



Wales Summer 2022

Data Exchange Procedures

The following procedures outline the data that must be provided by WJEC during the summer 2022 data exchange for each qualification forming part of the data exchange process.

This is a **Regulatory Document** under **Condition B7** of the Standard Conditions of Recognition¹ (March 2017): Compliance with Regulatory Documents. This Regulatory Document should be read in conjunction with the Special Conditions of Recognition imposed on WJEC relating to the awarding of Approved and Legacy Wales-only¹ GCE A level qualifications in summer 2022.

This Regulatory Document applies to Wales' Approved GCE, GCSE and Welsh Baccalaureate Skills Challenge Certificate qualifications, Approved Health and Social Care (HSC) qualifications, Approved Child Care qualifications and Wales specific legacy qualifications. It also applies to the Wales-only designated qualifications GCE ICT, GCE Applied ICT and GCSE ICT.

1. Summer 2022

The summer series is a scheduled series offering assessments for GCE, GCSEs, the Welsh Baccalaureate Skills Challenge Certificates, Approved Level 2 and 3 Health and Social Care qualifications and Approved Level 2 and 3 Child Care qualifications.

Given the final approaches taken to awarding grades in summer 2020 and 2021 due to the cancellation of exams, the ongoing disruption experienced by learners, and the adjusted approach to awarding the November 2020, January 2020, November 2021 and January 2022 series, there is a need for the approach to awarding to also be adjusted in this series. The November 2021 and January 2022 series were conceptualised as precursors to this summer 2022 series and we aim for standards

¹ <http://qualificationswales.org/media/2410/standard-conditions-of-recognition-300317-e.pdf>

to be aligned between November 2021, January 2022 and the summer series in 2022.

As in November 2021 and January 2022, to ensure fairness to learners, awarding in summer 2022 must seek alignment, as far as possible, with the level of attainment that would typically have been required to achieve a cohort outcome between the cohort outcomes in 2019 and 2021.

WJEC must set standards in the context of the current exceptional circumstances. WJEC must ensure that persons involved in the setting of specified levels of attainment for qualifications in the summer 2022 series ("awarders") are adequately briefed. Awarders should be asked to set a performance standard specifically within the context of the summer 2022 series that delivers the policy outcome of results broadly midway between 2019 and 2021. When setting this standard, WJEC must ensure that the level of attainment demonstrated by learners at the recommended grade boundaries is sufficient to maintain public confidence in the qualification, accounting for:

- a. the unusual context of the summer 2022 series
- b. the policy position of producing results broadly midway between 2019 and 2021 and
- c. the requirements set out in this document.

For GCSEs, AS and A levels statistical starting points based on the weighted average of subject-level outcomes from 2019 and 2021 will be used as the primary source of evidence to guide the awards and awarding will rely on examiner judgement, supported by a range of other appropriate and available sources of evidence.

The broad midpoint policy applies to the subject-level key grades for all qualifications listed ². Given the importance of A level grades for progression to higher education and the fact that there are only two key judgemental grades at A level, adjustments to the usual rules for setting arithmetic grade boundaries will be applied, as set out in Appendix 1 and Special Conditions of Recognition relating to the awarding of Approved and Legacy Wales-only¹ GCE A level qualifications in summer 2022.

² Wales' Approved GCE, GCSE and Welsh Baccalaureate Skills Challenge Certificate qualifications, Approved Health and Social Care (HSC) qualifications, Approved Child Care qualifications, Wales specific legacy qualifications and Wales-only designated qualifications: GCE ICT, GCE Applied ICT and GCSE ICT

2. GCE A Level

2.1 Statistical starting points for A level qualifications

Statistical starting points based on the weighted average of subject-level outcomes from 2019 and 2021 will be used as the primary source of evidence to guide the awards and awarding will rely on examiner judgement, supported by a range of other appropriate and available sources of evidence. The starting points must be based on the main age group entering the qualification. The starting points should apply to the key grades (A and E for A level), as outlined in the Awarding principles for summer 2022 in Appendix 1.

Statistical starting points will be used as the primary source of evidence to guide the recommendations for the A* boundary. If a review of statistical and/or technical evidence suggests that an A* boundary should be set at a different mark to the statistical starting point, the report on the award must provide evidence to justify the final boundary mark recommended.

