



# Skills Challenge Certificate (Welsh Baccalaureate)

## Adaptations to assessment for 2021

## Adaptations to Skills Challenge Certificate qualifications in 2020/21

The coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic has resulted in disruption to education and training during spring and summer 2020. Public health restrictions are likely to be in place during 2020/21, and further disruption may occur on a localised basis, which may affect teaching and learning and the delivery of assessments.

To mitigate the disruption to teaching, learning and assessment of the Skills Challenge Certificate, the following arrangements have been agreed with Qualifications Wales for candidates **completing** their Skills Challenge Certificate qualification in Summer 2021:

- candidates must complete **both** the Enterprise and Employability Challenge **and** the Individual Project
- in addition, candidates must complete **either** the Global Citizenship Challenge **or** the Community Challenge<sup>1</sup>.

The Skills Challenge Certificate will be awarded based on a candidate's performance in the components sat which will also be used to calculate the candidate's expected performance in the component the candidate has not sat.

In determining which components should be mandatory for certification in 2021, consideration was given to ensuring the reliability and validity of the qualifications at both Advanced level and National/Foundation level as well as maintaining comparability of outcomes with those from other years.

Mandating completion of both the Individual Project and Enterprise and Employability Challenge ensures that all skills are explicitly assessed, and also retains the team working element of the qualification which has been highlighted as a strength by further and higher education and by employers. The Enterprise and Employability Challenge is a mandatory team task at National/Foundation level and at Advanced level most complete the Innovation Venture task in a team. Even where candidates have previously chosen an individual approach there is an expectation that they would have to work with others at some stage during the completion of the activity. For assessment in 2020/21, this will be a requirement.

In addition to the reduction in the number of components required for certification in Summer 2021, further adaptations have been made for assessment in both January and May 2021. These adaptations have been carefully designed in line with the principles set out by Qualifications Wales:

1. WJEC must seek to ensure that learners are not advantaged or disadvantaged relative to their peers in other jurisdictions.
2. WJEC must seek to ensure that all qualifications are a reliable indication of the knowledge, skills and understanding specified in the qualification following any adaptations to assessments.
3. WJEC must seek to 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. WJEC must seek to 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. WJEC must seek to maintain standards, as far as possible, within the same qualification in line with previous years.
6. WJEC must seek to maintain standards, as far as possible, across similar qualifications made available by WJEC and by other awarding bodies.
7. WJEC must seek to 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.

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<sup>1</sup> We are aware that a minority of candidates completed both the Community and Global Citizenship Challenge in 2019/20. Centres who have candidates in this category and who have concerns about the certification requirements for 2020/21 should contact the Welsh Baccalaureate Section in the first instance.

2021 assessments have been designed to ensure that:

- the validity and reliability are not undermined by the adaptations
- each of the skills are explicitly addressed across the qualification
- the balance of assessment of the skills is maintained
- assessments target the full grade range of the qualification.

The adaptations published in this booklet apply to **all candidates** entered for component assessments in January and May 2021.

### **Consultation on the proposed adaptations**

Before finalising these adaptations, we consulted with centres in Wales via focus groups and briefing events attended by over 200 teachers and centre staff involved in the delivery of the qualifications as well as through a short online consultation. We asked centres to what extent they agreed that our proposed adaptations:

- are appropriate to mitigate lost teaching and learning time
- help alleviate issues linked to social distancing for group work and practical work
- are likely to allow learners to progress to further learning e.g. at Level 3
- maintain the integrity of the qualification.

76% of respondents to the survey agreed that the adaptations were appropriate to mitigate lost teaching and learning time and 63% agreed that they would alleviate issues linked to social distancing for group work.

93% agreed that the adaptations would retain the content and skills required for progression and 84% agreed the proposals maintain the level of demand of the qualifications. Finally, 80% agreed that the proposals did not advantage or disadvantage learners compared with learners completing equivalent qualifications.

## Adaptations to the Advanced Skills Challenge Certificate

Many centres reduced timetabled hours in Year 13 due to learners being able to complete much of the Individual Project outside of the classroom and this could impact the completion of assessments for the Challenges.

We have therefore removed direct supervision from specific tasks within the three Challenges to allow candidates to complete more of their assessment remotely. In addition, the presentation task in each Challenge has been adapted to remove the requirement for teachers to observe presentations.

As many centres will need to complete the Advanced Enterprise and Employability Challenge in 2020/21, the time required for the Innovation Venture has been reduced by a third. Centres should refer to the [Principal Moderators report \(January 2020\)](#) to ensure that the time allowed for this Challenge is used effectively by candidates.

### **Individual Project – 50%**

There are no changes to this component.

### **Enterprise and Employability Challenge – 20%**

Task 1 – The requirement for direct supervision has been removed; there is already a limit of 1 page of A4.

Task 2 – The time allocated to this task has been reduced to 20 hours over 5 weeks. Candidates are expected to work with others at some stage in the activity (i.e. complete a team task)

Task 3 – There are no changes to this task.

Task 4 – The requirement for teachers to observe the presentation has been removed however candidates are still required to prepare evidence for it.

### **Global Citizenship Challenge – 15%**

Task 1 – The requirement for direct supervision has been removed; there is already a limit of 1,000 words.

Task 2 – There are no changes to this task.

Task 3 – The requirement for direct supervision has been removed but a limit of 500 words will be introduced.

### **Community Challenge – 15%**

Task 1 – The requirement for direct supervision has been removed but a limit of 2,000 words will be introduced.

Task 2 – There are no changes to this task.

Task 3 – The requirement for teachers to observe the presentation will be removed however candidates are still required to prepare evidence for it.

## Adaptations to the National/Foundation Skills Challenge Certificate

As with the Advanced Skills Challenge Certificate, we have removed the requirement for direct supervision from many of the tasks. This will allow centres to reallocate timetabled lessons as appropriate and allow candidates to complete some of the assessment outside of the classroom.

Due to the considerable amount of time required by teachers to observe each team of 3-6 learners presenting a pitch in the Enterprise and Employability Challenge for the whole year group and, in many cases two whole year groups (new year 10 and continuing year 11), this has been removed in order to free up teacher time in the classroom.

### **Individual Project – 50%**

There are no changes to this component.

### **Enterprise and Employability Challenge – 20%**

Task 1 – The requirement for direct supervision will be removed but a limit of 1 page of A4 will be introduced.

Task 2 – The requirement for direct supervision will be reduced from 17 to 5 hours.

Task 3 – The requirement for learners to present their pitch will be removed but candidates will still be required to prepare evidence for a pitch.

Task 4 – The requirement for direct supervision will be removed but a limit of 1 page of A4 or a 5-minute oral recording will be introduced.

### **Global Citizenship Challenge – 15%**

Task 1 – The requirement for direct supervision will be reduced from 5 to 3 hours.

Task 2 – The requirement for direct supervision will be removed; candidates will be required to complete this task as an individual.

Task 3 – The requirement for direct supervision will be removed and a limit of 1 page of A4 or a 5-minute oral recording will be introduced.

### **Community Challenge – 15%**

Task 1 – The requirement for direct supervision will be removed and a limit of 1 page of A4 will be introduced.

Task 2 – There are no changes to this task.

Task 3 – There are no changes to this task.

Task 4 – The requirement for direct supervision will be removed and a limited of a page of A4 or a 5-minute oral recording will be introduced.