

Q&A

Important Note: We have answered the questions that were submitted through the 'chat' function during the event that was held on 11th March 2021 and these are below. Since that event, more information has been received from Qualifications Wales and the WJEC. As a result, these answers have been modified on Monday 16th March 2021 to reflect the current information.

Q. Are you able to give an indication of what CAN'T be used as other evidence? Or is it too soon?

A. This detail will be available in the Subject Assessment plan when it is released.

Q. Where can I find the option columns?

A. Please refer to your son/daughter's timetable via Class Charts where you will see a subject marked 11D/subject for example. This would indicate the subject is from Option Column D. Options in GCSE subjects are A to D and options in the 6th Form are A to E.

Q. Is there a weighting between the adapted assessments and the evidence? So 60/40 or whatever?

A. This depends on the subject as all subjects have different weightings normally. This detail will be available in the Subject Assessment plan when they are released.

Q. Do you expect CDGs to vary significantly from previous predicted grades?

A. As CDGs are based on evidence that is still to be produced/collected, it is not possible to say.

Q. For Year 13, will the 7th May be their last day in school?

A. No. Normal lessons will continue after this, so pupils are expected to attend school after this date. The date for leaving school has not yet been established.

Q. Can we get confirmation on which subjects are going to be covered by the adapted assessment?

A. There are very few subjects that will *not* have an adapted assessment, namely Art, Photography and the Skills Challenge. We are still awaiting further guidance from exam boards regarding Vocational Qualifications such as Enterprise and Marketing, Medical Science, Criminology, Sport and Coaching, Construction, Entry Level and Humanities. This will be communicated to you as soon as we receive it.

Q. What happens if you haven't done some Skills Challenge/Welsh Bacc work? Will you be able to get into sixth form?

A. As stated in our 6th Form entry requirements, students need to have a C grade in the National/Foundation Welsh Baccalaureate Skills Challenge in order to cope with the demands of the Advanced Welsh Baccalaureate Skills Challenge. Therefore having only completed 'some' of the qualification will not allow entry to the 6th Form.

Q. Do we now need to start revising the course content?

A. Yes, your subject teacher will guide you with this.

Q. Are students able to stay behind after school to finish off work etc in the LRC?

A. With prior arrangement, pupils may stay behind after school to finish off work. 6th Form students can use the 6th Form Centre with prior arrangement before Easter and this will then be open for them to work in after Easter as normal.

Q. Will different assessment papers be used for different classes to make them fair?

A. Within a subject, if there are multiple classes, they will all sit the same paper. This is to ensure fairness and equality across the subject. All pupils have access to past papers and topic lists in order to prepare.

Q. Will we know what is coming up in the assessments, for example which topics?

A. Your teacher will provide a topic list of what has been taught to you. We cannot tell you exactly what will be in the adapted assessment, but these will be based on past papers or specimen assessment materials (SAMs) which are in the public domain.

Q. Can you share any subject specific plans or have these not been completed yet?

A. Heads of Faculty and subject leaders are currently working on these. These will be shared as soon as they are available.

Q. Will teaching the courses stop after the assessments have been completed? What will they be doing in class after that?

A. Teaching will continue until the pupils leave school. This date will be confirmed as soon as possible.

Q. Can you ensure that any student who is entitled to extra time is provided with this for all subjects as this has not always been the case whilst in school previously?

A. Yes. Any child who has approved Access Arrangements in place will receive these for the adapted assessments. If you are concerned regarding this please contact the exams office who will be able to check on planned access arrangements.

Q. What to do if my child is behind in his subjects and is struggling to catch up in year 12?

A. Teaching staff will support pupils when they return to school in terms of consolidating their learning; it is advised that pupils discuss their progress with teachers to ensure they are aware of the gaps in their learning. This will be further supported by the 6th Form Centre being open after school and students still have 4 months to make sure they are fully prepared for demands of Year 13.

Q. Why are the adapted assessments so close after this lockdown? Shouldn't they have replaced their exams schedule?

A. We are governed by the timeline provided to us by Qualifications Wales. In our programme, we must allow time for marking, moderation, standardisation and then submission to WJEC and other exam boards.

Q. Will all adapted papers be based on past papers or could they be based on new questions?

A. Adapted assessments will only be based on past paper questions.

Q.Where a pupil has SEN, are you going to be able to do all the catch-up with such pupils that will be necessary for them to achieve an award? Taking into account that SEN usually needs more one to one input.

A. Support for pupils with additional needs has been in place throughout the lockdown periods. If there are any particular concerns then please address these with the relevant Head of Year who will be able to respond on an individual basis.

Q.Is there a minimum amount of the syllabus that needs to be covered, and if so have all subjects met this minimum requirement?

A.No. It will vary hugely across Wales. Pupils will only be tested on what has been taught to them. Subjects will, however, need to cover the assessment objectives within their specifications.

Q.Is there a timeline after the assessments have taken place? After 3rd-7th May what happens?

A.During this period, further evidence will be collected from classwork, homework etc. This is also the period when marking, moderation and standardisation will happen and the CDG will be determined.

Q.Will the past papers be from the WJEC board only or from other boards as well such as Eduqas?

A.If you are sitting a WJEC qualification, the adapted assessment will be based on WJEC past papers. There are some qualifications from other exam boards and you would complete an adapted assessment from the relevant board. GCSE Sociology is an Eduqas qualification.

Q.What will happen for GCSE resits?

A.Pupils sitting GCSE resits this year will need to sit the adapted assessment in that subject and other evidence will also need to be collected in order to produce a CDG.

Q.Will parents receive confirmation of dates of planned assessments?

A.Subject teachers will communicate primarily through Google Classroom on this information. The school will also write to parents giving the overall schedule for next term.

Q.If the assessments are not split by tiers, is there a risk that pupils in lower tiers get assessed on work they haven't completed?

A.There will be different adapted assessment papers for the different tiers. Your teachers will speak to you more about this next week.

Q.Will results for the assessments be given to us?

A.You will receive a Decision Making Record alongside your provisional Centre Determined Grade in June. This will provide an overview on your outcomes in each element of the CDG for that particular subject.

Q.How will University Open Evenings coordinate with the assessments?

A.These events should not affect pupils' assessments as University Open Days and related events are currently virtual and often run during the evening. Additionally, most are now recorded and available on their websites after the event. Pupils are sent a weekly list of

events by the Head of 6th Form, highlighting events offered by those universities traditionally most popular with our students so they can plan accordingly. Many pupils are already attending these events.

Q.Hello Mr Lewis, is there any team/teachers that keep checking their wellbeing?

A.Each Head of Year and their Learning Coaches have been checking pupils' wellbeing throughout the various lockdown periods. This will continue when pupils return to school.

Q.Where can we find the syllabus numbers to download papers?

A. Your subject teacher will be able to guide you on how to access the relevant past papers.

Q.Do we still have time to get a better grade after CDGs grades are submitted?

A.Once the grades have been submitted there is no opportunity to improve other than to resit the qualification the following year, using the same process as usual. It is important to stress, however, that there is still lots of time to improve your likely CDG now through your preparation for the adapted assessments and in other work you do which could provide evidence towards your CDG.

Q.On results day will students be given grades for each unit? Or just the subject grades?

A.Pupils will receive one overall qualification grade for the subject. There are no unit grades this year.