WJEC must create for each specification a starting point for the Wales cohort of 18-year-old cash-in learners. The statistical starting point must be based on the weighted average of the relationship between:

1. A level outcomes in that subject for 18-year-old learners in 2019 excluding partial absences;
2. A level outcomes in that subject for 18-year-old learners in 2021.

The weighted average will be a ratio of 60:40 between outcomes for 2021 and 2019 cohorts outlined above, respectively.

For qualifications with multiple routes/endorsement the broad midpoint policy applies at the subject level, not the route level.

WJEC must apply the rules as set out in Appendix 1 and the Special Conditions of Recognition for Summer 2022 to make adjustments to the intermediate grade boundaries at A level.

WJEC should also note the Awarding Principles for summer 2022 in Appendix 1.

A rationale must be documented to justify the selection, prioritisation and weight of the evidence considered.

3. GCE AS Level

3.1 Statistical starting points for AS qualifications

Statistical starting points based on the weighted average of subject-level outcomes from 2019 and 2021 will be used as the primary source of evidence to guide the awards and awarding will rely on examiner judgement, supported by a range of other appropriate and available sources of evidence. The starting points must be based on the main age group entering the qualification

WJEC must create a starting point for the Wales cohort of 17-year-old cash-in learners. The statistical starting point must be based on the weighted average of the relationship between:

1. AS outcomes in that subject for 17-year-old learners in 2019 excluding partial absences;
2. AS outcomes in that subject for 17-year-old learners in 2021.

The weighted average will be a ratio of 60:40 between outcomes for 2021 and 2019 cohorts outlined above, respectively.

For qualifications with multiple routes/endorsement the broad midpoint policy applies at the subject level, not the route level.

WJEC should also note the Principles for awarding GCSE, AS and A level qualifications for summer 2022 in Appendix 1.

A rationale must be documented to justify the selection, prioritisation and weight of the evidence considered.

4. GCSE

4.1 Statistical starting points for GCSE qualifications

Statistical starting points based on the weighted average of subject-level outcomes from 2019 and 2021 will be used as the primary source of evidence to guide the awards and awarding will rely on examiner judgement, supported by a range of other appropriate and available sources of evidence.

Statistical starting points will be used as the primary source of evidence to guide the recommendations for the A* boundary. If a review of statistical and/or technical

evidence suggests that an A* boundary should be set at a different mark to the statistical starting point, the report on the award must provide evidence to justify the final boundary mark recommended.

A rationale must be documented to justify the selection, prioritisation and weight of the evidence considered.

For GCSEs other than those listed below, WJEC must create a statistical starting point for the Wales cohort of 16-year-old learners. The starting point must be based on the weighted average of the relationship between:

1. GCSE outcomes in that subject for 16-year-old learners in 2019 excluding partial absences;
2. GCSE outcomes in that subject for 16-year-old learners in 2021.

The weighted average will be a ratio of 60:40 between outcomes for 2021 and 2019 cohorts outlined above, respectively.

WJEC should note the Principles for awarding GCSE, AS and A level qualifications for summer 2022 in Appendix 1

GCSEs English Language, English Literature, Mathematics, Mathematics-Numeracy, Welsh Language and Welsh Literature

WJEC must create a starting point for the Wales cohort of 16-year-old learners. The starting point must be based on the weighted average of the relationship between:

1. best-grade GCSE outcomes in that subject for 16-year-old learners in 2019;
2. best-grade GCSE outcomes in that subject for 16-year-old learners in 2021,

for centres with no banked qualification grades for the current 16-year-olds in that subject from the reference series.

The weighted average will be a ratio of 60:40 between outcomes for 2021 and 2019 cohorts outlined above, respectively.

Data for 16-year-old learners must exclude partial absences.

For GCSE Modern Foreign Languages, Mathematics, Mathematics-Numeracy and the Science suite WJEC must use the outcomes of test equating (chained equi-

percentile method) to support comparability between tiers, where there are sufficient entries on each tier.

For qualifications with multiple routes/endorsement the broad midpoint policy applies at the subject level, not the route level.

