



Regulatory Document

Requirements for setting specified levels of attainment for the Skills Challenge Certificate qualifications (Welsh Baccalaureate)

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INTRODUCTION

The following document sets out Qualifications Wales' requirements for setting specified levels of attainment for:

1. *Foundation (post-16) Skills Challenge Certificate (Welsh Bacculaureate);*
2. *National (post-16) Skills Challenge Certificate (Welsh Bacculaureate);*
3. *Foundation/National (KS4) Skills Challenge Certificate (Welsh Bacculaureate);*
4. *Advanced Skills Challenge Certificate (Welsh Bacculaureate).*

The structure of the components and the grade (at component and Certificate level) differs between these qualifications. The Uniform Mark Scale (UMS) is used for the Skills Challenge Certificate and other unitised specifications as a device for reporting, recording and aggregating learners' unit assessment outcomes. The aim is to ensure that learners who achieve the same standard will have the same uniform mark, irrespective of when the component was taken.

The maximum uniform mark for any component depends on that component's weighting in the specification. There are four components common to each of the Skills Challenge Certificate qualifications, each with the same weighting per component, as follows:

- **Individual Project** - 50% weighting / maximum UMS of 150
- **Enterprise and Employability Challenge** - 20% weighting / maximum UMS of 60
- **Global Citizenship Challenge** - 15% weighting / maximum UMS of 45
- **Community Challenge** - 15 % weighting / maximum UMS of 45

When a learner has completed all four components, his / her uniform marks are aggregated, providing a total out of 300 and the grade is then determined. A learner must pass all four components in order to achieve a grade.

For ease of reference, the specified levels of attainment are referred to in this document as 'grades'.

Section one below refers to the general principles which apply across all Skills Challenge Certificate qualifications, whilst sections two to five outline the specific requirements for each qualification.

SECTION ONE - GENERAL REQUIREMENTS FOR SETTING SPECIFIED LEVELS OF ATTAINMENT APPLICABLE TO ALL SKILLS CHALLENGE CERTIFICATE QUALIFICATIONS

1. Aggregate marks must be calculated on the basis of a uniform mark scale (UMS):
 - a) Uniform marks for each component must be calculated in such a way as to maintain the learners' relative positions between raw grade boundaries.
 - b) Each component must be reported in uniform marks.
 - c) Uniform marks for each component must be added to generate a final grade for the qualification as a whole.
 - d) A mark of zero on the raw mark scale must be converted to zero on the UMS. The maximum raw mark for the component is always converted to the maximum uniform mark for the component.

SECTION TWO - REQUIREMENTS FOR SETTING SPECIFIED LEVELS OF ATTAINMENT FOR WJEC FOUNDATION (POST-16) SKILLS CHALLENGE CERTIFICATE (WB)

- An awarding body must set the following component grade boundaries with reference to learner work:
 - Level 1 Pass;
 - Level 1 Merit.
- The raw grade boundary marks for each component must be converted to the equivalent UMS boundary marks according to table 1 below.

Table 1.

Component	Max raw mark	Max uniform mark
Individual Project	72	150
Enterprise and Employability	36	60
Global Citizenship	36	45
Community	27	45

- Component grades must be awarded according to table 2 below.

Table 2.

Component	Merit (uniform marks)	Pass (uniform marks)
Individual Project	105	60
Enterprise and Employability	42	24
Global Citizenship	32	18
Community	32	18
%	70%	40%

- The qualification grade must be calculated on the basis of the aggregation of the four component scores weighted in table 3:

Table 3.

Component	Weighting
Individual Project	50%
Enterprise and Employability Challenge	20%
Global Citizenship Challenge	15%
Community Challenge	15%
Total	100%

5. An awarding body must award at qualification level (Skills Challenge Certificate) using the uniform mark grade boundaries set out in table 4 below.

Table 4.

