



# QUALIFICATIONS 2021

## INTRODUCTION

In November 2020, Education Minister Kirsty Williams announced that GCSEs, AS levels and A levels were cancelled for summer 2021. In January 2021, it was confirmed that these qualifications would be awarded using **Centre Determined Grades** (CDGs). This means that schools and colleges, will determine the grades awarded for each qualification.

This document provides an outline of how the school will apply the ***Guidance on Alternative Arrangements for Approved GCSEs, AS and A levels*** provided by the examination regulator, Qualifications Wales, in order to determine grades in 2021.

## CENTRE DETERMINED GRADES (CDGS) - OVERVIEW

- A Centre Determined Grade (or CDG) is a grade awarded by the school, based on attainment demonstrated in the areas of the qualification content that a student has covered.
- For each qualification, teachers will use WJEC Qualification Assessment Frameworks which include descriptors for key grades.
- Grades must be underpinned by evidence to demonstrate a student's attainment across key themes and skills. This evidence will vary per qualification, as determined by the requirements of each WJEC Qualification Assessment Framework.
- It is not permitted for Centre Determined Grades to be based on the potential of a student.
- The school will be required to make judgements based across a range of evidence.
- Where evidence shows attainment is below that required of the lowest grade for a qualification (ie. G grade at GCSE; E grade at AS/A level), then a student will be awarded a Centre Determined Grade of U.

## EVIDENCE

Centre Determined Grades will be awarded using evidence of work completed by a student, using the adapted specification content. These adaptations were made by the examination board to account for the impact of the pandemic on students' educational experience.

The following types of evidence will be used:-

**1) Adapted past-paper questions** - WJEC adapted past-paper assessments will take place in lessons over the next half term. We have calendared two assessment windows, so that the assessments are spread over a period of time. This will allow time for teachers to prepare students in advance and students will not be assessed on anything that has not been taught. These tasks represent the opportunities for students to provide evidence of their skills and understanding and will take place during their normal timetabled lessons in a controlled environment. Class teachers will communicate further details about these assessments and exactly when they will happen.

**2. Non-Examination Assessment (NEA) where applicable.** Where NEA remains part of an adapted qualification, teachers will use the performance of students in this element to contribute towards the determination of a grade alongside the adapted past paper assessments. Teachers will consider the weighting of the NEA, in relation to the qualification as a whole as per the specification. In some subjects, work on NEA has been ongoing for some time already and this may continue throughout the coming weeks. Subject teachers will communicate with students about the deadlines related to NEA in the subjects where it is applicable.

### 3. Other contributing evidence

Other assessments deemed appropriate by the school, undertaken prior to or after the publication of the school approach, may be used to help **confirm** a grade judgement. However, this evidence cannot be used in isolation to determine grades. This type of evidence will not be used to lower grades.

## SCHEDULE

The following schedule indicates when adapted past paper assessment tasks are planned to take place. Given the unpredictable nature of the pandemic, this schedule is subject to change, should circumstances require.

During assessment weeks students will continue to attend lessons as normal. Subject teachers will inform students exactly when their assessments will happen.

All adapted past paper assessments will be carried out in classrooms under controlled conditions. Students will receive their entitlement to access arrangements. These are assessments which will provide students with opportunities to provide evidence of their skills and understanding.

<b>ASSESSMENT SCHEDULE 2021</b>					
		<b>GCSE - Y11</b>	<b>AS - Y12</b>	<b>A2 - Y13</b>	
27	A	MON 12/04/2021	<i>Teaching / Revision / NEA work</i>		
		TUE 13/04/2021			
		WED 14/04/2021			
		THU 15/04/2021			
		FRI 16/04/2021			
28	B	MON 19/04/2021	<b>Core Subjects Window 1</b>	<b>Group 1 Subjects Window 1</b>	<b>Group 1 Subjects Window 1</b>
		TUE 20/04/2021			
		WED 21/04/2021			
		THU 22/04/2021			
		FRI 23/04/2021			
29	A	MON 26/04/2021	<b>Options Subjects &amp; Welsh Reading/Writing Window 1 Y10 Numeracy</b>	<b>Group 2 Subjects Window 1</b>	<b>Group 2 Subjects Window 1</b>
		TUE 27/04/2021			
		WED 28/04/2021			
		THU 29/04/2021			
		FRI 30/04/2021			
30	B	MON 03/05/2021	<i>Monday - May Bank Holiday Tuesday - Friday Teaching / Revision / NEA work / GCSE MFL Orals Catch up Assessments where necessary</i>		
		TUE 04/05/2021			
		WED 05/05/2021			
		THU 06/05/2021			
		FRI 07/05/2021			
31	A	MON 10/05/2021	<b>Core Subjects &amp; Welsh Oral Window 2</b>	<b>Group 1 Subjects Window 2</b>	<b>Group 1 Subjects Window 2</b>
		TUE 11/05/2021			
		WED 12/05/2021			
		THU 13/05/2021			
		FRI 14/05/2021			
32	B	MON 17/05/2021	<b>Options Subjects &amp; Welsh Reading/Writing Window 2 Y10 Numeracy</b>	<b>Group 2 Subjects Window 2</b>	<b>Group 2 Subjects Window 2</b>
		TUE 18/05/2021			
		WED 19/05/2021			
		THU 20/05/2021			
		FRI 21/05/2021			
33	A	MON 24/05/2021	<i>Teaching/NEA work Catch up Assessments where necessary</i>		
		TUE 25/05/2021			
		WED 26/05/2021			
		THU 27/05/2021			
		FRI 28/05/2021			
<b>HALF TERM</b>					

### Subject Groups

At key stage 4 we have grouped the subjects into core and options subjects. The core subjects are English, Maths and Science. Welsh assessments have been spaced out, using both core and option windows as shown above. All other subject past paper assessments will take place in the options windows.