WJEC should note the Principles for awarding GCSE, AS and A level qualifications for summer 2022 in Appendix 1

4.2 Statistical starting points for GCSE short course qualifications Physical Education Religious Studies and ICT short course

Statistical starting points based on the weighted average of subject-level outcomes from 2019 and 2021 will be used as the primary source of evidence to guide the awards and awarding will rely on examiner judgement, supported by a range of other appropriate and available sources of evidence.

Statistical starting points will be used as the primary source of evidence to guide the recommendations for the A* boundary. If a review of statistical and/or technical evidence suggests that an A* boundary should be set at a different mark to the statistical starting point, the report on the award must provide evidence to justify the final boundary mark recommended.

A rationale must be documented to justify the selection, prioritisation and weight of the evidence considered.

For GCSE ICT short course WJEC must create a starting point for the Wales cohort of all learners.

For GCSE Physical Education WJEC must create a starting point for the Wales cohort of 15-year-old learners.

For GCSE Religious Studies WJEC must create a starting point for the Wales cohort of 16-year-old learners.

The weighted average will be a ratio of 60:40 between outcomes for 2021 and 2019 cohorts outlined above, respectively.

Data for all learners against starting points must exclude partial absences.

WJEC should note the Principles for awarding GCSE, AS and A level qualifications for summer 2022 in Appendix 1.

4.3 GCSE units that are not to be cashed-in

As no unit grades were awarded in summer 2021, it is not possible to implement the policy position of producing results broadly midway between 2019 and 2021.

When setting grade boundaries, WJEC must ensure that the level of attainment demonstrated by learners at the recommended grade boundaries is sufficient to maintain public confidence whilst accounting for the unusual context of the summer 2022 series and is comparable to that demonstrated by learners in qualifications awarded in accordance with the policy position.

5. Welsh Baccalaureate Skills Challenge Certificates - Foundation/National Skills Challenge Certificate and Advanced Skills Challenge Certificate

WJEC is required to report outcomes for all qualifications to Qualifications Wales.

WJEC should also note the Awarding Principles for Skills Challenge Certificates in Appendix 2.

WJEC should apply the broad midpoint policy, as outlined in section 1, in setting grade boundaries. When setting grade boundaries, WJEC must ensure that the level of attainment demonstrated by learners at the recommended grade boundaries is sufficient to maintain public confidence whilst accounting for the unusual context of the summer 2022 series

Overall grades should be calculated using the Uniform Mark Scale (UMS).

6. Level 2 and 3 Health and Social Care (HSC) and Children's Play, Learning and Development

WJEC is required to report outcomes for all qualifications to Qualifications Wales.

WJEC should apply the broad midpoint policy, as outlined in section 1, in setting grade boundaries. When setting grade boundaries, WJEC must ensure that the level of attainment demonstrated by learners at the recommended grade boundaries is sufficient to maintain public confidence whilst accounting for the unusual context of the summer 2022 series

7. Legacy qualifications - Advanced GCE in level Health and Social Care

WJEC is required to report qualification outcomes to Qualifications Wales, for all learners.

WJEC should apply the broad midpoint policy, as outlined in section 1, in setting grade boundaries. When setting grade boundaries, WJEC must ensure that the level of attainment demonstrated by learners at the recommended grade boundaries is sufficient to maintain public confidence whilst accounting for the unusual context of the summer 2022 series.

8. Reporting

8.1 GCE A level reporting

Wherever actual and calculated statistical starting point outcomes differ beyond the given reporting tolerance, WJEC must inform Qualifications Wales of the details. The reporting tolerances for GCE A level are given in the following table.

Graded entry (18-year- olds)	Reporting tolerance for grade A*, A and E
501 or more	-1 to +3 percentage points

WJEC must provide Qualifications Wales with a schedule of dates (Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays) by **1 July 2022** to show when they expect to submit A level award outcomes and grade boundaries to Qualification Wales. Submission should be no later than five days after completion of the award, but outcomes can be submitted sooner where available (for example, if the award is completed on a Thursday, the outcomes and grade boundaries should be submitted no later than the following Wednesday). There may be exceptions, for example when a suite of specifications need to be reviewed together before the awards are finalised, but any such exceptions must be discussed with Qualifications Wales.

Template A must be updated, according to the schedule provided to Qualifications Wales, to show A level results to date.

