Newsletter – April 2026

GCSE WJEC Art and Design

(Specification: For Award from 2018)

Key Dates

31 May	Mark submission deadline
01 Jun	Moderation window opens
03 Jul	Moderation window closes
20 Aug	Results Day
24 Sep	Review of Moderation deadline

Administration

Links to our NEA forms.

Labelling of Work

Art and Design Timesheet

Creative Statement & Authentication Document

Candidate Marksheets

Centre Visits

Your allocated moderator will be in touch during April to arrange the centre visit. It is important that centres are prepared with the appropriate documentation, and that candidates work is clearly labelled.

For digital work, please ensure that candidates digital folders are accessible and comprise of clearly labelled files in folders.

It is the Centre's responsibility to ensure that students present their work in the most appropriate format for the work produced. It is vital that all work is clearly labelled and that related elements (for example, sketchbooks and outcomes) are displayed together. Centres are also responsible for ensuring that the work presented for the visiting moderator is the same work as that originally submitted for internal assessment and has not been supplemented by any additional material.

In line with other JCQ awarding organisations, from summer 2026 we will increase the initial sample size collected from centres as per the following table.

Number of candidates entered for the NEA component	Number of candidates included in the NEA sample
Up to 5	All
6-10	All
11-15	All
16-100	15
101-200	20
Over 200	25

The sample will be generated electronically by Portal.

There is no change to the moderation process; collecting a slightly larger sample on the NEA submission deadline date means that we are less likely to contact you later during the moderation period to request additional samples. However, we do still reserve the right to request the whole cohort should we deem it necessary. Therefore, centres must ensure that all candidate work and relevant NEA forms are stored securely in the centre.

AI guidance and Internet use during the ESA

AI Use in Assessments: Protecting the Integrity of Qualifications

AI can be used within Art & Design, for example, to generate or test ideas but it would need to be identified and referenced throughout the submission. The assessment criteria require the documentation of the process of candidate's work as well as evidence of development throughout.

It is also important to stress that centres are vigilant to the possibility of malpractice of this kind and have taken steps to ensure authenticity of work and ensure the integrity of the qualifications. It should be clear where and how AI features within the candidate's work.

The 10-hour GCSE sustained focus period should be conducted under supervised examination conditions. During the sustained focus period, candidates can access web-based software applications, however no other use of the Internet is allowed.

Once the sustained focus period has commenced, learners must not have access outside the sustained focus period sessions, either to their preparatory study and research work, or to work produced during the sustained focus period. This includes digital files and cloud storage. At the end of each sustained focus session, all candidates' work must be stored securely by the centre.

Please refer to the following document for important information about sharing NEA material and candidates' work

Notice to Centres - Sharing NEA material and candidates' work - JCQ Joint Council for Qualifications

Informing candidates of their marks

This is a reminder that before submitting marks to WJEC, centres must ensure that they have followed their own internal appeals procedure. Candidates must be informed of their centre assessed marks so that they may request a review of the centres marking before marks are submitted to WJEC.

Candidates must be informed of their marks for all units and JCQ suggest they are given at least 5 working days to request a review of marking within the centre.

Further information is available in the JCQ Notice to Centres

Portal

The Portal by WJEC is the new replacement for the secure website and is where centres can make entries, input internal assessment marks, and apply for post results services, as well as view results.

Contact Us

If you have any queries, please do not hesitate to contact the Art & Design team at artanddesign@wjec.co.uk or 029 2240 4304.

Keep an eye out for Professional Learning dates released during the summer term by subscribing here**:** Subscribe for subject news, resources and support (wjec.co.uk)

QFF GCSE Art and Design

(Specification: For Award from 2027, teaching from 2025)

Updated Marking Scheme for WJEC GCSE ART AND DESIGN from 2025
Unit One: Portfolio
For teaching from 2025 and assessment in 2027

The marking scheme for Unit 1 has been updated in the following published documents on the GCSE Art and Design Made for Wales from 2025 Subject Page.

- **Sample Assessment Materials** – GCSE Art and Design – Unit 1 Non-Exam Assessment Pack (Candidate Pack)
- **Non-Exam Assessment (NEA)** – GCSE Art and Design Unit 1 NEA Handbook

The following descriptors were missing on the marking scheme.

- Assessment Objective 1, band 4, **effective** and **confident**.
- Assessment Objective 3, band 4, **critical**.

All previous versions which have been downloaded and/or printed must be removed from circulation.

Please notify artanddesign@wjec.co.uk if you have already assessed any part of the NEA Unit 1 Portfolio for submission in 2027 using the previous version of the marking scheme.