

QWCC1-024_17E



To: All Awarding Bodies

Dear Responsible Officer

Changes to our requirements for how awarding bodies conduct reviews of marking and appeals

In July 2016, Ofqual undertook a pilot for the provision of additional grounds for appeal, namely that there has been a marking error. Historically, appeals could only be brought on the grounds that there had been an error in procedure. As you will be aware, these new grounds for appeal were piloted by awarding bodies following last summer's results for a small number of subjects, and the outcome of that pilot has now been published by Ofqual¹.

We have taken the decision to align with the changes being made in England. To mirror these changes, we are proposing to expand the scope of appeals for the following qualifications:

- All AS and A Level subjects in 2017.
- GCSE English Language, English Literature, Welsh Language, Welsh Literature, Mathematics and Mathematics – Numeracy in 2018.
- All remaining GCSE subjects in 2019.

This will ensure consistency and fairness for learners by ensuring that awarding bodies offering these qualifications must meet the same requirements for conducting reviews of marking and appeals, whether they are offered to learners in Wales or in England. To accurately reflect these changes, the Additional Standard Conditions of Recognition for GCSE/GCE qualifications will be updated:

- ASC.F3 has been amended to reflect the current application of this condition to GCE qualifications only. ASC.F7, which had previously described the application of this condition, has been amended.

¹ <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/additional-gcse-as-and-a-level-grounds-for-appeal>



- Conditions ASC.H5 and ASC.H6 have been amended to reflect the current application of these conditions. Conditions ASC.H7 and ASC.H8, which previously addressed the application of these conditions, have been removed.
- Conditions ASC.I7 and ASC.I9 have been amended to reflect the current application of these conditions. Condition ASC.I12, which previously addressed the application of these conditions, has been amended.
- References to 'Pilot GCE Qualifications' in Conditions ASC.I7 and ASC.I9, and in the glossary have been removed

The detailed requirements are included in our Additional Standard Conditions of Recognition for GCSE/GCE qualifications², which are published on our website.

Publication of Additional Standard Conditions of Recognition for Welsh Baccalaureate qualifications

Qualifications Wales will shortly publish Additional Standard Conditions of Recognition for the Welsh Baccalaureate Skills Challenge Certificate. It is necessary to ensure that practices in relation to reviews of marking, moderation and appeals are consistent across different general qualifications and well-understood by learners.

Publication of updated Regulatory Documents List

Qualifications Wales has published an updated version of its Regulatory Documents List. It includes the following updates:

- Version 2 of the Consultation Policy;
- Version 2 of the Additional Standard Conditions of Recognition for GCSE/GCE Qualifications (as detailed above);
- Version 2 of the Rules about Applications for Awarding Body Recognition, which will also be published on the Recognition section of our website; and
- Requirements for setting specified levels of attainment for the Skills Challenge Certificate qualifications (Welsh Baccalaureate) (April 2017), setting out our requirements for setting specified levels of attainment for:
 - Foundation (post-16) Skills Challenge Certificate (Welsh Baccalaureate);

² <http://qualificationswales.org/regulation/monitoring-awarding-bodies/?lang=en>



- National (post-16) Skills Challenge Certificate (Welsh Baccalaureate);
- Foundation/National (KS4) Skills Challenge Certificate (Welsh Baccalaureate);
- Advanced Skills Challenge Certificate (Welsh Baccalaureate).
- Requirements for setting specified levels of attainment for GCSE and GCE qualifications
- Awarding Principles June 2017
- Data Exchange Procedures Wales Summer 2017

If you have any questions about the contents of this letter or any other aspects of the changes, please contact us at policy@qualificationswales.org.

Yours faithfully

Philip Blaker
Chief Executive