

Notice to centres WJEC Approved GCSEs, AS and A levels NEA controls 2021

The [statement](#) made on January 20th by the Minister for Education in Wales confirmed that centres may relax the controls under which the NEA is usually taken. This document is intended to provide advice to teachers on how learners may work on or complete NEA at home, if the centre decides it is safe and practicable to do so. Centres are **not** required to seek permission from or notify WJEC at the point the arrangements are implemented.

1. Working on NEA at home

Teachers may allow learners entering for qualifications in 2021 to undertake written, practical, performance and oral work at home, even when the specification stipulates that it should be done in the centre.

Where teachers allow learners to undertake written or practical work at home, it is important that teachers are still able to authenticate learners' work. Therefore, teachers should remind learners that the work **must** be their own. Where a learner has received assistance, this **must** be acknowledged so that centres can award accurate and fair grades.

If teachers are suspicious of any work-in-progress being completed at home, they should feed back to the learner their concerns and give them another opportunity to complete the work.

We advise that regular checks are undertaken. These could be achieved by:

- conducting a Question & Answer session with the learner
- online video conferencing to observe working and discuss progress with the learner
- comparing learner performance at home with work completed within the classroom
- setting specific timescales for the work to be started and finished, and keeping records of when the work was produced
- reminding learners of the risks of getting help at home from family members which could constitute over-assistance.

2. Advice to teachers where learners are completing performance/oral tasks at home or outside the centre

The principle remains that the teacher must be able to assess the performance or oral as accurately as they would usually and be able to authenticate it as the learner's own. The ideal way to achieve this with remote supervision would be to view a live stream of the performance or oral assessment. However, this is not always possible and other evidence may be sufficient to permit teacher assessment and authentication. Depending on the subject, this could include one or more of the following as appropriate to the subject:

- video recording of all or part of a performance
- audio recording of a performance

- photographic and written evidence
- a discussion with the learner.

3. Safety and risk assessments

WJEC is unable to provide health and safety advice. Centres are advised to follow their own risk assessment and safeguarding policy when allowing learners to complete practical work at home. This is particularly important in any subject where specialist equipment and facilities are normally used.

For example:

- consideration should be given to whether learners have safe access to resources
- where practical work is involved whether this can be recorded safely, and the learner will be able to produce the work to a sufficient quality
- whether the task involves the use of equipment which would usually require supervision within the centre
- whether there is a specific part of a task which could be safely completed at home
- a suitable quiet area or home environment is available to enable the work to be completed.