



WJEC Approved GCSEs, AS and A levels NEA controls Contingencies for Summer 2022

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Notice to centres WJEC Approved GCSEs, AS and A levels NEA controls Contingencies for Summer 2022

1. Introduction

Prior to the cancellation of examinations for summer 2021, to facilitate the delivery and completion of NEA units, we relaxed some NEA controls for units where it was both possible and helpful to do so whilst maintaining the integrity of the assessment. This mitigation was only for learners certificating in 2021.

Although it is hoped that centres will remain open for face to face learning in 2021-2022, we acknowledge that learners have experienced disruption prior to this point. Therefore, we have reviewed the NEA controls for each qualification and, as a result, in circumstances where it will aid completion of NEA, we will permit centres to relax controls for those certificating in 2022 also.

This document outlines how and when the controls may be relaxed for each qualification listed. Please read this document carefully as the relaxation of controls may differ, in some qualifications, to those permitted in 2021.

This information applies to all Qualifications Wales Approved GCSEs, AS and A levels with NEA units awarded in 2022 apart from GCSE Geography (Fieldwork Enquiry), GCSE Applied Science (Task Based Assessments) and GCEs in Biology, Chemistry and Physics (Practical Examinations); this is due to the nature of these assessments being different to most other NEAs.

This mitigation also does not apply to those completing these qualifications in 2023. Learners submitting NEA in 2023 must complete work under the controls outlined in the specification even if the work is completed in the academic year 2021-2022. Neither does it apply to our suite of Eduqas General Qualifications which are designated for use in Wales. For information on our Eduqas qualifications please see the relevant subject page on the website.

2. Purpose

Permitting centres to relax NEA controls will:

- help mitigate loss of face to face teaching and learning time by allowing learners to complete some or all work at home which would normally be completed in the centre under supervised conditions
- help alleviate issues linked to social distancing and access to equipment during lesson time
- allow work on NEA to continue should there be any future disruption to teaching and learning.

Centres are **not** required to seek permission from or notify WJEC prior to relaxing the controls. However, to implement these contingencies, they must satisfy at least one of the following criteria:

- the centre has moved to remote online learning for a period of four or more weeks
- a learner has missed the opportunity to produce work in the centre due to a period of self-isolation which lasts for 12 or more consecutive days (not including weekends) when other learners are completing the task in class
- a learner is not able to access specialist equipment within the centre but is able to do so at home.

Please note that in any of the circumstances listed above, it is not obligatory for centres to allow the NEA to be completed at home. Teachers should consider whether it is in the learners' best interests to complete some or all the work at home. It is advised that the amount of work completed at home is proportional to the period of absence or online learning.

2. Working on written and practical NEA at home

As a contingency, due to the loss of face to face teaching and learning time, teachers may allow learners entering for qualifications in 2022 to undertake some or all written and practical 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, teachers must be able to authenticate learners' work. Access to the internet is permissible, but teachers must remind learners that the work **must** be their own. Therefore, learners must still follow the other conditions of the specification, other than direct supervision. For example, if the assessment is usually one hour in length, learners must complete the work within an hour and sign a declaration to this effect.

Any work submitted that is not the learner's own work would constitute malpractice. If teachers suspect malpractice, they must follow the guidance on pages 22 and 23 of the [JCQ Instructions for NEA 21-22](#).

When learners are working at home, checks must be undertaken. These can be achieved by undertaking at least one of the following:

- setting work to be completed during an online lesson
- conducting a Question & Answer session with the learner
- online video conferencing to observe work in progress and discuss progress with the learner
- comparing learner performance at home with work completed within the classroom.

It is important to set specific timescales for the work to be completed and to keep records of when the work was produced. Learners must be reminded of the controls and the amount of assistance that is permitted.

Where learners have been given permission to undertake work at home, they must complete the authentication statement provided for this purpose. Teachers must also complete a declaration stating that to the best of their knowledge the work is the learner's own.

High control GCSE and GCE subjects where learners will be permitted to undertake some or all NEA work at home.

The extent to which assessments usually completed in the centre need to be completed at home will depend on the unique circumstances of each centre cohort and/or individual learners in the centre. The NEAs listed below have been designed to be completed within the centre and therefore, where possible, it is preferable to complete the work following the controls outlined in the specification. Only where this is not possible, changes which can be implemented at the discretion of the centre are listed below.

Please note, only subjects with high levels of controls are specified in the table. In other subjects, e.g. GCSE Art and Design, GCSE Design and Technology, GCSE Media Studies, GCSE Music Unit 2 (Composing) and GCSE Physical Education, due to the nature of the tasks, learners are already permitted to undertake practical or written work at home and these subjects already have authentication arrangements for this purpose.

GCSE ICT is also not included in the table as the Adaptations Booklet for GCSEs in 2022 already specifies that controls may be relaxed in 2022.

Most GCEs already have low levels of controls for NEA and learners are already permitted to undertake work at home. This is because AS and A level learners are expected to be more independent in their study habits and therefore more able to undertake independent work on NEA. Therefore, no further relaxation of controls is possible for most GCEs, other than those listed below.

