

Spotlight on Welsh



GCSE Welsh Language is an untiered, linear qualification. This means that all the exams need to be taken at the end of the course and all students sit the same exam paper, regardless of the grade they are aiming for.

GCSE Welsh Literature is a tiered, unitised qualification. This means that students can sit exams for individual units during the course and enter for either a foundation or higher tier paper, depending on the grade they are aiming for.

Who's taking these qualifications this summer?

These qualifications are taken by students who've followed the Welsh programme of study in key stage 3. There is a 24% decrease in students being entered for GCSE Welsh Language this summer compared to summer 2017. This decrease has been driven by changes to school performance measures. From Summer 2019, the best result from a student's first attempt at either GCSE Welsh Language or Welsh Literature will count towards school performance measures.

There is also a decrease in year 11 entries as some students will have sat in summer 2017 (as Year 10 students) and November 2017 and only a proportion will be returning this summer hoping to improve their grades. However, many students will be sitting for the first time this summer.

For GCSE Welsh Literature, the entry data for this summer is stable compared to summer 2017.

Schools can decide when to enter students for exams and there is no single approach that's right for all students. However, it's important that students have covered the content of the qualification to give them the greatest chance of achieving their best possible grade.

What does this mean for the results this summer?

The changing entry patterns for GCSE Welsh Language are likely to impact on the results this summer. That means that interpreting and comparing the overall summer results will need to be done carefully. Our comparisons will be based on the best results achieved by students who are finishing year 11 this summer.



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