

Newsletter – January 2026

Sciences

Happy new year! We hope you enjoyed a well deserved break over the festive period.

GCSE SCIENCE

TASK BASED ASSESSMENT UNIT (APPLIED SCIENCE QUALIFICATIONS ONLY)

All completed assessments should be despatched with the centre generated attendance registers, to WJEC CBAC, Unit A16 / A17, Gwaelod Y Garth Road, Treforest Industrial Estate, Pontypridd, Rhondda Cynon Taf, CF37 5XF by **FRIDAY, 16 JANUARY**.

PRACTICAL ASSESSMENT UNIT (ALL GCSE SCIENCE QUALIFICATIONS)

The dates for the practical assessments are: Monday 5 January – Friday 13 February 2026. The setting up instructions can be opened from Monday 5 January.

All completed assessments should be despatched with the centre generated attendance registers, to WJEC CBAC, Unit A16 / A17, Gwaelod Y Garth Road, Treforest Industrial Estate, Pontypridd, Rhondda Cynon Taf, CF37 5XF by **FRIDAY, 27 February**.

PROFESSIONAL LEARNING TRAINING COURSES

Free online summer 2025 exam feedback CPD sessions have now all taken place earlier in the autumn. PowerPoints for GCSE Biology, Chemistry and Physics are now available in English and Welsh on Portal in the CPD folder.

NEW MADE FOR WALES GCSE THE SCIENCES (DOUBLE AWARD) AND INTEGRATED SCIENCE (SINGLE AWARD)

Free online CPD briefing sessions have now all taken place. PowerPoints are now available in English and Welsh on Portal in the CPD folder.

We are excited to launch the new Specimen Assessment Materials for GCSE The Sciences (Double Award) and Integrated Science (Single Award) to accompany the specifications, which were published in September.

The web pages for the new GCSEs are here: [GCSE The Sciences \(Double Award\)](#) and [Integrated Science \(Single Award\)](#).

Here are some key dates:

Publication of Sample Assessment Materials: 17 December 2025

Guidance for Teaching Published: 21 January 2026

GCSE SEPARATE SCIENCE (Biology / Chemistry / Physics)

Our existing GCSEs in Biology, Chemistry and Physics will continue to be available until summer 2031. The suite of science GCSEs from September 2031 onwards will be determined by Qualifications Wales' 2028 consultation. We launched a survey in October to gather feedback and gauge support for potential amendments to our existing separate science GCSEs in this interim period. The results of the survey are [here](#).

- We will amend Unit 3 (the practical unit) in the current GCSE Biology, Chemistry and Physics, but not amend Units 1 and 2.
- Unit 3 in Biology, Chemistry and Physics will be amended to be in line with the approach in Unit 7: Scientific Enquiry of the new The Sciences (Double Award) qualification for the assessment of scientific enquiry skills.
- This will be available for Year 10 cohorts starting in September 2026.
- There will be eight tasks 'live' in centres. For the separate science qualifications, centres can choose tasks from The Science (Double Award) or a task set for each of the separate science qualifications.

A LEVEL BIOLOGY / CHEMISTRY / PHYSICS UNIT 5 – PRACTICAL EXAMINATION

Just a reminder that candidates should be given a list of the main topic areas to be assessed in the Unit 5 – Practical Examination prior to the assessment.

This information will be provided in the “Instructions to teachers / exams officers” documents which are despatched to centres in January (the Physics was despatched in December). The relevant page in the documents should be copied and given to candidates as soon as possible after receipt. The information will also be published on the WJEC GCE Science web pages.

The key dates for all the Unit 5 examinations can be found on the WJEC GCE Science web pages.

WJEC A LEVEL BIOLOGY

Unit 4: Option B - Human Musculoskeletal Anatomy - Structure And Function Of Human Skeleton

There has been a minor amendment to the wording in the **Unit 4: Option B – Human Musculoskeletal Anatomy - Structure And Function Of Human Skeleton** specification statement and the associated comments in the Guidance for Teaching,

(d) medical conditions which affect posture, their causes and treatment

From the Summer 2026 assessments onwards, the term **postural conditions** will replace **postural deformities**.

The Specification and Guidance Documents on the qualification homepage have been updated to reflect these changes.

PROFESSIONAL LEARNING TRAINING COURSES

Free online summer 2025 exam feedback CPD sessions have now all taken place earlier in the autumn. PowerPoints for all the GCE Sciences are now available in English and Welsh on Portal in the CPD folder.

LEVEL 3 MEDICAL SCIENCE

Guidance for teaching documents are now available on the Level 3 Medical Science webpage: [L3 Medical Science](#).

The Level 3 Medical Science textbook is scheduled for publication in January 2026. Please contact resources@wjec.co.uk for further details

A free online PL course designed for practitioners teaching the new **WJEC Medical Science specifications** will be held on the 21 January 2026. This ‘preparing to teach’ event is designed to give teachers an overview of units 4 and 5, its content and assessment structure. Please go to our PL webpage for more details: [Professional Learning | WJEC](#).