



# WJEC proposals for adaptations to A level qualifications in summer 2022

Consultation document for learners, parents and carers

Consultation is open from Wednesday 9 June until 23:59 on  
Wednesday 23 June 2021.



@WJEC\_CBAC



[WWW.WJEC.CO.UK](http://WWW.WJEC.CO.UK)



@WJECBAC

## **Have your say: Changes to A levels in summer 2022**

### **Proposed changes to A level assessments in 2022**

We understand that learners have experienced a great deal of disruption to teaching and learning throughout 2020 and 2021.

We are therefore consulting on proposed changes to the way that our A level qualifications will be assessed in summer 2022.

This booklet outlines proposed changes to our Qualifications Wales approved A level qualifications for summer 2022. Our Eduqas A level qualifications such as electronics, geology and film studies are not included in this booklet because they are accredited by Ofqual. Details of changes to those qualifications are to follow.

**If you're a learner, parent or carer, we want to hear your thoughts – it's important that you have your say on our proposals.**

This booklet provides an overview of our proposals and should be read before you complete the survey.

### **What are the principles that WJEC must follow?**

Qualifications Wales, the exams regulator, has outlined seven principles that WJEC must follow in making changes to A level assessments. WJEC must seek to:

1. ensure that learners are not advantaged or disadvantaged relative to their peers in other jurisdictions
2. ensure that all qualifications are a reliable indication of the knowledge, skills and understanding specified in the qualification following any adaptations to assessments
3. ensure that qualification content, in general, is not reduced; however, content can be restructured so it can reasonably be streamlined, such as in relation to optional units
4. ensure that the manageability of assessment is maximised, where this will allow for an increase in teaching time in order to minimise the impact on outcomes
5. maintain standards, as far as possible, within the same qualification in line with previous years
6. maintain standards, as far as possible, across similar qualifications made available by WJEC and by other awarding bodies
7. ensure that flexibility in the delivery of assessments is maximised so as to reduce the impact of disruption, illness or quarantine, including lockdown at a local level.

## What assumptions have we made?

1. All learners will have missed out on some opportunities to develop vital skills and knowledge, particularly in practical work. Therefore, we cannot assume that learners, taking their assessments in summer 2022 will have the same breadth of skills and knowledge as would normally be expected.
2. Schools and colleges will be open for all or most of the 2021-2022 academic year.
3. Every A level qualification will have some adaptations in place for summer 2022 assessments.
4. Exams are likely to take place as normal in 2022 using adapted content and also adapted assessments where appropriate.
5. Exams are likely to take place as normal in 2023 with no adaptations.

A level learners will not be assessed on the AS units for any subjects in 2022. The A level grade will be based on the outcomes of the A2 units alone. This amounts to a 40% reduction in assessment across the full A level qualification for learners certificating in 2022. It is important to note, however, that while A level learners will not be assessed on AS units in 2022, this adaptation is proposed on the basis that those learners will have been taught AS and A2 subject content in the adapted specification.

The adaptations for A level qualifications outlined below aim to streamline the content being assessed in A2 units in 2022, whilst retaining, wherever possible, the full 60% assessment contained in those units. This is to help ensure that A levels awarded to learners in Wales in 2022, are valid, reliable and comparable to A levels awarded to learners in England and Northern Ireland.

The tables on pages 3 and 4 outline the proposed adaptations for individual A level qualifications.

## Have your say

Please let us know your thoughts via the online survey [here](#). The survey is open from 09 June until 23:59 on 23 June 2021.

