

Qualification Outline AS and A Level Cymraeg Language and Literature

Introduction

In this document there is an overview of the WJEC AS and A Level Cymraeg Language and Literature Qualification.

It is based on [Qualifications Wales' Approval Criteria](#). Our qualification **must** meet these requirements.

The qualification outline will provide a guide for the development of the Specification and Sample Assessment Materials (SAMs). Aspects of the outline may need to be revisited if issues arise during the development process.

Overview of the Qualification

This qualification is designed to contribute to the Welsh Government's vision set out in *Welsh Language and Education (Wales) Act 2025*, by developing confident, fluent speakers who can use Welsh effectively in their personal, social and professional lives.

The purpose of this qualification is to:

- develop fluent and confident Welsh speakers who can use the language appropriately and effectively in a range of contexts
- extend learners' knowledge, understanding, and skills in authentic, real-life situations
- promote confidence and competence in communicating through the medium of Welsh
- encourage active citizenship and foster pride in the Welsh language, culture, and identity
- equip learners with the linguistic and transferable skills required to contribute to Wales's future in bilingual communities and workplaces.

Proposed Structure of the Qualification

The qualification will consist of five units.

AS Units
Unit 1: The Film or Drama and Oracy Oral examination Up to 45 minutes 20% of the qualification Marked by WJEC
Unit 2: Exploring Language Written examination 1 hour 30 minutes 20% of the qualification Marked by WJEC

A Level Units (the above plus three additional units)
Unit 3: The Novel and Oracy Oral examination Up to 45 minutes 20% of the qualification Marked by WJEC
Unit 4: Non-examination Tasks Non-examination assessment 20% of the qualification Set by WJEC, marked by the centre and moderated by WJEC
Unit 5: The Welsh Language in Context Written examination Up to 2 hours 20% of the qualification Marked by WJEC

Each unit will target the following assessment objectives in line with the indicated weightings, within a tolerance of + /- 5 percentage points:

AO1	Understanding and response <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Respond critically and coherently to a range of spoken, written and visual texts by selecting and interpreting relevant material. ii. Collate, comment on and evaluate sources of information, make cross-references and summarise and reach meaningful conclusions. iii. Demonstrate knowledge of specific texts/topics and the significance of their social, historical and cultural background, using critical analysis and evaluation of other interpretations. iv. Interact with and respond to others, and consider their contributions and points of view. 	50%
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AO2	Communication and expression <ul style="list-style-type: none">i. Communicate correctly, clearly and in a structured way, demonstrating a range of linguistic features.ii. Use knowledge of grammar effectively within various contexts.iii. Communicate using various linguistic registers and make effective use of Welsh in a range of situations and contexts and for different purposes and audiences.iv. Develop relevant viewpoints and ideas, summarise and reach conclusions.	50%
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This will be a unitised qualification.

There is no hierarchy in the order in which the units are presented. The order does not imply the teaching order of the units.

AS units will be available from 2028. A Level units will be available from 2029.

Unit Information

The information regarding the Assessment Objectives (AOs) in each unit are included for reference. Decisions about exact weightings and which strands of the AOs are targeted will be made during detailed development.

Unit 1 – The Film or Drama and Oracy

The purpose of this unit is to develop learners' ability to:

- understand and respond critically to a text
- select and evaluate relevant points to clarify and support interpretations
- demonstrate knowledge of a specific text and the significance of its social, historical and cultural background
- communicate correctly, clearly and in a structured manner, showing a variety of linguistic characteristics
- interact and respond to others and consider their contributions and views.

Centres can choose to study a set film **or** drama. The set texts will be selected by WJEC. The two set texts will be:

- Film – *Y Sŵn*
- Drama – *Blodeuwedd* (the set text will be the printed text, but a recording of Theatr Cymru's performance is available to centres as an additional educational resource. The Approval Criteria state that *'the play must be available to be studied as a visual and a written text'*).