Where outcomes for a given specification are outside the reporting tolerance (measured to one decimal place) at grade A*, A, or E, WJEC must provide a full technical explanation using **Template Q**.

In a few cases WJEC may need to carry out further analyses post-award in order to establish the security of the outcomes. If there is to be a delay in submission, WJEC must notify Qualifications Wales as soon as possible and by the date shown on the schedule.

All GCE A level outcomes and other GCE A level data must be reported as detailed in section 8.8, by **noon on Monday 1 August 2022**.

8.2 GCE AS level reporting

Wherever actual and calculated statistical starting point outcomes differ beyond a given reporting tolerance, WJEC must inform Qualifications Wales of the details. The reporting tolerances for GCE AS level are given in the following table.

Graded entry (17-year- olds)	Reporting tolerance for grade A and E
501 or more	-1 to +3 percentage points

WJEC must provide Qualifications Wales with a schedule of dates to show when they expect to submit AS level award outcomes and provide this to Qualifications Wales by 1 July 2022. Submission should be no later than five days after completion of the award, but outcomes can be submitted sooner where available (for example, if the award is completed on a Thursday, the outcomes and grade boundaries should be submitted no later than the following Wednesday). There may be exceptions, for example when a suite of specifications need to be reviewed together before the awards are finalised, but any such exceptions must be discussed with Qualifications Wales.

Template B must be updated, according to the schedule provided to Qualifications Wales, to show AS level results to date.

Where outcomes for a given specification are outside the reporting tolerance (measured to one decimal place) at grade A or E, WJEC must report a full technical explanation using **Template Q** and according to the schedule provided to Qualifications Wales.

In a few cases WJEC may need to carry out further analyses post-award in order to establish the security of the outcomes. If there is to be a delay in submission, WJEC must notify Qualifications Wales as soon as possible and by the date shown on the schedule.

All GCE AS level outcomes and other GCE AS level data must be reported, as detailed in section 8.8, by **noon on Monday 1 August 2022**.

8.3 GCSE reporting

Wherever actual and calculated midpoint outcomes differ for grades A and C beyond a given reporting tolerance WJEC must inform Qualifications Wales. The reporting tolerances for GCSE full course are given in the following table (reporting tolerances do not apply to short course outcomes).

Graded entry (16-year-olds)	Reporting tolerance for grades A*, A, C and F
501 or more	-1 to +3 percentage points

For GCSE art and design, the outcomes from the suite of options must be reported as a whole.

WJEC must provide Qualifications Wales with a schedule of dates to show when they expect to submit GCSE award outcomes and provide this to Qualifications Wales by 1 July 2022. Submission should be no later than five days after completion of the award, but outcomes can be submitted sooner where available (for example, if the award is completed on a Thursday, the outcomes and grade boundaries should be submitted no later than the following Wednesday). There may be exceptions, for example when a suite of specifications need to be reviewed together before the awards are finalised, but any such exceptions must be discussed with Qualifications Wales.

WJEC must update **Templates C, D, and E** according to the schedule provided to Qualifications Wales.

Where outcomes for a given qualification are outside the reporting tolerance (measured to one decimal place) at grade A*, A, C or F, WJEC must report a full technical explanation, using **Template Q** and according to the schedule provided to Qualifications Wales.

In a few cases WJEC may need to carry out further analyses post-award in order to establish the security of the outcomes. If there is to be a delay in submission, WJEC must notify Qualifications Wales as soon as possible and by the date shown on the schedule.

All GCSE outcomes and other GCSE data must be reported, must be reported, as detailed in section 8.8, by **noon on Monday 8 August 2022**.

8.4 Welsh Baccalaureate Skills Challenge Certificate reporting

WJEC must report all of its summer 2022 Skills Challenge Certificate outcomes, using **Template F**, by noon on Monday 1 August for Advanced SCC and **noon on Monday 8 August 2022** for National/Foundation SCC.

8.5 Level 2 and 3 Health and Social Care (HSC) and Children's Care, Play, Learning and Development Qualification reporting

WJEC must report all of its summer 2022 Health and Social Care (HSC) outcomes, using **Template O**, by noon on Monday 1 August for level 3 qualifications and by **noon on Monday 8 August 2022** for level 2 qualifications.