At key stage 5 subjects have been put into two groups.

<b>KS5 Group 1 Subjects</b>	<b>KS5 Group 2 Subjects</b>
Chemistry English Literature Maths Design Technology French Geography History German Law Music PE Psychology Religious Studies	Biology Physics Business Drama Economics Computer Science ICT Media Sociology Welsh
Art is assessed purely through a student's portfolio which is worked on throughout this time	

## QUALITY ASSURANCE

WJEC require quality assurance processes to be undertaken to ensure accuracy and consistency. The school will undertake a rigorous standardisation and quality assurance process to ensure the grades determined are valid, reliable, equitable and fair. In developing an approach to centre determined grades in 2021, the school has taken steps to ensure it meets its Public Sector Equality Duty.

## APPEALS

### Stage 1 – School Review of Centre Determined Grades

The school will be required to submit CDGs to WJEC by the specified date. Prior to this point, students will be informed of their provisional CDGs. Students can request a review of the school's judgement of their grade. The school will conduct a review, however new or additional evidence cannot be considered as part of the process. Please note any grade adjustments could be **up or down**.

### Stage 2 Appeal

After the results day, candidates can appeal to WJEC regarding their grade. WJEC will conduct a review. Please note any grade adjustments could be **up or down**.

### Stage 3 – EPRS Exam Procedures Review Service

Following an unsuccessful appeal to WJEC, candidates can request an Exams Procedures Review Service which is the final stage of the appeals process.

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQS)

### What is different from last year's approach to Centre grades?

*Last year the national lockdown meant that schools closed suddenly and grades had to be based on evidence which schools already held. This year students will undertake adapted past paper assessments in controlled conditions to provide evidence.*

### I'm worried we haven't finished the course in some of my subjects – how will this impact on my grade?

*You will only be assessed on work that has been covered, therefore all assessments will be adapted to take that into account.*

### I'm entitled to extra time, a reader or a scribe – will this still happen?

*Yes – we will ensure that any access arrangements are catered for during the assessments*

### What happens if I miss an assessment due to illness or I have to self-isolate?

*As you can see from the schedule above there is some flexibility in the system. If necessary we will move assessments or make alternative arrangements to accommodate changing circumstances.*

### **Will I get my assessments back?**

*No. Your assessments need to go through marking and moderation processes to ensure accuracy and fairness. It will not be possible to return work or marks to students as this evidence needs to be retained and used as part of the quality assurance and grade awarding processes.*

### **I'm worried about these assessments who should I talk to?**

*We do understand that this is an anxious time for you. However, the work you have been doing all year, both in school and remotely will have prepared you for these assessments and you still have time to prepare, both in school with your teachers to guide you and at home. Your teachers and the achievement team are all here to support you. Make sure you speak to them if you have any questions or just need some support.*

### **When will I know my grade?**

*Current guidance states that provisional grades will be shared with students by 25<sup>th</sup> June. However, given the current circumstances, all dates are subject to change should circumstances require. The WJEC published results date for GCSE is 12<sup>th</sup> August and for A and AS Level is 10<sup>th</sup> August*

### **I'm studying GCSE Economics which is awarded by an English exam board – are the arrangements any different?**

*GCSE Economics is not offered by the WJEC. Students studying GCSE Economics undertake the qualification which is awarded by the OCR examination board, which falls under the control of the English exam regulator, however, the process for awarding your grade is the same as for your other subjects.*

### **I'm studying Additional Maths – how will this be assessed?**

*We are currently waiting for further guidance around the arrangements for this qualification and your teachers will let you know as soon as we have more information.*

### **I'm in Y10 how does this affect me?**

*Students in Y10 were due to sit the whole of the Numeracy GCSE qualification. This means that your grade for this qualification will be a Centre Determined Grade. Students in Y10 will undertake the same types of assessments as described above in order that the school can arrive at a CDG, but only for Maths Numeracy. These will take place in the weeks beginning 26<sup>th</sup> April and 17<sup>th</sup> May. Your teachers will let you know exactly when these assessments will take place. The unit exams you were due to take in History, Science and ICT have been cancelled and there is nothing replacing these for Summer 2021.*

### **Will my AS grades contribute to my A2 for 2022?**

*No. You will be awarded an AS grade, but this will not contribute to your A2 grade next year. The details about how A2 grades will be calculated in 2022 have not yet been released.*

### **When do we leave school?**

*School leaving dates have not yet been confirmed.*