Candidates will be required to:

Film:

- discuss characters, their development and compare characters with each other
- discuss key scenes
- detail the use of pictures and sound or background music
- discuss the aims of the author and the producer
- express an opinion and respond to the work as a whole
- discuss themes found in the film
- discuss the social, historical and cultural context of the film.

Drama:

- discuss characters, their development and compare characters with each other
- discuss key scenes
- detailing the use of dialogue and the structure of the play
- discuss the playwright's aims
- express an opinion and respond to the work as a whole
- discuss themes found in the play
- discuss the social, historical and cultural context of the play.

The unit will be assessed through an oral examination which will be available from the 2028 summer series onwards.

The unit will be worth 20% of the qualification. The unit will assess AO1 and AO2 equally. Candidates will be examined by a visiting examiner in pairs or groups of three. The duration of the examination will be up to 45 minutes.

Unit 2 – Exploring Language

The purpose of this unit is to develop learners' ability to:

- make comparisons and explain connections within and between written texts
- explain how language, structure and form contribute to the presentation of information, ideas and themes in written texts and how these affect the reader
- organise communication using a variety of linguistic and structural features
- adapt communication by choosing tone, vocabulary and techniques appropriate to different contexts and audiences
- use language for a range of purposes.

This unit will be in the form of a written examination assessment which will be available from the summer 2028 series onwards. The examination will be set and marked by WJEC.

Within Section A, there will be a collection of non-literary set texts chosen by WJEC. Currently, we are considering extracts from the book *Stori'r Iaith* edited by Ceri Wyn Jones. We anticipate that candidates will study up to six non-literary set texts within this unit. Previously unseen literary and non-literary texts will also be included in the examination. Introducing learners to the ways in which speakers and writers use language to construct meaning for different audiences, purposes and contexts will be the focus of this section.

Within Section B candidates will be required to complete an editing task(s). We will continue to review these task(s) during the development process, but we anticipate that it/they will focus on correcting non-literary text(s).

We anticipate that the duration of the exam will be 1 hour 30 minutes.

The unit will be worth 20% of the qualification. The unit will assess AO1 and AO2 equally.

Unit 3 – The Novel and Oracy

The purpose of this unit is to develop learners' ability to:

- understand and respond critically to a range of written texts
- select and evaluate relevant points to clarify and support interpretations
- demonstrate knowledge of a specific text and the significance of its social, historical and cultural background, using critical analysis and evaluating alternative interpretations
- communicate correctly, clearly and in a structured manner, showing a variety of linguistic characteristics
- interact and respond to others and consider their contributions and views
- develop relevant viewpoints and ideas, summarise and reach conclusions.

Centres will study a post-1990 set novel. The set texts will be selected by WJEC. There will be a choice of four or five set novels. Currently, we are considering the following novels:

- *Bechgyn Drwg am Byth* Llwyd Owen
- *Dadeni* Ifan Morgan Jones
- *Martha, Jac a Sianco* Caryl Lewis
- *Dan Gadarn Goncrit* Mihangel Morgan
- *Llanw* Manon Steffan Ros
- *Nelan a Bo* Angharad Price
- *Y Dŵr* Lloyd Jones

Candidates will be required to discuss:

- the significance of events
- characterisation
- character relationships
- style
- themes
- the portrayal of society and the period, where appropriate
- the author's attitude to life as presented through his/her work.

There will be a synoptic element to this unit giving learners the opportunity to demonstrate knowledge and understanding by making appropriate connections between various aspects of the subject. Candidates will be expected to consider other interpretations. These include comments made by literary critics and references to literary and non-literary texts with which they have engaged independently. The non-literary texts could be written, visual and/or audio texts.

The unit will be assessed through an oral examination which will be available from the 2029 summer series onwards.

The unit will be worth 20% of the qualification. The unit will assess AO1 and AO2 equally.

Candidates will be examined by a visiting examiner in pairs or groups of three. The duration of the examination will be up to 45 minutes.

