

WJEC GCSE HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE, AND CHILDCARE

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Q: What are the main structural differences between the previous HSCCC and new HSCCC specifications?

A: The new GCSE is a single award only consisting of one externally assessed exam and two NEA units.

Q: Has the overall guided learning time changed?

A: No. Both the current and updated specifications indicate 120–140 GLH, designed to be delivered over two years.

Q: Why was the specification updated?

A: Changes were made in response to teacher feedback, manageability concerns, the need to modernise content (e.g., AI, emerging technologies), and alignment with Curriculum for Wales and Qualifications Wales Approval Criteria.

Q: What does ‘key principles of legislation’ actually mean?

A: Throughout the specification there are key phrases within the amplification which gives additional guidance as to how much detail and depth needs to be included in each area (**it is ‘understand’ in specific reference to this question*).

These exemplified below:

- **‘Learners should understand’** is used when learners are required to demonstrate greater depth of knowledge and understanding, application of knowledge to contexts, and evaluation and analysis of information.
- **Learners should know** is used when learners are required to demonstrate basic knowledge and understanding.
- e.g. direct recall answers
- **Learners should be aware of** is used when learners need a basic knowledge of the specified content, and this does not need to be taught in detail – this is where the teacher needs the GfT to determine the level of depth required for the topic.
- **Learners should be able to** is used when learners need to apply their knowledge and understanding.

Therefore, always check the specification first – and the support materials, and contact your subject team if you require additional support.

Q: ‘Strength based approach’ what does this mean?

A: A strengths-based approach focuses on identifying and leveraging a person’s individual strengths, abilities, and resources rather than focusing solely on limitations.

Q: What is the third sector?

A: Services that are provided by non-profit making organisations in the voluntary care sector.

Q: What level of depth is needed for ‘Welsh language’ content.

A: Candidates should understand how recognising Welsh language and cultural needs of individuals are essential components in delivering inclusive, person-centred health, social care, and childcare services in Wales.

Q: Will there be a textbook?

A: No new textbooks will be written exclusively for this qualification.

It is important to note that the existing textbooks will be useful, - and these will also be mapped to the new specification.

Knowledge Organisers and Blended Learning resources are also available online to support this qualification: [Health and Social Care, and Childcare - Educational Resources - WJEC](#)

In addition, there is also a detailed GFT available for each unit on our subject page:

[GCSE Health and Social Care, and Childcare - Teaching from 2026](#)

Q: Will the phrasing and vocabulary be more challenging on the new GCSE for weaker candidates who find some of the terminology difficult?

A: The terminology within the GCSE HSCCC has not changed, and there are key terms and terminology related to the sectors that is consistent with the legacy qualifications. In addition, the terminology is consistent to allow differentiation between candidate achievement (A*-C). There is a glossary of key terms included within the Guidance for Teachers (GFT) document available on our subject page, and these should be shared with candidates from the outset. Some good practice shared by other teachers included:

- using key term glossary cards as 'starter' or introductory sections to lessons, reinforcing terminology from the start of the course – candidates can test each other, embedding the terminology
- testing and questioning candidates regularly, using key terminology in different situations and scenarios.

Assessment Structure and Time Allocation

Exam and NEA Arrangements

Q: What is the time allocation for each assessment?

A:

- Unit 1: 1 hr 30 min exam (40%)
- Unit 2: 12 hours NEA (30%)
- Unit 3: 12 hours NEA (30%)

Q: For the NEA tasks for Units 2 and 3, do each of the tasks have to be separate documents that are uploaded separately for moderation?

A: It is up to individual centres how each of the hours are managed within the allowed or suggested assessment time, it can be broken down into sessions as long or as short as works for you and your candidates. For moderation upload, it would be better for candidates to have just one document for each task – rather than a number of separate files as there is a higher chance of making an error or missing an upload.

