

GCSE Digital Technology Qualification Outline



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Introduction

This document provides a high-level overview of the proposed WJEC GCSE Digital Technology Qualification.

It is based on Qualifications Wales's Approval Criteria ([gcse-digital-technology-approval-criteria.pdf](#)). Our qualification **must** meet these requirements.

The qualification outline will provide a guide for the development of the Specification and Sample Assessment Materials (SAMs).

Qualification Overview

The GCSE Digital Technology qualification will support the Curriculum for Wales by:

- Supporting the statements of what matters¹ by giving learners the opportunity to:
 - develop curiosity about technology
 - process data to solve a wide range of real-world problems
 - understand computational processes have changed the way we live, work, study and interact with each other and our environment
 - provide the foundation for all software and hardware systems
 - create and use digital technologies to their full potential
 - understand how digital technologies work
 - understand that there are broad legal, social and ethical consequences to the use of technology
 - make informed decisions about the future development and application of technology.
- Supporting the principles of progression² by encouraging learners to:
 - apply an iterative approach, through trial and improvement, to design processes
 - investigate, explore, analyse, problem-solve and design creative solutions
 - consider ethical and moral dilemmas linked to the use of technology.
- Supporting the subject specific considerations³ for GCSE Digital Technology by giving learners the opportunity to:
 - explore the design, development and application of technology, software and systems
 - develop digital skills using a range of technology and software.

¹ <https://hwb.gov.wales/curriculum-for-wales/science-and-technology/statements-of-what-matters/>

² <https://hwb.gov.wales/curriculum-for-wales/science-and-technology/principles-of-progression/>

³ <https://hwb.gov.wales/curriculum-for-wales/science-and-technology/designing-your-curriculum/#specific-considerations-for-this-area>

Qualification Structure

Unit 1: The Digital World

Digital-only exam
40% of qualification

Unit 2: Digital Practices

Non-examination assessment
40% of qualification
Marked by the Centre and moderated by WJEC

Unit 3: Communicating in the Digital World

Non-examination assessment
20% of qualification
Marked by the Centre and moderated by WJEC

These are the percentages for the GCSE Digital Technology assessment objectives:

AO1	Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of digital technology systems.	20%
AO2	Apply knowledge and understanding of digital technology systems in a range of contexts.	25%
AO3	Apply knowledge, skills and understanding to identify audience needs and plan digital products and communications that meet these needs.	20%
AO4	Develop, test and evaluate digital products that meet the needs of specified audiences.	35%

This will be a unitised qualification. There is no hierarchy implied by the order in which the units are taught. Therefore, the order does not imply a prescribed teaching order.

The qualification will have 120 -140 Guided Learning Hours.

Unit Information

Unit 1 - The Digital World

The purpose of this unit is to:

- demonstrate knowledge and understanding of the relationship between analogue and digital data, and how data is measured and stored
- explore ways in which digital technology systems are developed, function, communicate and safeguard data
- demonstrate an awareness of how digital communications methods impact people and organisations
- explore ethical and legal issues surrounding safeguarding data
- consider the evolution of digital technologies.

This unit will focus on:

- digital technology systems
- the value of digital technology
- perspectives on digital technology

Please see Section 4 of the Approval Criteria for detail of the content that we must include in the unit.

The unit will be assessed via a digital examination available, as prescribed in the Approval Criteria, in the summer series of the second year of study, and every year thereafter, with a mix of question types that will target AO1 and AO2. AO1 and AO2 will have equal weightings.

Unit 2 – Digital Practices

The purpose of this unit is to:

- use and organise data purposefully
- plan and develop data-informed digital products for a specific audience and purpose
- test and evaluate the success of digital products.

This unit will focus on:

- interrogating data in spreadsheets
- developing data informed digital products

Please see Section 4 of the Approval Criteria for detail of the content that we must include in the unit.

The unit will be assessed via a non-examination assessment, as prescribed in the Approval Criteria, first available in September of the first year of study, and every year thereafter. The non-examination assessment must be submitted digitally. The mix of tasks for this unit will target AO3 and AO4. AO4 will have a higher weighting. The unit will be internally assessed, marked by the centre, and externally moderated by WJEC.

Unit 3 – Communicating in the Digital World

The purpose of this unit is to:

- explore online digital marketing
- create digital media assets
- plan and creating a digital marketing campaign

This unit will focus on:

- social media and online marketing communications
- creating digital assets and planning digital communications

Please see Section 4 of the Approval Criteria for detail of the content that we must include in the unit.

The unit will be assessed via a non-examination assessment, as prescribed in the Approval Criteria, first available in September of the first year of study and every year thereafter. The non-examination assessment must be submitted digitally. The mix of tasks for this unit will target AO2, AO3 and AO4. AO2 and AO3 will have equal weighting, AO4 will have a higher weighting. The unit will be internally assessed, marked by the centre, and externally moderated by WJEC.