Unit 4 – Non-Examination Tasks

The purpose of this unit is to develop learners' ability to:

- respond critically and coherently to a range of written texts
- collate, comment on and evaluate sources of information, cross-referencing appropriately and summarizing and reaching meaningful conclusions
- write creatively and factually
- communicate correctly, clearly and in a structured manner, showing a variety of linguistic characteristics
- use translinguaging skills.

There will be three tasks within this unit. There will be different levels of control for different tasks in this unit depending on the nature of the tasks.

Task 1 – Poetry

WJEC will select a broad range of set poems from different periods (6th Century – 21st Century) in a variety of measures. They will be arranged into four separate columns.

The first column of poems will be compulsory; centres will be expected to study all poems in this column. We are currently considering including the following poems in this column:

- *Cilmeri* Gerallt Lloyd Owen (specific extract)
- *Atgof* Gwynfor Dafydd (specific extract)
- a collection of 'englynion' from different periods.

The other columns of poems will be divided into different periods. One column will contain poems from the 6th Century - 10th Century, another will contain poems from the 15th Century - 16th Century and one will contain poems from the 17th Century - 21st Century. We anticipate that there will be a choice of five or six poems in each of these columns and that centres will choose one poem from each column.

WJEC will either set a specific question for this task or suggest a series of sample questions that centres will be able to adapt.

Through their personal response, candidates will be required to address the following aspects:

- themes and ideas
- poetic skills
- metre
- language
- styles and figures of speech
- the poet's attitude to life.

It is expected that the length of the task will be between 2,000 – 3,000 words.

Task 2 – Extended Writing

Candidates will be required to write an extended piece in one of the following forms:

- short story

- the first chapter of a novel
- diary
- monologue
- a series of blog
- portrayal
- part of an autobiography
- a script based on a short story for stage, television or radio
- an editorial article for a newspaper or magazine
- journalist's report

We will revisit these forms during the development process.

It is expected that the length of the task will be between 1,000 – 2,000 words.

Task 3 – Researching and Expressing an Opinion

Candidates will be required to produce an essay or written speech, suitable for delivery, presenting an opinion or point of view.

For this task, candidates are expected to have researched the topic chosen by them and demonstrate that they are able to use bilingual audio, visual and/or written sources and cross-reference them when expressing an opinion on the topic. They are expected to be able to reflect on viewpoints and reach conclusions.

It is expected that the length of the task will be between 1,000 – 2,000 words.

The same subject should not be discussed in task 2 and task 3.

The unit will be assessed through non-examination assessment which will be available from the 2029 summer series onwards. The unit is marked by the centres and moderated by WJEC.

The unit will be worth 20% of the qualification. The unit will assess AO1 and AO2 equally across the unit.

Unit 5 – The Welsh Language in Context

The purpose of this unit is to develop learners' ability to:

- respond critically and coherently to a written text by selecting and interpreting relevant material
- understand the significance of purpose, audience and context in communication
- communicate correctly, clearly and in a structured manner, showing a variety of linguistic characteristics
- communicate using various linguistic registers and use Welsh effectively in a variety of situations and contexts and for different purposes and audiences
- write factually.

This unit will be in the form of a written examination assessment which will be available from the summer 2029 series onwards. The examination will be set and marked by WJEC.

Within Section A candidates will be required to write a piece in one of the forms below. When writing, they will be expected to be aware of the tone and audience appropriate to the task:

- news bulletin
- main news item
- press release
- minutes of a meeting
- newspaper report
- instructions
- speech/address.

We will revisit these forms during the development process.

In the examination, candidates will be given reading materials such as facts, statistics, notes etc. as a basis for the writing. Candidates will be able to expand on, or add to, the information provided if appropriate.

Within Section B candidates will be required to complete an editing task(s). We will continue to review these task(s) during the development process, but we anticipate that it/they will focus on improving and/or collating non-literary text(s).

We anticipate that the length of the exam will be up to 2 hours, but we will continue to review this during the development process.