## WJEC A level qualifications

Subject	Proposed adaptations for 2022
Applied ICT	In Unit 3, the initial scenario will be treated as a 'teacher led' whole class activity instead of being completed by a number of small groups
Art and Design	Unit 3 (externally set assignment) will not be assessed
Biology / Chemistry / Physics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Biology - Identified content for Unit 4 will not be assessed</li> <li>• Chemistry - Identified content for Unit 3 and Unit 4 will not be assessed</li> <li>• Physics - Identified content for Unit 4 will not be assessed</li> </ul>
Business	Identified content for Unit 3 and Unit 4 will not be assessed
Computer Science	Identified content for Unit 3 and Unit 4 will not be assessed
Design and Technology	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identified content for Unit 3 will not be assessed</li> <li>• learners may complete a model/mock-up of their final design instead of a prototype in Unit 4</li> </ul>
Drama and Theatre	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In Unit 3 the minimum group size will be one actor and the minimum performance time will be reduced. The minimum requirements for the design option will also be reduced.</li> <li>• advance notice of some aspects to be assessed in the Unit 4 examination</li> </ul>
Economics	Identified content for Unit 3 and Unit 4 will not be assessed
English Language	Advance notice of some of the genres/text purposes to be assessed in the Unit 3 and Unit 4 examinations
English Language and Literature	In Unit 5 (NEA) section A (Genre Study) will be removed
English Literature	Advance notice of extracts/poems to be assessed in the Unit 3 and Unit 4 examinations
French / German / Spanish	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In Unit 3 Speaking (NEA), the timing for one of the tasks will be reduced</li> <li>• one identified subtheme will not be assessed in the Unit 4 examination</li> </ul>
Geography	Section B (contemporary themes in geography) of the Unit 4 examination will cover one optional theme only
Government and Politics	Identified content for Unit 3 and Unit 4 will not be assessed
Health and Social Care, and Childcare	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In Unit 4 NEA (childcare pathway) Task 1, part (b)(ii) and (e)(i) will not be assessed</li> <li>• In Unit 6 NEA (health and social care pathway) Task 1, part (b)(ii) and (e)(i) will not be assessed</li> </ul>
History	In the Unit 3 examination, narrow-timeframe questions will not be assessed
ICT	Identified content for Unit 3 will not be assessed
Law	Identified content for Unit 3 and Unit 4 will not be assessed
Mathematics and Further Mathematics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identified content for Mathematics Unit 3 and Unit 4 will not be assessed</li> <li>• identified content for Further Mathematics Unit 4, Unit 5 and Unit 6 will not be assessed</li> </ul>

The non-adapted versions of our specifications can be found on the subject pages of our website [here](#)

Subject	Proposed adaptations for 2022
Media Studies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In Unit 3 the number of set products studied for each section will be reduced from three to two</li> <li>• learners will create one media product only in the Unit 4 NEA and requirements (time/pages/images) will be reduced</li> <li>• partially completed productions for Unit 4 NEA will be accepted</li> </ul>
Music	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Performing time will be reduced in Unit 4</li> <li>• only one composition will be required in Unit 5 (option A)</li> <li>• only two compositions will be required in Unit 5 (option B)</li> </ul>
Physical Education	<p>In Unit 4 NEA the Investigative Research Project will be assessed on the first two sections only:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Complete an initial analysis of personal performance identifying appropriate research to help improve performance</i></li> <li>• <i>Evaluate the research, including data, to make recommendations and a plan for improving performance.</i></li> </ul>
Psychology	<p>In Section A of the Unit 3 examination, learners will be required to answer two questions rather than three questions.</p>
Religious Studies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identified content (Theme 1) will not be assessed in the Unit 4 examination</li> <li>• identified content (Theme 4) will not be assessed in the Unit 5 examination</li> </ul>
Sociology	<p>Advance notice of some aspects to be assessed in the Unit 3 examination</p>
Welsh Language	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In Unit 5 the number of poems to be studied will be reduced from seven to six</li> <li>• in Unit 6 the number of writing forms to be studied will be reduced from seven to five</li> </ul>
Welsh Second Language	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In Unit 5 the period of study of the Welsh language in society will be reduced from the middle of the 20<sup>th</sup> century to the present day to the 1980s to the present day</li> <li>• In Unit 6 the number of short stories to be studied will be reduced from four to three</li> </ul>

The non-adapted versions of our specifications can be found on the subject pages of our website [here](#)