8.6 Legacy qualifications

WJEC must report qualification outcomes for all learners using Template A, by noon on Monday 1 August 2022.

8.7 Reporting concerns with grade boundary positions

For all qualifications listed in earlier sections WJEC must report any concerns with unit/component/subject-level key grade boundary positions, including boundary positions that WJEC judge may cause concern to centres and/or threaten public confidence in the qualifications. These must be reported as soon as possible after the award and sign-off by the Responsible Officer, together with an explanation, using **Template P**.

8.8 List of reporting templates

This table outlines all reporting requirements, for all qualifications, by template reference. Dates for submission are detailed in earlier sections.

Template	Description
A	Cumulative grade outcomes for Wales A levels. Data to be reported: Summer 2022 statistical starting point for 18-year-olds, Summer 2022 outcomes for 18-year-olds, Midpoint of 2019 and 2021 summer outcomes weighted by entry, Summer 2022 all-candidate outcomes.
B	Cumulative grade outcomes for Wales AS levels. Data to be reported: Summer 2022 statistical starting point for 17-year-olds, Summer 2022 outcomes for 17-year-olds, Midpoint of 2019 and 2021 summer outcomes weighted by entry, Summer 2022 all-candidate outcomes.
C	Cumulative grade outcomes for Wales Phase 1 GCSEs (English Language, English Literature, Mathematics, Mathematics - Numeracy, Welsh Language, Welsh Literature). Data to be reported: Summer 2022 statistical starting point, Summer 2022 outcomes for the statistical starting point cohort, Midpoint of 2019 and 2021 summer outcomes weighted by entry, Summer 2022 all-candidate outcomes, Summer 2022 16-year-old outcomes, Summer 2022 best-grade outcomes, Summer 2022 15-year-old outcomes (only required for Mathematics - Numeracy and English Literature).
D	Cumulative grade outcomes for Wales single award GCSEs (excluding those in template C). Data to be reported: Summer 2022 statistical starting point, Summer 2022 outcomes for the statistical starting point cohort, Midpoint of 2019 and 2021 summer outcomes weighted by entry, Summer 2022 all-candidate outcomes.
E	Cumulative grade outcomes for Wales double award GCSEs. Data to be reported: Summer 2022 statistical starting point, Summer 2022 outcomes for 16-year-olds, Midpoint of 2019 and 2021 summer outcomes weighted by entry, Summer 2022 all-candidate outcomes.
F	Cumulative qualification and unit grade outcomes for WBQ Skills Challenge Certificate.
G	Cumulative unit/component outcomes for GCSE Mathematics, Mathematics - Numeracy, English Language, Welsh Language and science suite, for all candidates and for the statistical starting point cohort.
H	Cumulative unit outcomes for GCSE units being assessed in summer 2022 but are not contributing to cash-in awards.
I	GCSE cross tabulations: a) Summer 2022 GCSE Mathematics and Mathematics – Numeracy results for re-sitting 16-year-olds compared with November 2021 grade for the same learners b) Summer 2022 results for GCSE Mathematics compared to the results for

	GCSE Mathematics-Numeracy for the same learners c) For Summer 2022 GCSE English Language results and GCSE Welsh Language - results for re-sitting 16-year-olds compared with November 2021 grade for the same learners d) Summer 2022 comparison of outcomes in each pair of units entered by learners in Science (double award), Biology, Chemistry and Physics.
J	Cross tabulations of candidate 2021 AS grades with 2022 A level grades by subject.
K	A level unit/component grade boundaries for summers 2018, 2019 and 2022. This template includes a flag to indicate whether adjustments were made to intermediate grades.
L	AS unit/component grade boundaries for summers 2018, 2019 and 2022.
M	GCSE single award unit/component grade boundaries for summers 2018, 2019 and 2022.
N	GCSE double award unit/component grade boundaries for summers 2018, 2019 and 2022.
O	Cumulative qualification and unit grade outcomes for approved Health and Social Care and Childcare qualifications (excluding GCSE, AS and A level).
P	Issues
Q	Out of tolerance reports

9. Sending data

WJEC must confirm their data exchange contacts with Qualifications Wales before the process begins. All data are to be uploaded to the secure data sharing site (see Appendix 3).