The unit will be worth 20% of the qualification. The unit will assess AO1 and AO2 equally.

Rationale

In developing this proposed qualification outline, we have considered manageability, engagement, validity and reliability, and how to balance these considerations in the context of the requirements of Qualifications Wales' (QW) [AS and A levels in Cymraeg Decisions Report](#) and [Approval Criteria](#) (AC).

Unit 1

The AC for AS and A Level Cymraeg Language and Literature state that:

- a total of 40% of the qualification must be assessed through oracy examinations, which are set and marked by WJEC
- oracy examinations must be assessed by an external examiner in person
- oracy examinations must be included as part of the AS and A2 units
- oracy examinations must target both assessment objectives
- the oracy examination at AS must assess the knowledge and understanding of the drama or film
- each of the oracy examinations at AS and A level must not require more than one set text to be studied in full.

To meet these requirements, Unit 1 will take the form of an oral examination worth 20% of the overall qualification and will be assessed by an external examiner.

Candidates will be required to explore and study the film *Y Sŵn* or the play *Blodeuwedd*. These texts replace the current set texts. This change reflects feedback from QW's Decisions Report which notes that content needs to be updated and modernised to improve the qualification's relevance. The new texts also link to the AC by offering learners an opportunity to develop an understanding of the culture and traditions of Wales and an opportunity to develop an understanding of the development, status and use of the Welsh Language.

Unit 2

In accordance with the AC, this unit enables learners to study a range of literary and non-literary texts, and to understand the significance of purpose, audience and context when communicating. The editing task(s) offers further opportunities for learners to understand the status and use of the Welsh language in a bilingual country, and to see the significance of their contribution to a bilingual community, society and workplace.

Unit 3

In addition to the requirements regarding oral assessments noted in Unit 1, the AC also note that:

- the oracy examination in the A2 unit must assess the knowledge and understanding of the contemporary prose text and provide opportunities for learners to demonstrate knowledge and understanding by making appropriate connections between various aspects of the subject
- oracy examinations across the qualification must include opportunities to demonstrate knowledge and understanding in a range of contexts, including literary and non-literary (not all oral examinations must include both).

To meet these requirements, Unit 3 will take the form of an oral examination worth 20% of the overall qualification. In line with the AC, this unit will be assessed by a visiting examiner. Candidates will be required to explore and study a post-1990 novel chosen from a specified list set by WJEC. These texts replace the current set texts, although some of the current texts may be available within this new qualification if they meet the AC requirements.

Candidates will be required to refer to other texts and consider other interpretations including those of literary critics.

Unit 4

For Task 1 – Poetry, a specific question or a choice of questions will be released annually. The question or choice of questions will be released in June each year, which should provide sufficient time for learners to develop the required skills, knowledge and understanding. Centres are also likely to consider starting this unit in the summer term of the first year, therefore June is deemed an appropriate time for the release of the question(s).

There will be three tasks within this unit. There will be different levels of control for different tasks in this unit depending on the nature of the tasks. An element of high control is required to help ensure a level of integrity, fairness, authenticity, validity and reliability. Lower controls are however considered appropriate for the creative task as the purpose of this task is to encourage originality and creativity.

The three tasks link to the AC by offering learners the opportunity to write creatively and factually for a range of purposes, use language for a range of practical purposes, including translanguaging and critically analysing and conveying a personal response to a variety of texts.

Unit 5

In accordance with the AC, this unit enables learners to write factually, use language for a range of practical purposes, including editing and to understand the significance of purpose, audience and context when communicating.

The proposed task for Section A is already a task within the Unit 6 examination: Appreciation of Literature and the Welsh Language in Context of the current A level qualification. Teachers and learners have noted the relevance of the task and the fact that it develops key work skills and therefore we are very keen to include it within the new qualification.

Section B links to the AC by offering further opportunities to build on learners' ability to use language for a variety of practical purposes, taking into account the purpose and the audience.