

VCSE



# Level 1 / Level 2 VCSE Creative and Media Production, and Technology

Teaching from September 2027

Quick Guide



Please note that all information included in our Quick Guides is subject to approval from Qualifications Wales.

Made for Wales.  
Ready for the world.

# Empowering learners, supporting teachers

As Wales' largest awarding body, we have over 75 years of experience in delivering trusted, high-quality qualifications that support learners, educators, and employers across Wales.

We provide a wide range of bilingual qualifications that are accessible, engaging, and designed to meet the needs of today's learners.

Our qualifications are backed by expert subject teams, high quality resources, and responsive, specialist support. Our work is guided and shaped through close collaboration with schools, colleges, regional consortia, sector experts and Qualifications Wales.

As the only awarding body offering qualifications in every suite of the 14-16 National Qualifications offer, we are proud to play a key role in supporting the Welsh Government's ambition to make education in Wales a source of national pride, and we remain committed to helping every learner achieve their potential and progress with confidence.



# VCSEs: Engaging, practical, and built for progression

Our Level 1/2 Vocational Certificate of Secondary Education (VCSE) qualifications are designed to inspire and support learners aged 14-16, offering a two-year programme that is accessible, engaging, and rooted in real-world learning. With a strong emphasis on practical activities and hands-on experience, these qualifications help learners build confidence, develop essential skills, and achieve meaningful success.

VCSEs are unitised, allowing learners to complete some assessments in Year 10 and others in Year 11. This flexible approach supports steady progress, reduces assessment pressure, and enables learners to demonstrate achievement throughout the course.

For our VCSEs, external assessments, normally worth 40% of the overall qualification, are designed to assess foundational knowledge and can be completed near the start of the course, giving learners more time to focus on developing higher-level skills. This structure adds rigour and credibility to the qualification while helping to reduce teacher workload.

The compensatory nature of our VCSEs recognises learners' strengths across different units. High achievement in one area can offset lower performance in another, promoting a more inclusive and supportive assessment experience.

With content that is relevant, motivating, and tailored to learners' needs, WJEC VCSEs provide a solid foundation for progression to further study at Levels 1 to 3. Whether learners continue in the subject or not, they will gain valuable knowledge, practical skills, and a sense of accomplishment that prepares them for life, learning, and work.

See our full range of VCSEs: [www.wjec.co.uk/wave3](http://www.wjec.co.uk/wave3)

# About the VCSE in Creative and Media Production, and Technology

The creative industries are a dynamic growth sector in Wales, driven by digital innovation and diverse media platforms.

This qualification introduces learners to the scope of creative and media production, key roles, and industry practices, alongside ethical, legal, and technological considerations.

Through practical projects, learners plan, produce, and refine media content, developing creative, technical, and organisational skills as they prepare for further study, apprenticeships, or careers in this vibrant and fast-evolving industry.

## Who is this qualification for?

Our Level 1/2 VCSE Creative and Media Production, and Technology qualification is designed as an engaging vocational alternative or supplement to GCSE qualifications for 14 to 16-year-old learners in schools.

It provides a clear pathway to understanding the creative industries, their diverse roles, and career opportunities, while developing practical and technical skills.

This strong foundation supports progression to further study, apprenticeships, or employment in a dynamic sector that drives innovation and growth in Wales.

# What does the qualification cover?

Unit	Focus
<p><b>1. Introduction to the creative and media production, and technology industries</b></p> <p>1.1. The creative and media production and technology industries in Wales</p> <p>1.2. Working in the creative and media production and technology industries</p> <p>1.3. Ethical and legal considerations in creative and media production and technology</p> <p>1.4. Developments in the creative and media production and technology industries</p>	<p>In this unit, learners will explore:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• the creative and media production, and technology industries in Wales</li><li>• sector structures, roles, and practices, alongside ethical, legal, and technological considerations</li><li>• how creative and media products are shaped by purpose, audience, and emerging trends.</li></ul>