Q: In the NEA, where it stipulates that 6 sides of A4 are allowed, does it have to be a specific font size, and does it get submitted to WJEC?

A: We do not require the candidate notes to be uploaded, and there is no stipulation as to font size – but we recommend a font size of 12 so that their notes are accessible and can be used easily during the time frame of the assessment. Small font may make it more challenging for the candidates to access the detail in their notes -or they may waste time trying to decipher what is included. **We do not require the notes to be uploaded at moderation, however WJEC could ask to have access to the class notes, especially in cases of malpractice. Therefore, these should be kept securely in centre.*

Q: Do teachers have sight of the case studies before issuing to candidates?

A: Teachers can access the case studies in September, but the candidates should only attempt the assessments once the unit content has been delivered in full. There are two separate packs available for units 2 and 3. One for teachers, an assessor pack, and one for candidates called a candidate pack. The candidate pack does not include a copy of the mark scheme, and this should not be shared with candidates at any time.

Q: Why are the Case Studies being released so late? It will delay the start of the delivery of the Unit as staff need to prepare support material.

A: Unit 1 is an introductory unit which should be taught first. The second two units can be taught in either order. The case studies are available in September of the second year of teaching, so that centres can facilitate this across the final year of teaching. Content of Units 2 and 3 should be delivered before attempting the assessment, and candidates should not be taught to the case study.

Q: Do research notes need to remain in the centre in between sessions and are research notes allowed in the exam. If so, what is permitted on them?

A: Yes - these should be stored securely between the NEA assessment sessions. The examination does not include notes at all – the examination looks the same as the legacy qualification in format, i.e. traditional examination conditions, without notes.

Q: Is the exam a written exam or an online exam?

A: The examination is available as hard copy only, this is with a view to making an online option available within 5 years. This does not impact on any candidates that may utilise special considerations during their formal assessments.

Q: Can candidates sit the exam in year 10 and resit in year 11?

A: Yes - Unit 1 will be available in 2027 (and each year thereafter). Unit 2 and Unit 3 will be available in 2028 (and each year thereafter) and the qualifications will be awarded for the first time in summer 2028. Pre-16 Candidates (i.e. candidates who are 16 or under on 31st August in the academic year in which they were entered). The terminal rule is set at 40% of the overall qualification for GCSE Health and Social Care, and Childcare. If the assessment being re-taken contributes to the 40% terminal rule requirement, the mark for the new assessment will count regardless of previous results in that assessment. Candidates may re-sit an individual unit once only. The better uniform mark score from the two attempts will be used in calculating the final overall grade subject to the terminal rule being satisfied first i.e. that candidates must complete a minimum amount of the assessment for a qualification in the series in which they are cashing in. If any unit has been attempted twice and a candidate wishes to enter the unit for the third time, the candidate will have to re-enter all units and the appropriate cash-in(s). This is referred to as a 'fresh start'. When retaking a qualification (fresh start), a candidate may have up to two attempts at each unit. However, no results from examination units taken prior to the fresh start can be used in aggregating the new grade(s).

Supporting New Teachers

Q: How accessible is the new specification for teachers new to the subject?

A: Professional learning resources will support delivery.

Guidance for teaching is extensive for each unit, they contain activities, links to websites and resources to support teaching and learning.

Along with the guidance for teaching knowledge organisers and blended learning modules are available under the resources section of our web page. These support all aspects of the specification content.

[GCSE Health and Social Care, and Childcare - Teaching from 2026](#)

Teacher notes based on the specification will also be available, these are aimed at teachers new to the qualification to support with support content.

Q: What support documents will be provided by WJEC?

A: WJEC will supply:

- Guidance for Teaching
- Assessment Packs
- Sample Assessment Materials (SAMs)
- Knowledge organisers
- Blended learning
- Exemplar materials

This is in addition to both online and face to face professional development events throughout the lifetime of the specification.

[GCSE Health and Social Care, and Childcare - Teaching from 2026](#)