Grade boundaries	Pass* <i>(uniform marks)</i>	Pass <i>(uniform marks)</i>	U <i>(uniform marks)</i>
Total uniform mark	210	120	0
%	70%	40%	0%

6. Learners must pass each component to achieve a qualification grade.

7. Learners may have one resit per component. Their grade for that component will be capped at a Level 1 Pass¹.

¹ This refers to candidates who register on a Welsh Baccalaureate from September 2016. This cap does not apply for learners who registered in 2015.

SECTION THREE - REQUIREMENTS FOR SETTING SPECIFIED LEVELS OF ATTAINMENT FOR WJEC NATIONAL (POST-16) SKILLS CHALLENGE CERTIFICATE (WELSH BACCALUREATE)

1. An awarding body must set the following component grade boundaries with reference to learner work:
 - Level 2 Pass;
 - Level 2 Distinction;
 - Level 1 Pass.
2. For each component, the Level 2 Merit boundary will be set arithmetically, at half the distance between the Level 2 Pass and Level 2 Distinction boundaries. Where there is a remainder of one, the extra mark is added to the Merit boundary.
3. The raw grade boundary marks for each component must be converted to the equivalent UMS boundary marks according to table 5.

Table 5.

Component	Max raw mark	Max uniform mark
Individual Project	72	150
Enterprise and Employability	36	60
Global Citizenship	36	45
Community	27	45

4. Component grades must be awarded according to table 6 below.

Table 6

Component	Level 2 Distinction <i>(uniform marks)</i>	Level 2 Merit <i>(uniform marks)</i>	Level 2 Pass <i>(uniform marks)</i>	Level 1 Pass <i>(uniform marks)</i>
Individual Project	120	90	60	30
Enterprise and Employability	48	36	24	12
Global Citizenship	36	27	18	9
Community	36	27	18	9
%	80%	60%	40%	20%

5. The qualification grade must be calculated on the basis of the aggregation of the four component scores weighted in table 7:

Table 7.

Component	Weighting
Individual Project	50%
Enterprise and Employability Challenge	20%
Global Citizenship Challenge	15%
Community Challenge	15%
Total	100%

6. An awarding body must award at qualification level (Skills Challenge Certificate) using the uniform mark grade boundaries set out in table 8.
7. Learners must pass all components with a minimum of 80% at level 2 and a maximum of 20% (one challenge) at level 1 to achieve a qualification grade. Where learners have met this requirement but have not achieved 120 uniform marks, they will be awarded a C grade.

Table 8.

Grade boundaries	A* <i>(uniform marks)</i>	A <i>(uniform marks)</i>	B <i>(uniform marks)</i>	C <i>(uniform marks)</i>	U <i>(uniform marks)</i>
Total uniform mark	270	240	180	120	0
%	90%	80%	60%	40%	0%

8. Learners are permitted one resit per component. Their grade for that component will be capped at a Level 2 Pass².

² This refers to candidates who register on a Welsh Baccalaureate from September 2016. This cap does not apply for learners who registered in 2015.

SECTION FOUR - REQUIREMENTS FOR SETTING SPECIFIED LEVELS OF ATTAINMENT FOR WJEC FOUNDATION/NATIONAL SKILLS CHALLENGE CERTIFICATE (WELSH BACCALAUREATE) (KS4)

- An awarding body must set the following component grade boundaries with reference to learner work:
 - Level 2 Pass;
 - Level 2 Distinction;
 - Level 1 Pass.
- For each component the Level 2 Merit boundary will be set arithmetically, at half the distance between the Level 2 Pass and Level 2 Distinction boundaries. Where there is a remainder of one, the extra mark is added to the Merit boundary.
- The raw grade boundary marks for each component must be converted to the equivalent UMS boundary marks according to table 9 below.

Table 9.

Component	Max raw mark	Max uniform mark
Individual Project	96	150
Enterprise and Employability	36	60
Global Citizenship	36	45
Community	36	45

- Component grades must be awarded according to table 10 below.

Table 10.

