



WJEC proposals for adaptations to GCSE qualifications in summer 2022

Consultation document for learners, parents and carers

Consultation is open from Wednesday 9 June until 23:59 on Wednesday 23 June 2021.



@WJEC_CBAC



WWW.WJEC.CO.UK



@WJECBAC

Have your say: Changes to GCSE assessments in 2022

Proposed changes to GCSE assessments in 2022

We understand that learners have experienced a great deal of disruption to teaching and learning throughout 2020 and 2021.

We are therefore consulting on proposed changes to the way that our GCSEs will be assessed in summer 2022.

Our Eduqas GCSE qualifications, Electronics, Film Studies, Geology, Latin and Sociology are not included in this booklet because they are accredited by Ofqual, rather than Qualifications Wales, and details of adaptations to those qualifications are to follow.

If you're a learner, parent or carer, we want to hear your thoughts – it's important that you have your say on our proposals.

This booklet provides a useful overview of our proposals – and should be read before you complete the survey.

What are the principles that WJEC must follow?

Qualifications Wales, the exam regulator, has outlined seven principles that WJEC must follow in making changes to GCSE and AS/A level assessments. WJEC must seek to:

1. ensure that learners are not advantaged or disadvantaged relative to their peers in other jurisdictions
2. ensure that all qualifications are a reliable indication of the knowledge, skills and understanding specified in the qualification following any adaptations to assessments
3. ensure that qualification content, in general, is not reduced; however, content can be restructured so it can reasonably be streamlined, such as in relation to optional units
4. ensure that the manageability of assessment is maximised, where this will allow for an increase in teaching time in order to minimise the impact on outcomes
5. maintain standards, as far as possible, within the same qualification in line with previous years
6. maintain standards, as far as possible, across similar qualifications made available by WJEC and by other awarding bodies
7. ensure that flexibility in the delivery of assessments is maximised so as to reduce the impact of disruption, illness or quarantine, including lockdown at a local level.

What assumptions have we made?

1. All learners will have missed out on some opportunities to develop vital skills and knowledge, particularly in practical work. Therefore, we cannot assume that learners, taking their assessments in summer 2022, will have the same breadth of skills and knowledge as would normally be expected.

2. Schools and colleges will be open for all or most of the 2021-2022 academic year.
3. Every GCSE subject will have some adaptations in place for 2022 assessments.
4. Exams are likely to take place as normal in 2022 using adapted content and also adapted assessments where appropriate.
5. Exams are likely to take place as normal in 2023 with no adaptations.

Have your say

Please let us know your thoughts via the online survey [here](#).

The table on pages 3 to 5 outlines the proposed adaptations for individual qualifications. There is further supplementary information regarding similar qualifications on pages 6 and 7.

Subject	Summary of adaptations for January 2022 and Summer 2022 ¹
Art and Design	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Learners produce individual Portfolio only (Unit 1) • Removal of Externally Set Assignment (Unit 2)
Business	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduction in content to be studied across qualification • Reduction in assessment (Unit 2). Learners answer questions on one case study and corresponding set of questions rather than the usual two
Computer Science	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Removal of NEA (Unit 3)
Design and Technology	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduction in content to be studied (Unit 1) • Accept a model/mock-up instead of the finished product for the NEA and removal of the requirement to 'Evaluate a prototype's fitness for purpose' (Unit 2)
Drama	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduction in the length of performances and reduced design requirements (Unit 1 and Unit 2) • Advance notice of set text extract and the topic area for the wider knowledge question to be assessed in the exam (Unit 3)
English Language	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Removal of Oracy Task 2: Responding and Interacting (Group discussion) (Unit 1) • Reduction in types of writing required (Unit 2) • Optionality in written assessments (Unit 3)
English Literature	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Learners complete NEA (Unit 3) and sit one other unit of their choice (either Unit 1 or Unit 2)
Food and Nutrition	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Removal of NEA Task 1 (Unit 2)
French/German/Spanish	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Removal of Speaking Task 2 (photo card discussion) (Unit 1) • Reduction in the number of sub-sub-themes to be assessed (Unit 1 and Unit 4 only) • Removal of the translation into French/German/Spanish (Unit 4)

¹ The non-adapted versions of our specifications can be found on the subject pages of our website. [GCSE & A Level Qualifications | WJEC](#)