Qualification and Unit	Controls stipulated in the specification (with permitted adaptations)	Permissible contingencies for controls for summer 2022 submission
GCSE Drama Unit 1	Evaluation completed in centre under timed supervised conditions. Learners have 90 minutes to complete the task.	Learners may complete the evaluation at home within the specified time frame. A word count of 900 words has also been suggested as a guide.
GCSE English Literature Unit 3	Two tasks completed under timed, supervised conditions in the centre. Learners have up to two hours for each task.	Learners may complete one or both tasks at home within the specified timeframes.
GCSE Food and Nutrition Unit 2	Task 2 only is subject to assessment in 2022. This is a 15-hour supervised assessment, of which three hours is a one-off mandatory practical assessment. Learners are not allowed to practice the 3 dishes in a “mock” type 3 hours assessment in the centre.	The three-hour practical and evaluation must be completed in the centre. Some, or all (depending on the unique circumstances of the centre/learner) of the remaining tasks may be completed at home. The whole assessment must still be completed within 15 hours.

GCSE Health and Social Care and Child Care (Single Award) Unit 2	Task 1 only is subject to assessment in 2022. This is a 10-hour assessment which should be completed in the centre under supervised conditions.	Depending on the amount of face to face teaching and learning time lost and the schedule of delivery for the NEA, some or all of the task can be may be completed at home, but within the specified timeframe.
GCSE Health and Social Care and Child Care (Double Award) Unit 4	This is a 20-hour assessment which should be completed in the centre under supervised conditions.	Depending on the amount of face to face teaching and learning time lost and the schedule of delivery for the NEA, some or all of the task can be may be completed at home, but within the specified timeframe.
GCSE History	Two tasks completed under timed supervised conditions in the centre. Learners have up to two hours to complete task 1 and up to three hours to complete task 2.	Learners may complete one or both tasks at home, depending on the amount of face to face teaching and learning time lost and the schedule of delivery for the NEA tasks. Learners must complete the tasks within the specified timeframe.
GCSE Welsh Literature Unit 4 NEA	Task 1 is completed under formal supervision at the centre. Learners have two hours 30 minutes to complete the task.	Learners may complete the task at home within the specified timeframe, but they must still only receive the task two weeks before they are due to complete the task.
GCE Health and Social Care and Child Care (Single and Double Award) Unit 2, Unit 4 and Unit 6	This is a 30-hour (Unit 2) and 40-hour (Unit 4 and 6) assessment which should be completed in the centre under supervised conditions.	Learners may complete some, but not all, (depending on the unique circumstances of the centre/learner) of the task at home keeping within the specified timeframe. At least 30% of the task must be completed in the centre in order for the teacher to be able to authenticate the work as the candidates' own.
GCE Applied ICT Unit 3	This is a 15-hour assessment taken within a four week window in March and April which should be completed in the centre under supervised conditions.	Learners may complete some or all of the task at home, depending on the amount of face to face teaching and learning time lost and the schedule of delivery for the NEA task. Learners must complete the task within the specified timeframe.
GCE Welsh First Language Unit 2	Task 2 completed under supervision in the centre Learners have two hours to complete the task.	Learners may complete the task at home within the specified timeframe.

4. Advice to teachers where learners are completing performance or oral tasks at home or outside the centre (GCSE and GCE)

The advice in this section applies to centre conducted orals (whether they are assessed by the teacher or a WJEC examiner) and performances which are assessed by the teacher. It does **not** apply to orals and performances that will be assessed live by a visiting (or online) WJEC examiner in summer 2022. In these instances, the learner must attend the centre for the assessment.

The principle remains that the teacher must be able to assess and/or conduct the oral or performance as accurately as they would usually and be able to authenticate it as the learner's own. The ideal way to achieve this would be to view a live stream of the performance or oral assessment. However, where this is not possible and the teacher's presence is not required for the performance or presentation to take place, an audio-visual recording of the presentation or performance may be sufficient to assess and authenticate the work.

In the qualifications listed below learners are allowed to complete performances and oral assessments at home at the discretion of the centre.

GCSE Drama Unit 1 (Devising Theatre)

GCSE English Language Unit 1 (Oracy) (this must be presented live in front of the teacher)

GCSE French, German and Spanish Unit 1 (Speaking) (this must be conducted live with the teacher)

GCSE Music Unit 1 (Performing)

GCSE Welsh Language Unit 1 (Oracy)

GCSE Welsh Literature Unit 3 (Visual Literature)

GCSE Welsh Second Language Unit 1 and Unit 2 (Speaking and Listening)

GCE Drama and Theatre Unit 1 (Theatre Workshop)

5. Safety and risk assessments

The decision on whether to allow learners to undertake NEA work (usually completed in the centre) at home rests with the centre. The centre may allow this if it is safe and practicable to do so. 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 work at home. This is particularly important in any subject where specialist equipment and facilities are normally used and in subjects where learners are producing video evidence.

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 completed safely at home
- a suitable environment is available to enable the work to be completed.