centre marks are reinstated, feedback will not be provided.
- Review of moderation cannot be undertaken upon the work of an individual candidate or the work of candidates not in the original sample.

**Review of moderation can only be undertaken for the series in which the request is received.**

Work that has been uploaded to iAMIS Upload will already be available to the moderator and will be accessed as appropriate.

Work submitted for review of moderation **must:**

- be the original work submitted for moderation;

Please visit <http://www.wjec.co.uk/exam-officers/post-results-service/> for further information including the costs associated with this service.

## 7.4 Certificates

Certificates are issued to centres in the autumn term after the publication of results. Certificates will not be issued before the end of the post-results services deadline of 20<sup>th</sup> September.

## 8. SUPPORTING QUALIFICATIONS FOR THE WELSH BACCALAUREATE (YEAR 11 CANDIDATES ONLY)

### 8.1 Supporting qualification requirements

Please note it is the centre's responsibility to ensure a course of study meets the criteria listed below before embarking on the qualification. It is recommended that centres check the qualification at the beginning of the course to ensure that candidates are able to meet the requirements at cash-in.

Full qualifications are required to meet the criteria; unit achievement cannot be used.

Qualification criteria can be checked by using the Qualifications in Wales database <https://www.qiw.wales/qualifications/search?lang=en>

**All qualifications must be regulated by Qualifications Wales or OFQUAL.**

| Level                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | Literacy and Numeracy                                                                                                              | Other supporting qualifications                                                                                                                     |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| National/Foundation<br><b>Foundation</b>                                                                                                                                                                                         | GCSE English Lang or Welsh Lang (A*-G)<br><b>and</b><br>GCSE Mathematics (A*-G)<br><b>or</b><br>GCSE Mathematics – Numeracy (A*-G) | A Minimum of <b>three</b> further GCSEs grade A*-G, of which two may be equivalent with at least 240 GLH (120 GLH for one equivalent qualification) |
| National/Foundation<br><b>National</b>                                                                                                                                                                                           | GCSE English Lang or Welsh Lang (A*-C)<br><b>and</b><br>GCSE Mathematics (A*-C)<br><b>or</b><br>GCSE Mathematics – Numeracy (A*-C) | A Minimum of <b>three</b> further GCSEs grade A*-C, of which two may be equivalent with at least 240 GLH (120 GLH for one equivalent qualification) |
| N.B. The Literacy and Numeracy Qualifications can be completed during or prior to registration on the Welsh Baccalaureate but the supporting qualifications <b>must</b> be achieved during the time the candidate is registered. |                                                                                                                                    |                                                                                                                                                     |

### 8.3 English and Maths qualifications achieved outside of the UK

Where qualifications have been achieved outside of the UK, centres are required to provide evidence that:

- i. the qualification is equivalent to the appropriate GCSE Grade/NQF Level to allow them to be contribute to the Welsh Baccalaureate in place of a GCSE in English Language/Welsh Language and/or Maths/Maths Numeracy. There are only a few qualifications which are an equivalent and acceptable level qualification for GCSE English.

English and Welsh as a second language are not eligible.

- ii. the qualification is sufficiently broad in content and size and does not concentrate on one element of the subject (for example a Maths qualification that only covers statistics would not be sufficient to replace the GCSE in Maths irrespective of the level).

However, if a learner has achieved an AS or A Level qualification in Maths or English Language this is acceptable as a supporting qualification.

In relation to point i:

- Please check the UK ENIC website: <https://enic.org.uk/Default.aspx>

Centres are reminded that assessment is available in English and/or Welsh. In all cases, the centre should ensure that the learner has sufficient English/Welsh language skills to enable them to complete the qualification.

## 9. GRADING AND REPORTING

### 9.1 National/Foundation Skills Challenge Certificate

The qualification can be awarded a Foundation or National grade. The National Skills Challenge Certificate is graded A\* - C. For a National award, candidates must achieve the Individual Project plus any two Challenges, with a **minimum of 120 UMS marks combined from the three components**.

The Foundation Skills Challenge Certificate is graded Pass\* or Pass. For a Foundation award, the candidate **must** achieve the Individual Project plus any two Challenges, with a minimum of 60 UMS marks combined from the three components. Results not attaining the minimum standard for the award will be reported as U (unclassified).

|                  | National |     |     |     | Foundation |      |    |
|------------------|----------|-----|-----|-----|------------|------|----|
| Grade boundaries | A*       | A   | B   | C   | Pass*      | Pass | U  |
| Total UMS        | 270      | 240 | 180 | 120 | 90         | 60   | 0  |
| %                | 90%      | 80% | 60% | 40% | 30%        | 20%  | 0% |

The Individual Project contributes 50% to the overall grade and the two Challenges selected would contribute 25% each.