All returns are subject to the final ratification of the awards by WJEC

On receipt of the above information, Qualifications Wales:

1. will review the data on the basis of its published procedure;
1. may contact WJEC to ask for additional information or clarification, and aim to do this within 24 hours of receipt;
2. will hold regular teleconferences with WJEC technical colleagues, as necessary, to review data and explore any implications;

3. will discuss outcomes with WJEC at the Standards meetings on **Wednesday 3 August 2022 at 10am** (GCE, Advanced Skills Challenge Certificate and level 3 Health and Social Care and Children's Care, Play, Learning and Development Qualifications) and **Tuesday 9 August 2022 at 10am** (GCSE, National/Foundation Skills Challenge and level 3 Health and Social Care and Children's Care, Play, Learning and Development Qualifications).

Appendix 1

Principles for awarding A level, AS and GCSE qualifications summer 2022

1. WJEC must produce a statistical starting point for each award. Statistical starting point calculations will be based on a weighted average ratio of 60:40 between outcomes in Wales candidates of the defined age in 2021 and Wales candidates for the defined age in 2019, respectively. The details of the midpoint definition are set out in sections 2, 3 and 4 of the Summer 2022 Data Exchange.
2. For each subject, the statistical starting point will be used to produce initial recommended boundaries for all subject level key grades. These initial recommended boundaries are the boundary marks that would produce outcomes that are on or above the defined midpoint, and as close as appropriate to it. Initial recommended unit/component boundaries must reflect an appropriate balance of unit/component performance.
3. Awarders must use expert judgement to decide if the quality of work seen for each key grade (A and E for A level, A and E for AS level and A, C and F for GCSE) represents an acceptable level of performance, in the context of summer 2022 and the policy position being applied. The details of their role should be set out in WJEC's awarder briefing notes.
4. Awarders must consider a suitable range of candidate work for each unit/component on each key grade (A and E for A level, A and E for AS level and A, C and F for GCSE). They are responsible for considering if the initial recommended boundaries represent an appropriate balance of unit/component performance standards and can accept, rebalance, or reject them.
5. If WJEC sets boundaries that produce outcomes outside the tolerances set in section 6 of the Data Exchange, it will need to provide additional judgmental and/or technical evidence to Qualifications Wales.

6. Additional principle for A level only

A process to adjust the grade C boundary will be triggered if any of the subject-level outcomes at grades B, C or D fall below the calculated initial starting point. The C grade boundary should be adjusted as per the rules set out in the Special Condition of Recognition 7 - Setting intermediate grade boundaries for Approved and Legacy Wales-only GCE A level qualifications in summer 2022.

Appendix 2

Principles for awarding Skills Challenge Certificates summer 2022

1. Component key grade boundaries for each series should be set judgmentally, informed by relevant qualitative and quantitative evidence.
2. In awarding each Skills Challenge Certificate, regard to an appropriate range of qualitative and quantitative evidence must be given; a documented rationale must be kept to justify the selection, prioritisation and weight of the evidence considered.
3. The overall grade for the Skills Challenge Certificate should be calculated using the Uniform Mark Scale (UMS).
4. Qualification outcomes at key grades (A and E for Advanced level and A, C (Level 2 pass) and Level 1 Pass for KS4 National/Foundation) will be reviewed by WJEC, in the context of summer 2022 and the policy position being applied.
5. Grade outcomes must be awarded and reported at both component and qualification level.
6. **Additional principle for the Advanced Skills Challenge Certificate only**
WJEC may adjust component intermediate boundaries where an adjustment would bring qualification outcomes closer to the broad midpoint policy position, as set out in the Special Condition of Recognition 8 - Setting intermediate grade boundaries for the Advanced Skills Challenge Certificate in summer 2022.

Appendix 3

Principles for using the secure data sharing site

1. The site is to be used for sensitive data relating to the data exchange.
2. Email should be used as usual where no sensitive data is included or attached.
3. In terms of version control, all templates must be uploaded using the date as a prefix, for example 01072022-WJEC-Template 1–08.30. Therefore, whenever a revised data template is uploaded, please create this as a new document using the date as a prefix and the time as a suffix where necessary.
4. Old versions of templates must not be deleted from the site.
5. WJEC users must not create extra folders within the data exchange library of the portal without consulting Qualifications Wales first.