



SUMMER SERIES 2017



Spotlight on the Welsh Baccalaureate

This summer sees the first award of the new Welsh Baccalaureate National/Foundation (Key Stage 4) and the Welsh Baccalaureate Advanced. This summer also sees the second award of the Post-16 Welsh Baccalaureate at Foundation and National levels.

What's new?

The Welsh Baccalaureate, at each level, is made up of a new Skills Challenge Certificate and some supporting qualifications. The Skills Challenge Certificate assesses skills for further study and

employment and comprises four components. These four components are common to all levels and enable learners to develop the skills needed for education, employment and life:

Skills Challenge Certificate	Purpose	Skills developed and assessed
1. Individual project (50%)	To develop research skills	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Literacy • Numeracy • Digital literacy • Critical thinking and problem-solving • Planning and organisation • Creativity and innovation • Personal effectiveness
2. Enterprise and Employability Challenge (20%)	To develop enterprising skills and attributes to enhance employability	
3. Global Citizenship Challenge (15%)	To develop knowledge and understanding of world issues	
4. Community Challenge (15%)	To identify and participate in community-based opportunities	

Students' work for each component of the Skills Challenge Certificate is marked by teachers in schools and colleges and after internal standardisation, a sample of work is moderated by WJEC.

To be awarded the Welsh Baccalaureate students must achieve the Skills Challenge Certificate and

supporting qualifications. The Welsh Baccalaureate at each level is graded as a pass or fail.

The Skills Challenge Certificate can be awarded as a qualification even if a student does not achieve the necessary supporting qualifications to be awarded the Welsh Baccalaureate.



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The Skills Challenge Certificate is also awarded at three levels with the following grades available at each level:

- Foundation (level 1) – Pass* and Pass
- National (level 2) – A* to C
- Advanced (level 3) – A* to E

The Advanced Skills Challenge Certificate is equivalent in size and demand to an A level. It is graded in the same way and carries the same UCAS tariff points.

Who's taking these qualifications this summer?

The entry data shows that 23,700 students have been entered for the Key Stage 4 Skills Challenge Certificate which is around three quarters of the year 11 cohort. There are 11,400 entries for the Advanced Skills Challenge Certificate which is a 4% increase on the 2016 entry for the old Advanced Welsh Baccalaureate.

There has been a decrease in the number of entries for the post-16 Skills Challenge Certificates compared with 2016. 1,600 students have been entered for the Post-16 Skills Challenge Certificates; compared to 5,100 entries in 2016.

Post summer

We are currently undertaking a review of the Skills Challenge Certificate and the Welsh Baccalaureate. We expect to report our findings at the end of the year.

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