



15th November 2021

Dear Parent/Carer,

Qualifications Wales wrote to all learners in March to inform them that the summer 2022 GCSEs qualifications will be assessed by exams and non-examination assessment (NEA), for qualifications that have NEA. Once exams and NEA tasks have been marked, WJEC will award their grades.

As you may know, WJEC have made changes to the qualifications for summer 2022 following a short consultation with schools, colleges, learners and parents earlier this year. There is information about these changes available on WJEC's website. These changes are in place because of the disruption to learning caused by the pandemic (in the previous year and during this academic year). They are different in each qualification and will help learners focus their time when it comes to preparing for their exams next summer.

What happens if exams cannot go ahead in summer 2022?

We expect exams to take place as planned and they will only be cancelled in exceptional circumstances. But, if the exam series is cancelled, then a contingency approach (a backup plan) will be needed. In this case we, as a school, will be asked to award learners grades based on their work in assessments across the qualification. The process will be similar to the one that was used in summer 2021.

If exams are cancelled, summer 2022 centre determined grades will be awarded on the basis of demonstrated attainment in areas of the qualification content that a learner has covered. Centre determined grades are not the same as target or predicted grades as they will not be awarded on the basis of potential attainment.

Each grade awarded by the school must be underpinned by robust evidence to demonstrate a learner's attainment across key themes and skills. These forms of evidence will vary per qualification, as determined by the requirements of each WJEC Qualification. Some subjects have Non-Examination Assessments (NEAs or 'coursework') that will contribute to the evidence whilst other subjects will rely on in class assessments and mocks.

It will not be possible or permitted for teachers, or the school, to attempt to issue a Centre Determined Grade based on professional prediction, target or predicted grades or the potential of a learner but only by actual evidence of learner work.

The evidence that would be used can best be split into two categories:

- In class assessments and mocks which learners will complete between now and the summer.
- NEAs/coursework.
- Other "subsidiary evidence" from earlier in the course could be used to back up the Centre Determined Grades judgement.
- The assessment evidence collected must cover all assessment objectives and represent sufficient coverage of breadth of specification content requirements. The number of pieces and type of evidence required will not be prescribed, since this will vary by qualification and how key themes and skills are organised in assessments.

Learners must be aware that assessments carried out over the next few terms could be used as evidence of attainment, rather than relying more on assessments carried out in the final weeks of the course, if exams are cancelled. This helps to spread the assessments out for learners and for school staff who will be marking assessments. It also reduces the risk linked to leaving most assessment until the end of the course and the public health situation at that time making this difficult.





Arrangements for summer 2022 exams

For most learners, summer 2022 will be the first time they will be assessed via external exams. We realise that this may be concerning for many learners and, as a school, we will be preparing learners for this over the coming months with the reintroduction of mocks in years 10&11. Timetables for these will follow shortly.

The two most important factors to consider this academic year with regard to qualifications are:

- unless exams are cancelled, you are preparing for assessment via exams in summer 2022, in line with the adapted qualification assessment requirements, and
- contingency arrangements are planned, just in case the public health situation leads to the cancellation of exams. **It is a backup plan.**

WJEC have published their final exam timetable for summer 2022, the links for these are below:
[GCSE - summer-2022-wales-and-eduqas-gcse-final-exam-timetable-20-10-21.pdf](#)

The awarding bodies have designated Wednesday 29 June 2022 as a 'contingency day' for examinations. This is consistent with the qualification regulators' document Exam system contingency plan: England, Wales and Northern Ireland:

[Exam system contingency plan: England, Wales and Northern Ireland - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)

The designation of a 'contingency day' within the common examination timetable is in the event of national or significant local disruption to examinations in the United Kingdom. It is part of the awarding bodies' standard contingency planning for examinations. **Therefore, all candidates must remain available until Wednesday 29 June 2022 should an awarding body need to invoke its contingency plan.**

Contingency approach for vocational qualifications

Adaptations are in place for the assessment of vocational qualifications in 2021/22. These vary across awarding bodies depending on the purpose of the qualification and how they are structured and assessed. Where vocational qualifications are assessed by examination, these will go ahead as planned in 2021/22. As is the case for general qualifications, should there be further significant disruption that results in the cancellation of future examinations series, contingency arrangements will be put in place. Centre Determined Grades (Teacher Assessed Grades (TAG) as they are often referred to in vocational qualifications) may be reintroduced for those qualifications that were eligible for a CDG/TAG in summer 2021. You can read more about the contingency arrangements for vocational qualifications that are available in both Wales and England here:

[Contingencies for 2021 to 2022: For vocational and technical qualifications \(VTQs\) and other general qualifications \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](#)

If you wish to discuss any aspect regarding these arrangements, then could you please email the following address:
exams@penydre.merthyr.sch.uk

Yours Sincerely

Mr N Morgan
Assistant Head



PEN Y DRE
HIGH SCHOOL

