

WJEC GCE AS/A2 AND GCSE DESIGN AND TECHNOLOGY

Newsletter - September 2025

This Autumn bulletin provides some important information, dates, deadlines, and resources developed by WJEC to support you with the delivery of our specifications this academic year.

Autumn Term Professional Learning opportunities

Our new Assessment Feedback Package for 2025-26 is an opportunity to gain a deeper understanding of how assessments are marked or moderated. This integrated suite of resources and training brings together free access to Principal Examiner reports, marked scripts, and online assessment feedback sessions, as well as a range of optional paid face-to-face Professional Learning events. Learn more about how you and your learners can benefit from our Assessment Feedback Package here: [Assessment Feedback Package 2025-26](#). You can download the most recent Principal Examiner Report and register for FREE, online feedback events on your qualification page.

New *Made for Wales* GCSE Design and Technology (Teaching from 2026)

We are excited to launch the new specification for **GCSE Design & Technology**. Here are some key dates for your diaries including information on upcoming Professional Learning opportunities.

Key dates

Publish approved specifications: 30 September 2025

Publish sample assessment materials: 17 December 2025

Publish guidance for teaching: 22 January 2026

PL Events and Materials

PL Type	Aims	Format and Notes
<p>Your Guide to the new specification module</p> <p>Available from end of September 2025</p>	<p>To support your understanding of the specification document.</p>	<p>This asynchronous module will be on the "training on demand" tab of your qualification page on the WJEC website. You will need to register to access a link to view.</p>
<p>Parent / Options evening flyers</p> <p>Available from end of September 2025</p>	<p>To support you to provide information to parents and learners before start of study.</p>	<p>This PDF will be published on your qualification's home page.</p>
<p>Live Online Qualification Briefing & Q&A</p> <p>Available 2nd half autumn term 2025.</p> <p>Events are open for registration.</p> <p>Visit the Training tab (link below) on your new qualification's webpage to view dates and register.</p> <p>GCSE Design and Technology - Teaching from 2026</p>	<p>To support your understanding of the new qualification, its content and assessment structure. The live event will also refer to resources and upcoming PL and offer an opportunity to put questions to our Subject Teams and specification experts.</p>	<p>These live online events will be advertised on the WJEC website, and you will be required to register via a link. They will be hosted on Teams Live (Townhall).</p> <p>The events will be presented by WJEC Subject Advisors with Q&A support from WJEC Subject Officers. There will be English medium and Welsh medium events (except for English and Welsh qualifications).</p>
<p>* Preparing to Teach (face-to-face)</p> <p>Available from 09/02/26 to 27/03/26</p> <p>Registrations for the Pan Wales INSET days will be collected via your head teacher. No registrations through WJEC's website.</p>	<p>To support teaching the new specification. There will be a focus on understanding the assessments, assessment objectives, content and teaching approaches based on the specification, sample assessment materials and guidance for teaching.</p>	<p>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. Registrations will be collected via your head teacher/head of centre.</p> <p>These events will be led by WJEC Subject Advisors and our expert presenting teams.</p>
<p>Exam and NEA Walk-throughs</p> <p>Available summer Term 2026</p> <p>Access via the WJEC Portal secure website</p>	<p>To support you and your learners to understand the structure of question papers/NEA briefs, question types, assessment objectives and marking methods.</p>	<p>These pre-recorded PPT will initially be published on the WJEC Portal secure website only.</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](#)

INNOVATION AWARDS

This autumn, we're delighted to bring back the Innovation Awards exhibitions in both North and South Wales.

These events will celebrate the most creative GCSE, AS, and A Level NEA work, and will also offer **free** CPD seminars for teachers and students.

For more information, please visit [Innovation Awards webpage](#).

SOCIAL MEDIA

WJEC Design and Technology does not have an official social media outlet and is not a member of any other social media groups. Therefore, we would strongly urge centres to follow guidance provided on our official websites and not inaccurate comments, posts, or releases on 'other' social media forums. Always check the [WJEC website](#) for the latest accurate and updated information. If you cannot locate the information, you are looking for or are in any doubt about any changes to the specification then please check with the subject team. It might be easier to E-mail designandtechnology@wjec.co.uk or if you really need to speak to a member of the subject team urgently telephone 029 2240 4303. Jason Cates, Subject Officer, will be able to clarify any questions regarding delivery and assessment.

