

## WJEC Coronavirus FAQs: GCSE, AS/A level, and Non-Examination Assessment (NEA)

**Bryntirion's current guidance; we are expecting further clarification from Qualifications Wales, WJEC and OFQUAL (for vocational subjects) by Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> April. Our policy is for there to be no discussion between staff and pupils/parents around the Teacher Predicted Grade.**

Due to the recent government decision to close schools and colleges in Wales and the cancellation of the summer examination series, teachers and candidates have been asking how this will affect them. Below are some frequently asked questions and their answers.

WJEC is working with the regulators to ensure a fair outcome for candidates. Not all questions can be answered fully at this time. Please bear with us and check this page regularly for updates to the questions and answers.

These questions and answers apply to Qualifications Wales approved AS/A levels and GCSEs only. They do not apply to Ofqual regulated Eduqas AS, A level and GCSE qualifications. Please see the Eduqas website for updates on these qualifications.

If the question you have is not covered here, please contact [info@wjec.co.uk](mailto:info@wjec.co.uk).

### • **Why have the summer examinations been cancelled rather than postponed?**

In response to the coronavirus outbreak, the Welsh Government decided to close all schools and colleges from 23<sup>rd</sup> March and to cancel the summer examination series. Given the unprecedented circumstances and the threat to the health of the nation, they decided that cancellation was more appropriate than postponement.

### • **Will candidates still receive grades this summer?**

A level and GCSE candidates who are cashing in a qualification, i.e. have entered and/or completed all units, will receive a grade for each qualification they have been entered for this summer.

### • **Will candidates in year 12 receive AS grades?**

AS learners will be awarded a qualification in a similar way to those taking GCSEs and A levels this summer. For details of how this will contribute to final A level grades the following year, please refer to the statement on our website.

This information was shared with staff, students and parents on Friday 27<sup>th</sup> March, 2020.

### • **Will candidates sitting GCSEs early (in year 10) receive a grade for the qualification?**

Where a candidate is entered for an entire GCSE in year 10, that is, they have entered and/or completed all units, they will be awarded a grade this summer. Where a candidate is not entered for all units, unit grades will not be awarded this summer. For further information, please refer to the statement on our [website](#)

This information was shared with staff, students and parents on Friday 27<sup>th</sup> March, 2020.

### • **If a candidate is just cashing in units for a qualification sat in a previous series, will they receive a grade?**

Yes, if a candidate has entered and completed all units for the qualification previously, provided cash in requirements have been met, they will receive a grade.

• **How will grades be awarded for individual candidates?**

We are working closely with Qualifications Wales to determine how grades for individual candidates will be awarded this summer. Information will be provided to centres in due course.

• **How will WJEC ensure candidates receive fair grades?**

We are committed to ensuring that candidates receive fair grades and more information will be published in due course about how grades will be awarded.

• **When will candidates receive their grades?**

A level and GCSE candidates will receive their results by the published results days.

• **Will I be able to challenge my final grade?**

There will be no reviews of marking or moderation based on a marked assessment. However, discussions are underway with Qualifications Wales on a possible appeals process for candidates.

• **Will candidates in other jurisdictions still be able to take their exams this summer?**

Unfortunately, as the summer exam series is not running in Wales, candidates in other jurisdictions sitting WJEC qualifications will not be able to sit these exams either.

• **If a centre closed earlier than other centres, and they missed more teaching, will they be able to apply for Special Consideration?**

No, this will not be possible, given that grades will be awarded based on teacher assessments. Teachers will be expected to base their grades on what would be achieved in normal circumstances, therefore special consideration would not be appropriate in this instance. Further guidance will be provided to teachers in due course.

• **I am an external/privately tutored candidate. How will I receive an overall grade?**

Arrangements are still being discussed with Qualifications Wales. Further information will be made available in due course.

## **WJEC General Qualifications and Skills Challenge Certificate NEA FAQs**

Due to the recent government decision to close schools and colleges in Wales and the cancellation of the summer examination series, not all learners have had the opportunity to complete their non-examination assessment work. This has led to a number of questions from centres. Below are the most frequently asked questions. Please note that these questions refer to Qualifications Wales regulated GCSEs and AS/A levels. They do not apply to Ofqual regulated GCSEs, AS and A levels designated for use in Wales by Qualifications Wales. For further updates on these qualifications please refer to our Eduqas website. If the question you have is not covered here, please contact [info@wjec.co.uk](mailto:info@wjec.co.uk)

**•Is WJEC still moderating internally assessed NEA work for the summer examination series?**

As not all candidates were able to complete their NEA work prior to centres closing on 20th March, we have agreed with Qualifications Wales, in order not to disadvantage any candidates, that we will not moderate samples of internally assessed NEA this summer.

**•Will centres receive marks from centre moderation visits for internally assessed units which have taken place?**

We were not able to visit all centres prior to centres closing or to fully quality assure the work of all visiting moderators. Consequently, in order not to disadvantage candidates, we will not provide centres with any provisional marks completed prior to the closure of centres.

**•Is WJEC still marking externally assessed NEA work for the summer examination series and how will these marks be used?**

Some oral and practical exam visits from a visiting examiner took place prior to schools closing. However, as not all visits had taken place and therefore not all centres have been marked, in order to not disadvantage some candidates, we will not progress with our quality assurance processes for centres that have been marked. As the marks are not quality assured, WJEC will not use them in awarding grades. However, for subjects where the assessments were completed for the entire cohort and submitted on or before 6th March, we will continue to mark and quality assure the marking.

**•In the light of school closures in Wales, will I still be required to submit completed NEA and input marks?**

No, as centres are now closed, we do not require teachers to submit their NEA samples or input marks.

**•Will teachers use the evidence from NEA in their teacher assessed grades?**

Teachers should consider the marks they have given for completed NEA in determining an appropriate teacher assessed grade for each candidate. Where NEA is incomplete, teachers will be expected to base their grades on what would be achieved in normal circumstances. Further guidance will be provided to centres in due course.

**•Are candidates able to complete NEA at home?**

WJEC will not be moderating or marking NEA this year, therefore we do not require candidates to undertake further work on NEA at home for submission this year. Some centres may choose to make separate arrangements for learners to undertake work at home outside of the assessment process to inform their teacher assessed grades. WJEC is not requiring this however, as we recognise that not all candidates will have access to the appropriate facilities to support completion of NEA.

We are encouraging students, where possible, to continue until Easter working on their NEAs. We feel this is important for year 13 learners to keep their minds active.

**•Should centres still standardise their centre's NEAs, if more than one teacher has marked the work?**

We advise that you internally standardise any work that you are basing your teacher assessed grades on, to ensure that the rank order is correct.