Unit	Focus
<p><b>2. Pre-production tools, processes and skills</b></p> <p>2.1 Pre-production creative processes</p> <p>2.2 Pre-production tools</p> <p>2.3 Idea refinement and evaluation</p>	<p>In this unit, learners will develop knowledge, understanding and practical skills to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• plan and prepare creative and media projects effectively</li> <li>• create proposals and apply pre-production tools and techniques to meet client briefs</li> <li>• organise, project manage, and adapt content for different audiences and purposes.</li> </ul>
<p><b>3. Production and post-production tools, processes and skills</b></p> <p>3.1 Applying production and creative processes</p> <p>3.2 Creating media products</p> <p>3.3 Refining creative and media products</p>	<p>In this unit, learners will develop knowledge, understanding and practical skills to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• apply creative, technical, and production skills to produce creative and media products</li> <li>• document processes, manage resources, and refine outputs through feedback and evaluation, ensuring learners can deliver high-quality, multi-modal media content.</li> </ul>

# Summary of Assessment

Unit	Type
1	<p><b>WJEC marked Sector Test</b></p> <p><b>1 hour - 50 marks - 20% of Qualification</b></p> <p>The test has two sections of 25 marks each.</p> <p>Section A includes a range of objective question types, such as multiple choice, multiple response, fill-in-the-blank, drag-and-drop, and hot spot questions.</p> <p>Section B includes a range of short answer question types.</p> <p>Centres can choose to enter candidates for an on-screen or paper version.</p>
2	<p><b>WJEC marked non-examination assessment</b></p> <p><b>14 hours - 50 marks - 20% of Qualification</b></p> <p>The assessment includes a set client brief and five tasks.</p> <p>The client brief will be available on the WJEC Portal during September of the first year of study. The client brief will be changed every three years.</p> <p>Learners will choose one media product from a choice of eleven.</p>

# Summary of Assessment

Unit	Type
3	<p data-bbox="346 479 1182 517"><b>Centre marked non-examination assessment</b></p> <p data-bbox="346 584 970 674"><b>Recommended time of 32 hours</b> <b>90 marks - 60% of Qualification</b></p> <p data-bbox="346 741 1302 831">The assessment includes a set production brief and three tasks.</p> <p data-bbox="346 898 1394 987">The client brief will be available on the WJEC Portal and will remain the same for the lifetime of the specification.</p> <p data-bbox="346 1055 1350 1189">Learners will choose one event from a choice of three and will always produce a multi-modal promotional campaign for the event chosen.</p> <p data-bbox="346 1256 1390 1391">The promotional campaign must contain one audio-visual/audio element and either one interactive element or one graphic design/publishing element.</p>

“Our VCSE qualifications bring learning to life. Through practical, real-world experiences and flexible, inclusive assessment, they empower young people to build confidence, develop essential skills and achieve success — laying strong foundations for progression, future learning and the world of work.

Our dedicated subject teams are here to guide you every step of the way, supported by tailored resources and professional learning opportunities, empowering you to confidently deliver these exciting new qualifications.”

**Sarah Harris**

Assistant Director  
(Vocational Qualifications)



# Need more support?

Our Regional Representative **Sophie Dobbs** is available to support your centre to deliver these exciting new qualifications:

“ I work closely with schools and colleges across Wales, helping them understand the new Wave 3 qualifications that are coming as part of National 14-16 Qualifications reform in September 2027.

I'm here to support centres at every stage of the journey — from early conversations and planning, right through to delivery.

Before starting at WJEC I spent 17 years in secondary education. Having that experience, and a clear understanding of the practical challenges senior leaders face around staffing, timetabling, resources and budgets, means I'm well placed to support centres strategically and practically through the Wave 3 transition.”

Get in touch with Sophie:

**wave3@wjec.co.uk**



## The final wave of new National 14-16 Qualifications for Wales is almost here, with first teaching beginning September 2027.

We're building upon everything we've learned from co-creating our Made-for-Wales GCSEs, engaging with over 100 centres and 60+ employers to develop an inclusive, broad and balanced range of new qualifications that will enable different ways of learning and skills development.

Discover a range of inclusive new qualifications with WJEC, Wales' most established exam board:

- **Personal Project**
- **Skills Suite (Skills for Life and Skills for Work)**
- **Foundation (General and Work Related)**
- **VCSE (Vocational Certificate of Secondary Education)**

Learn more: [www.wjec.co.uk/wave3](http://www.wjec.co.uk/wave3)



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