GCSE Cymraeg Language and Literature:

FAQs

What poems would you recommend for pupils of lower ability?
You have the freedom to choose the poems that are most suitable for your candidates. See the SAMs (Sample Assessment Materials).

Do candidates of all abilities have to study strict metre poems?
Yes. 'Poems by at least 3 poets including 1 20th century poet and 1 21st century poet. Strict metre, free metre and vers libre poems' (page 16 of the specification).

There has been a reference to 'living writers' - is this the same true of poets?
No, to meet the requirements of the specification and to include poems by poets from the 20th century.

Will there be a suggestion of poems that should be studied?
WJEC will publish a list of suitable poems in January 2027. You will have the freedom to choose the poems that are most suitable for your candidates (you do not have to stick to the suggested poems). You will be expected to submit the selection with the work to be moderated.

Will the poems have to be changed every four years to match the themes that will be released?
Yes, to match the requirements of the theme.

When will information about Unit 3 themes be shared with centres?
April 2025.

Will Unit 3 (the poems) be under exam conditions? Will they be able to take notes?
The non-exam assessment on the poetry will have to take place under direct supervision. See Unit 3 SAMs.

Will a specific date be set by WJEC for Unit 2 (Ilunyddiaeth)?
There will be no fixed date. The centre will have the freedom to choose when it is most convenient for them to assess Unit 2. See Unit 2 SAMs for the conditions for completing the task.

Is it possible to watch two programmes to create the hour? Is it possible to watch a more factual programme e.g. 'Bois y Rhondda'?
Yes – it is possible to watch two or even three programmes/episodes to create the hour. It is not possible to use documentaries or non-fiction films.

Will it be possible to record the individual presentation from home and or does it have to be in front of a teacher?
It must be in front of a teacher, that is, under direct supervision and the teacher must record the task. See Unit 3 SAMs.

Are there similar elements between Unit 4a and 4b or will the exams be completely different?
One writing task will be in 4a, and two writing tasks will be in 4b.

Is there a reason not to study three units (1-3) in terms of assessment requirements in 2026?
No, but 30% (including 1 written exam) of the remaining qualification must be ensured for grade exchange in Summer 2027.

Will WJEC provide resources on the new novels/texts to assist teachers and pupils?
Digital resources have been published on Units 1-6.

What is the difference between the single award and the double award?
The double award has been introduced as the most suitable qualification for most candidates and should be offered by all centres. The individual award provides an alternative pathway for a small proportion of candidates who would benefit from a smaller qualification, given their circumstances. Both qualifications are designed to be completed over two years.

When will the print stimulus materials be published for Unit 5?
1 September 2026. In 2027 we will publish in June.

Where can I get copies of the short stories for Unit 6?
Copies of the three stories will be available on the Portal (secure website) and these are the versions that should be used.

Is the November series just a resit opportunity?
It is possible to resit in the November series or register for the first time. However, candidates can only resit an individual unit once.

When can grade be exchanged?
Summer 2027.