Component	Level 2 Distinction <i>(uniform marks)</i>	Level 2 Merit <i>(uniform marks)</i>	Level 2 Pass <i>(uniform marks)</i>	Level 1 Pass <i>(uniform marks)</i>
Individual Project	120	90	60	30
Enterprise and Employability	48	36	24	12
Global Citizenship	36	27	18	9
Community	36	27	18	9
%	80%	60%	40%	20%

5. The qualification grade must be calculated on the basis of the aggregation of the four component scores weighted in table 11:

Table 11.

Component	Weighting
Individual Project	50%
Enterprise and Employability Challenge	20%
Global Citizenship Challenge	15%
Community Challenge	15%
Total	100%

6. An awarding body must award at qualification level (Skills Challenge Certificate) using the uniform mark grade boundaries set out in table 12 below.

7. This qualification can be awarded a Foundation or National grade.

8. For a Foundation award, the learner must pass all components.

9. For a National Award, learners must pass all components with a minimum of 80% at level 2 and a maximum of 20% (one challenge) at level 1. Where learners have met this requirement but have not achieved 120 uniform marks, they will be awarded a C grade.

Table 12.

	National Level 2				Foundation Level 1		
Grade boundaries	A* <i>(uniform marks)</i>	A <i>(uniform marks)</i>	B <i>(uniform marks)</i>	C <i>(uniform marks)</i>	Pass* <i>(uniform marks)</i>	Pass <i>(uniform marks)</i>	U <i>(uniform marks)</i>
Total uniform mark	270	240	180	120	90	60	0
%	90%	80%	60%	40%	30%	20%	0%

10. Learners are permitted one resit per component. Their grade for that component will be capped at a Level 2 Pass³.

³ This refers to candidates who register on a Welsh Baccalaureate from September 2016. This cap does not apply for learners who registered in 2015.

SECTION FIVE - REQUIREMENTS FOR SETTING SPECIFIED LEVELS OF ATTAINMENT FOR WJEC ADVANCED SKILLS CHALLENGE CERTIFICATE (WELSH BACCALAUREATE)

1. An awarding body must set the following component grade boundaries with reference to learner work:
 - Level 3 Pass;
 - Level 3 Distinction.
2. For each component, the Level 3 Merit boundary will be set arithmetically, at half the distance between the Level 3 Pass and Level 3 Distinction boundaries. Where there is a remainder of one, the extra mark is added to the Merit boundary.
3. The raw grade boundary marks for each component must be converted to the equivalent UMS boundary marks according to table 13 below.

Table 13.

Component	Max raw marks	Max uniform mark
Individual Project	72	150
Enterprise and Employability	45	60
Global Citizenship	36	45
Community	27	45

4. Component grades must be awarded according to table 14 below.

Table 14.

Component	Distinction <i>(uniform marks)</i>	Merit <i>(uniform marks)</i>	Pass <i>(uniform marks)</i>
Individual Project	120	90	60
Enterprise and Employability	48	36	24
Global Citizenship	36	27	18
Community	36	27	18
%	80%	60%	40%

5. The qualification grade must be calculated on the basis of the aggregation of the four component scores weighted in table 15:

Table 15.

Component	Weighting
Individual Project	50%
Enterprise and Employability Challenge	20%
Global Citizenship Challenge	15%
Community Challenge	15%
Total	100%

6. An awarding body must award at qualification level (Skills Challenge Certificate) using the uniform mark grade boundaries set out in table 16 below.

Table 16.

Grade boundaries	A* <i>(uniform marks)</i>	A <i>(uniform marks)</i>	B <i>(uniform marks)</i>	C <i>(uniform marks)</i>	D <i>(uniform marks)</i>	E <i>(uniform marks)</i>	U <i>(uniform marks)</i>
Total uniform mark	270	240	210	180	150	120	0
%	90%	80%	70%	60%	50%	40%	0%

7. Learners must pass each component to achieve a qualification grade.
8. Learners are permitted one resit per component. Their grade for that component will be capped at a Level 3 Pass⁴.

⁴ This refers to candidates who register on a Welsh Baccalaureate from September 2016. This cap does not apply for learners who registered in 2015.