

INFORMATION FOR LEARNERS

Sent by email to all schools and colleges in Wales

23 March 2021

Dear Learner

We wrote to you on [4 March](#) with information about GCSEs, AS and A level assessment in summer 2021. We gave you a timeline of key dates, and information about the appeals process and equalities issues. Today we have published [version 3](#) of our guidance for schools and colleges. There is more information about the assessment approach for summer 2021, routes for private candidates and vocational qualifications. We have also announced information about the assessment approach for summer 2022.

Assessment approach for approved GCSE, AS and A levels in summer 2021

Your school or college will soon tell you about the overall assessment plan that they will use to decide your grades this year (or they may have already outlined this to you). Your school or college should not provide **specific details** of the assessment questions that will be used. This is because it is important that the assessments give a true picture of your level of attainment in the subject.

Quality assurance of provisional centre determined grades in summer 2021

In our latest guidance, we've given information to your school or college about how WJEC will review the provisional grades for your school or college. Once provisional grades are sent to WJEC, they will look at the overall pattern of grades for your school or college. If there are any issues, WJEC will not change any grades but will discuss them with your school or college. This is to provide confidence to you, your parents or carers and those who use these grades (employers and higher education institutions). It builds on other parts of the quality assurance processes in place this year that will help to provide consistency in the approaches taken by schools and colleges across Wales.

Private Candidates

We've provided more information for schools and colleges about the arrangements for private candidates taking approved Wales-only qualifications offered by WJEC this year. This information is important to learners who are not enrolled at a school or college and need a centre to agree to enter them for a qualification. This includes WJEC GCSEs, AS and A levels and the Skills Challenge Certificate qualifications. There are two routes for private candidates: a centre-assessed route and a centre-hosted route.

- **Centre-assessed route** - If you are a private candidate and you already know a school or college that has already agreed to enter you for a qualification, this can continue as planned. The school or college will assess you using the same approach as for their own learners. The school or college will produce your Centre Determined Grade and will review your grade before sending it to WJEC, if you ask for it. The school or college will need to follow the Qualifications Wales guidance and WJEC's requirements to produce a Centre Determined Grade.
- **Centre-hosted route** – If you are a private candidate and you do not already have a qualification entry agreed with a school or college, you will be able to use this route. Welsh Government and local authorities are working to identify schools or colleges across Wales that will enter private candidates. Welsh Government will publish a list of these centres on 12 April and we will share the link with you.

If you are a private candidate studying for qualifications that are not approved Wales-only GCSEs, AS or A Levels offered by WJEC, more information will be published shortly.

Vocational qualifications – Ofqual will be publishing an [explainer tool](#) on Wednesday that will include high-level information on the approach for all vocational qualifications, including those available to learners in Wales. More detailed information on the approaches for qualifications that will receive a Centre Determined Grade will be available from the awarding bodies over the Easter period.

Assessment approaches for GCSEs, AS and A levels and Skills Challenge Certificate qualifications in summer 2022

We have announced today that assessment requirements for approved Wales-only qualifications offered by WJEC in Summer 2022 will be adapted. We believe this is needed now because of the disruption to your learning caused by the pandemic. WJEC will consult with your teachers and lecturers, to understand what should be adapted. More information about the approach will then be published by WJEC in May.

SUMMER 2021



If you have any specific questions, please contact the stakeholder engagement team or email communications@qualificationswales.org.

Yours sincerely,

Philip Blaker
Chief Executive