#### Components

Component grades are aligned with grades for the Certificate: Level 2 Distinction aligns with grade A, Level 2 Merit with grade B, Level 2 Pass with grade C, and Level 1 Pass with Foundation Pass. For each component, the Level 2 Merit boundary will be set arithmetically at half the distance between the Level 2 Pass and Level 2 Distinction boundaries; all other grade boundaries will be set by moderator judgement.

Grade boundaries will be set in the following order:

| Component                    | Weighting | Maximum raw marks | Maximum UMS mark | Level 2 Distinction | Level 2 Merit | Level 2 Pass | Level 1 Pass |
|------------------------------|-----------|-------------------|------------------|---------------------|---------------|--------------|--------------|
| Individual Project           | 50%       | 96                | 150              | 120                 | 90            | 60           | 30           |
| Enterprise and Employability | 25%       | 36                | 75               | 60                  | 45            | 30           | 15           |
| Global Citizenship           | 25%       | 36                | 75               | 60                  | 45            | 30           | 15           |
| Community                    | 25%       | 36                | 75               | 60                  | 45            | 30           | 15           |

## 10. ACCESS ARRANGEMENTS & SPECIAL CONSIDERATION

The **National/Foundation Welsh Baccalaureate and National/Foundation Skills Challenge Certificate** specification has been designed to offer fair access to all and to minimise the need to make access arrangements or reasonable adjustments for candidates who have particular requirements. It is expected that normally, individual candidates' abilities, interests and needs will have been appropriately catered for by centres through the choice of Challenge briefs and supporting qualifications.

### 10.1 Definitions

Access arrangements/reasonable adjustments are agreed before an assessment. They allow candidates/learners with additional educational needs, disabilities or temporary injuries to:

- access the assessment;
- show what they know and can do without changing the demands of the assessment.

Special consideration - is a post assessment adjustment to a candidate's mark/ grade to reflect temporary illness, temporary injury or other indisposition at the time of the assessment. Special consideration may be given to eligible candidates who are:

- a) present for an assessment but are disadvantaged;
- b) absent from part of an assessment due to illness or other acceptable reason – this applies to the terminal series only.

### 10.2 Applying Access Arrangements to the Challenges and the Individual Project

All access arrangements **must** be applied for at the start of the course and be approved before assessments take place.

Access arrangements/reasonable adjustments may apply when a candidate undertakes an individual Challenge or the Individual Project in order to allow the candidates to demonstrate their ability while ensuring the demands of the assessment are not changed, however, it is expected that the chosen Challenge will have been picked to minimise the need for such arrangements to be applied.

Access arrangements/reasonable adjustments will only apply in teamwork Challenges where other members of the team are not able to take responsibility (for example please see possible scenario 2, section 10.6) and ensuring other team members are not given an unfair advantage.

### 10.3 Applying Special Consideration to the Individual Project

Special Consideration will only apply to the Individual Project.

To be eligible for Special Consideration:

- Candidates must have completed 2 of the 3 optional components, i.e. Enterprise and Employability, Global Citizenship, Community Challenge.
- Candidates must have completed 2 learning outcomes for the Individual Project.

The reason for the non-completion of the Individual Project must be acceptable (please see Section 2 of [JCQ Special Consideration guidance](#)).

To apply for special consideration centres must submit an application using **Form 10 – JCQ/SC**. This form is available on the JCQ website – <https://www.jcq.org.uk/exams-office/access-arrangements-and-special-consideration/regulations-and-guidance/>

The form should be returned to Special Requirements, [specialrequirements@wjec.co.uk](mailto:specialrequirements@wjec.co.uk). Additional evidence should be attached as appropriate.

### 10.4 Lost centre assessed work

If work (through no fault of the candidate) has either been lost within the examination centre and despite every effort it cannot be found, or it has been accidentally destroyed, the circumstances should be reported immediately to the awarding organisation using **Form 15 – JCQ/LCW**. This form is available on the JCQ website – <https://www.jcq.org.uk/exams-office/coursework/>

### 10.5 Exemptions

No exemptions can be made for any of the Challenges or the Individual Project.

## 10.6 Possible scenarios

1. If a team loses a member and becomes too small to fulfil requirements (a team **must** be between 3 – 6 members) the first option should be that the remaining team members join another group.

Any team member who has been unable to finish the Challenge **must**, on joining another group, bring any work they have done to the new group.