CONTEXTUAL CHALLENGE (GCSE only)

The Unit 2 NEA Design and Make Contextual Challenges document has been published since **June 1st 2025**, and is available on the [Portal](#). This is sensitive assessment material and is not available on the public website. Please log in using your centre account details and follow the instructions below to locate the document:

Tabs: Examinations & Assessments > Resources > Non-Examination Assessment Tasks

Filters:

Subject > Design & Technology Level> GCSE

Type of Document > Non-Examination Assessment Tasks Publication Year> 2025

Language > English Brand> WJEC [Press Search](#)

Note: only GCSE available (WJEC AS/ A2 candidates generate their own contexts).

SUMMER 2025 CENTRE MODERATION REPORTS

These have also been available to download from the [Portal](#) since result days.

Note: Centre Moderation Reports will be removed from the secure website before the end of the Autumn term – please make sure to download a copy and retain it for future reference.

SUMMER 2025 NEA EXEMPLARS

To support teachers in assessing candidates' NEA work, and to aid with standardisation and benchmarking, we will be releasing additional exemplar NEAs from Summer 2025. This follows the release of exemplar marked NEAs in 2024 and continues our commitment to providing helpful guidance. These exemplars will be available via the [Portal](#).

Please note that while we aim to provide a comprehensive view of each candidate's work, not every page, design sheet, sketchbook entry, or model may have been photographed. However, each exemplar will clearly illustrate the standard achieved for the grade awarded.

We will do our best to include a range of grades across different focus areas, including Welsh-language exemplars. Please be aware that availability in some Welsh-medium focus areas may be limited due to small entry numbers.

These materials will be published shortly after the deadline for reviews of moderation. Centres are reminded that these exemplars are for reference only. Future candidates must not be encouraged to replicate or closely follow the content.

Find a comprehensive list of all our available resources in our [GCE](#) and [GCSE](#) Resources Guides.

SUMMER 2025 EXAM EXEMPLARS

To support centres in understanding this summer's examination performance, Principal Examiners will provide detailed commentaries on high-, mid-, and lower-achieving scripts. These exemplars will explain how and why specific marks were awarded, offering valuable insight into candidate responses.

We recommend using this resource alongside the Principal Examiner's Report to gain a full understanding of the strengths and areas for improvement identified in this year's paper. This will help inform teaching and reinforce effective exam preparation to avoid similar issues in future series.

In addition, centres are encouraged to review both centre-level and whole-entry Item Level Data. When used in conjunction with the exemplar scripts and the PE Report, this data can help illustrate how individual questions performed and how candidates accessed the marks available.

QUESTION BANK

Question Bank is a free tool which allows you to create practice question papers. Find the questions you need, add them to your paper and export your paper with accompanying mark scheme and examiner's comments as a PDF ready to use in the classroom.

Create - Build your own exam paper.

Customise - Mix and match questions across a range of years and topics.

Revise - Question Bank is suitable for end-of-lesson tests, revision activities or homework.

Note: WJEC are currently creating a new and improved Question Bank which will offer users greater functionality until then we hope you will find this tool useful.

CENTRES NETWORKING MAP

Join our WJEC GCSE, AS and A Level Design and Technology [centres networking map](#) to find other centres/teachers local to you allowing you to share ideas and experiences.

RECRUITMENT OF SUMMER 2026 MODERATORS AND EXAMINERS

There are a number of examiner and moderator vacancies for next summer at both GCSE and GCE level. We are always looking to develop and expand our teams of examiners and moderators with dynamic Design and Technology practitioners who are looking for continuous professional development. If you are interested in these vacancies, please complete an [online application](#) before the end of November to be considered for next summer. You can read more here about [becoming a moderator](#).

2026 NEA INTERNAL ASSESSMENT AND MODERATION DATES

The deadline dates for marks to be entered via ([Portal](#)) IAMIS in 2026 is 5th May (GCSE) and 15th May (GCE).

The moderation windows for centre visits in 2026 are 11th - 15th May (GCSE) and 18th - 22nd May (GCE). Moderators will contact your centres (via Exams Officers) in early April to finalise a visit date to moderate your NEA work.

The full list of D&T Key Dates can be found on the WJEC [GCSE](#) and [GCE](#) D&T webpages, under the key documents > Key information tab.

Centre Guide to Moderation Visits

Your Visiting Moderator will provide all the essential details about your moderation visit. You can also find additional information in this sheet: [Moderation Information for Centres](#).