Subject	Summary of adaptations for January 2022 and Summer 2022 ²
Geography	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduction in content to be studied in examined units (Unit 1 and Unit 2) • Reduction in fieldwork requirements. Learners would be expected to undertake one fieldwork enquiry instead of the usual two. (Unit 3)
Health and Social Care and Child Care (Single Award)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Removal of NEA Task 2 (Unit 2)
Health and Social Care and Child Care (Double Award)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Removal of assessment (Unit 1) • Removal of NEA Task 2 (Unit 2) • Reduction in NEA requirements (Unit 4)
History	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Learners complete NEA (Unit 4) and sit two other units of their choice (either Unit 1 and Unit 2, or Unit 1 and Unit 3 or Unit 2 and Unit 3)
ICT (Short Course)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduction in content to be studied (Unit 1)
ICT (Single Award)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Removal of assessment (Unit 1)
Mathematics and Mathematics Numeracy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduction in content to be studied across the qualifications
Media Studies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Optionality within assessment (Unit 2) • Reduction in NEA requirements (Unit 3)
Music	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduction in NEA Performance lengths. Ensemble is optional rather than compulsory (Unit 1) • Reduction in NEA Composing requirements – one composition instead of the usual two, and removal of the evaluation (Unit 2)
Physical Education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduction in NEA requirements – two activities instead of three and removal of the personal fitness programme. (Unit 2)
Physical Education (Short Course)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduction in NEA requirements – one activity instead of two (Unit 2)

² The non-adapted versions of our specifications can be found on the subject pages of our website. [GCSE & A Level Qualifications | WJEC](#)

Subject	Summary of adaptations for January 2022 and Summer 2022³
Religious Studies (including Short Course)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Optionality within all units. Learners are assessed on three out of four themes in each unit.
Biology or Chemistry or Physics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Removal of assessment (Unit 1)
Science (Double Award)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Removal of assessments (Units 1, 2 and 3)
Applied Science (Double Award)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Removal of assessments (Units 1 and 2)
Applied Science (Single Award)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Removal of assessment (Unit 1)
Welsh Language	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Removal of Oracy Task 2: Response and Interaction (Group discussion) (Unit 1) • Optionality in written assessments (Unit 2 and Unit 3)
Welsh Literature	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Learners sit either Unit 1 or Unit 2 (all learners sit Unit 3 and Unit 4)
Welsh Second Language	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Learners sit either Unit 1 or Unit 2 (all learners sit Unit 3 and Unit 4)

³ The non-adapted versions of our specifications can be found on the subject pages of our website. [GCSE & A Level Qualifications | WJEC](#)

Supplementary Information

Similar types of adaptations have been applied to the following categories.

1. Core subjects (English Language, Welsh Language, Mathematics, Mathematics Numeracy)

As core subjects are compulsory, all learners will receive equal benefits from the adaptations proposed in these subjects. The skills, knowledge and understanding gained through studying these subjects are vital for successful progression to all level 3 courses, including AS and A levels, and employment. For this reason, it is essential that these qualifications maintain the rigour associated with the GCSE and therefore the adaptations to content and assessment are limited. Nevertheless, the streamlining of assessment content will help learners whilst retaining the credibility of the qualifications.

2. Core subjects (Science Suite)

As core subjects are compulsory, all learners will receive equal benefits from the adaptations proposed for the GCSE Sciences. The science qualifications are unitised which means that it is possible to enter some units earlier in the course. We have therefore, proposed, that in 2022, learners cashing in sit only the specified units which are normally sat in year 11 and not those they would usually have sat in year 10. This adaptation applies in summer 2022 but does **not** apply to those commencing their courses in 2021, intending to cash-in in 2023.

3. Providing optionality at a unit level for some GCSEs (English Literature, Welsh Literature, Welsh Second Language, History)

These qualifications are unitised and learners are able to sit units at different points during the course, with all learners taking some units at the end. However, unlike the science suite, there is no consistent unit entry pattern across centres. It is proposed that learners cashing-in their qualification in 2022 are given an option to select one (English Literature, Welsh Literature and Welsh Second Language) or two (History) units, from a choice of units. It is likely that your centre will choose the units you must study, so that they can focus their teaching towards these. Unit content and assessment will remain the same and this adaptation applies in January 2022 and summer 2022 but does **not** apply to those commencing their courses in 2021, intending to cash-in in 2023.

4. Streamlining or removing NEA assessment in 2021 (Art and Design, Computer Science, Design and Technology, Drama, Food and Nutrition, Geography, French, German, Spanish, Health and Social Care and Child Care, Media Studies, Music, Physical Education)

As NEA is fundamental in developing the skills required for progression in these subjects, we have ensured that all subjects with NEA (apart from Computer Science where practical work is also undertaken in preparation for Unit 2) retain some elements of NEA. In each case the adaptation has been made to help centres facilitate practical courses in a safe environment while following guidance on social distancing. Some of these subjects, where only very minor changes can be made to the NEA, also have adaptations to assessments by examination.

5. Streamlining content for assessment by examination in 2021 (Business, Design and Technology, French, German, Spanish, Geography, ICT, Media Studies, Religious Studies)

In these qualifications we have stipulated that some content will not be subject to assessment in 2022. In some qualifications, but not all, this means that questions will also be removed from or made optional in the assessment.

6. Removal of a unit (ICT (Single Award) and Health and Social Care and Child Care (Double Award))

In recognition that learners would usually have sat Short Course (ICT) and Single Award (HSCCC) examination units early, we have removed unit 1 from each of these qualifications for assessment in 2022. This adaptation does not apply to the short course (ICT) or single award (HSCCC).