If joining another team is not an option due to the timing of the controlled assessment and/or the size of the groups (e.g. all groups have the maximum 6 members), they may complete the Challenge as an individual, providing they have shown/will show evidence of working with a team in another Challenge. **This will apply even to a Challenge where working in a group is compulsory.**

Please note: it is advisable that Challenges involving team work are not left until the end of the course.

2. A candidate who is part of a team has an agreed access arrangement/reasonable adjustment for a scribe and 25% extra time. However, as another member in the team/group can take minutes during meetings this access arrangement/reasonable adjustment is not needed.
3. A candidate is absent and unable to finish the Individual Project due to an acceptable reason. There is no further opportunity for the candidate to complete the Individual Project and it is the terminal assessment. The candidate has completed at least two learning objectives of the Individual Project; therefore, the centre applies for special consideration.

## 10.7 Further information

For further information regarding access arrangements please consult the JCQ document: *Access Arrangements and Reasonable Adjustments* available from <https://www.jcq.org.uk/exams-office/access-arrangements-and-special-consideration/regulations-and-guidance>

For further information regarding Special Consideration please consult the JCQ document: *A guide to the special consideration process* available from <https://www.jcq.org.uk/exams-office/access-arrangements-and-special-consideration/regulations-and-guidance>

## 11. MALPRACTICE

Suspected incidents of candidate, centre or centre staff malpractice or maladministration **must** be reported to WJEC using the 'Suspected Malpractice in Examinations and Assessment' policies and procedures.

For more information please visit: <https://www.jcq.org.uk/exams-office/malpractice>

## 12. GLOSSARY

|                                     |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
|-------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Welsh Baccalaureate</b>          | This is the overarching framework which is made up from the Skills Challenge Certificate and supporting qualifications.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| <b>Skills Challenge Certificate</b> | This is a stand alone qualification that consists of an Individual Project and three Challenge components - the Enterprise and Employability Challenge, a Global Citizenship Challenge and a Community Challenge. Candidates must complete the Individual Project and two of the three Challenge components to achieve the qualification.                                                                                  |
| <b>Element</b>                      | An element can refer to any part of the Welsh Baccalaureate – e.g. the Skills Challenge Certificate, the individual components, and the supporting qualifications.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| <b>Component</b>                    | This refers specifically to the elements of the Skills Challenge Certificate i.e. the Individual Project, the Enterprise and Employability Challenge, the Global Citizenship Challenge, and the Community Challenge.                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
| <b>Supporting Qualifications</b>    | These are the qualifications which, when taken into account alongside the Skills Challenge Certificate, contribute towards the overall result for the Welsh Baccalaureate.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| <b>Moderation</b>                   | Moderation is the process by which WJEC ensure consistency and accuracy in the awarding of candidate marks. There are 2 types of moderation – internal and external. Internal moderation is completed by a centre to ensure consistency throughout a cohort. External moderation is undertaken by WJEC by reviewing a sample of candidates from a centre to ensure the published criteria are being upheld across centres. |
| <b>Aggregation</b>                  | The process used to combine all elements in order to reach an overall result for the Welsh Baccalaureate.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| <b>E-submission</b>                 | The process by which centres submit work electronically for moderation.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| <b>UMS</b>                          | The Uniform Mark Scale, used by unitised specifications, to ensure accessibility and comparability across different series. The UMS is used so that candidates who achieve the same standard will have the same uniform mark, irrespective of when the component was taken.                                                                                                                                                |

|              |                                                                                                                                                      |
|--------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>IAMIS</b> | The internal assessment mark input screen. Found on Portal, used to input candidate marks, create samples and centres upload samples for moderation. |
|--------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

## 13. APPENDICES

### 13.1 Individual Project Overlaps with Other Qualifications

The specification has been designed to allow maximum flexibility for centres, and for candidates to meet their individual interests. The subject content allows the opportunity to pursue integrated critical, practical or theoretical study within the context of an Individual Project. There can be some overlap in skills and/or subject content with other courses. However, the approach to, and the context of the skills and content in the specifications are distinctly different from those of other qualifications. The Individual Project is designed to extend and develop beyond a candidate's programme of study. If a candidate attempts to submit a piece of coursework for another qualification as a project, relies heavily on text books or chooses a topic central to one of their other courses of study, they will not be extending or developing beyond what they have already learned or will learn before the end of the course. We would recommend that candidate's use their studies as a springboard from which to launch their Individual Project into an area of particular interest to the candidate. If an Individual Project is deemed to be too similar in nature or content to a topic covered in one of their other courses of study this may be treated as malpractice.