

Foundation



Entry Level / Level 1 Foundation

English

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.





General Foundation Qualifications: A strong foundation for future success

Our General Foundation Qualifications are designed to inspire and support learners, offering a two-year programme that is accessible and engaging.

These qualifications help learners build confidence, develop essential knowledge, understanding and skills, and enjoy meaningful success.

A key feature of our General Foundation Qualifications is their unitised structure, allowing learners to complete some assessments in Year 10 and others in Year 11. This flexible approach supports steady progression, reduces assessment pressure, and gives learners the opportunity to demonstrate achievement throughout the course.

The compensatory nature of our General Foundation Qualifications recognises learners' strengths across different units. Rather than requiring uniform performance in every area, this approach allows high achievement in one unit to offset lower performance in another, promoting an inclusive and supportive assessment experience.

Our General Foundation Qualifications build on the conceptual understanding learners have developed through their Curriculum for Wales learning from ages 3-14, and relate to and support the four purposes and the principles of progression. Although very distinct from GCSEs, we have designed them to provide a broad basis for progression onto our related GCSEs by focussing on similar skills and understanding.

Whether learners continue in the subject or not, they will gain valuable knowledge, understanding and skills, and a sense of accomplishment that prepares them for life, learning, and work.

See our full range of General Foundation qualifications:
www.wjec.co.uk/wave3



About the General Foundation Qualification in English

This qualification supports learners in developing essential knowledge, skills and confidence, providing a solid foundation for future learning and everyday life.

It develops clear, accurate and creative communication across diverse contexts, while fostering connection through language and inspiring creativity through literature.

Aligned with the Curriculum for Wales, it prepares learners for progression to further study, training or employment, encouraging adaptability and effective expression in spoken and written forms.

Who is this qualification for?

This qualification is for learners between 14-16 who are working at Entry Level/Level 1 in this subject.

It will build on the conceptual understanding learners have developed through their Curriculum for Wales learning from ages 3-14. It also relates to and supports the four purposes and the principles of progression.

The qualification will provide a broad basis for progression onto GCSE English Language and Literature by focussing on similar skills and understanding.

What does the qualification cover?

Unit	In this unit learners will:
1. Reading and Writing for Practical Purposes	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Develop ability to read and write effectively in everyday and learning contexts• use different text formats such as:<ul style="list-style-type: none">◦ advertisements◦ infographics◦ instructions◦ leaflets◦ posters◦ recipes◦ short literary/non-fiction extracts• focus on understanding, using, and responding to straightforward written English.
2. Reading and writing for Real-World and Creative Contexts	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• read short functional texts• demonstrate understanding through identification, inference and explanation of how meaning is conveyed• apply understanding by producing functional written responses• produce short creative written responses (narrative, descriptive or reflective) to express imaginative ideas and personal viewpoints.

What does the qualification cover?

Unit	In this unit learners will:
3. Speaking and Listening for Real-World and Literary Contexts	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• develop speaking and listening skills to communicate confidently and effectively• express viewpoints, use evidence, listen actively and respond appropriately to others• research, plan, and deliver an individual presentation• engage in a discussion of a text extract to explore ideas, themes, language choices and their effects.

Summary of Assessment

Unit	Focus
1	<p>Topic tests - Centress can choose paper or on-screen versions (marked by WJEC) within a four-week window.</p> <p>2 x 40 mins 60 Marks - 30% of Qualification</p> <p>Questions requiring multi-choice, short and extended answers, based around everyday practical situations.</p>
2	<p>Written tasks (marked by the centre, moderated by WJEC).</p> <p>2 x 40 mins 40 Marks - 40% of Qualification</p> <p>Reading a short text to demonstrate understanding. Producing written responses to a text. One of the responses will have a chosen creative writing focus (narrative, descriptive or reflective).</p>
3	<p>Oral tasks (marked by the centre, moderated by WJEC).</p> <p>Task 1 - 3-5 mins Task 2 - 5-7 mins Both tasks will have additional preparation time. 40 Marks - 40% of Qualification</p> <p>One task requiring a short individual presentation on a chosen theme. One task requiring a discussion of a chosen literary extract.</p>

“Our General Foundation Qualifications are designed to inspire confidence and celebrate progress.

Through flexible, inclusive assessment and meaningful learning, they empower every learner to achieve success and develop a strong foundation for future learning, life and work.

Our teams are here to support you as you get ready to deliver these exciting new qualifications, providing personalised guidance and assistance to help you teach with confidence.”

Delyth Jones

Regional Support
Team Leader



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



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