

Teacher discussions on Non-Examination Assessment (NEA)

Information Sheet

About Qualifications Wales

Qualifications Wales regulates qualifications, other than degrees, in Wales. We are an independent statutory body, funded by Welsh Government, and were set up in 2015 through the Qualifications Wales Act. We have two principal aims which underpin our work:

1. Ensuring that qualifications, and the qualifications system, are effective for meeting the reasonable needs of learners in Wales,
2. Promoting public confidence in qualifications and the Welsh qualifications system

Qualifications Wales has a research and statistical function which aims to provide an objective evidence base for regulatory and policy decision making about qualifications in Wales. One of the ways in which we achieve this is through designing and conducting research projects.

Project outline

The aim of this project is to gather teacher thoughts and experiences of Non-Examination Assessment (NEA). NEA refers to any type of assessment that is not an exam taken by all candidates at the same time. NEA therefore covers a range of assessment activities including coursework, oral assessment, fieldwork, portfolio work and practical assessment. We intend to collect this information through a series of focus groups held in six locations across Wales where subject specific discussions will be facilitated by a member of staff from Qualifications Wales. Each focus group will be held with up to 15 teachers of the same subject.

About the focus group

We will use the focus groups to gather views on:

1. the principles and purposes of NEA
2. assessment methods
3. levels of teacher involvement at task setting, task taking and task marking
4. experiences of delivering NEA
5. experiences of assessing NEA

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Each focus group will take place in the venue at which you sign up to attend and will last approximately one hour. There are no right or wrong answers to our questions so please feel free to give your honest opinion.

We will also be talking to learners about their experiences of NEA. We intend to publish a report on the findings from our research into NEA on our website in Autumn 2019. It is anticipated that the findings from this research will be used to shape the future design and development of qualifications, for example when looking at how qualifications can support the new curriculum for Wales.

Privacy/Confidentiality

We will be audio recording and transcribing each focus group to ensure that we do not miss anything from the discussions. We will also ask you to give your first name on a badge at the start of the session so that questions can be directed to you, however you do not have to give your real name and all responses will be anonymised upon transcription. Access to transcriptions and audio files will be limited to the research team conducting the project. No individual will be identifiable in any final report or output.

Right to withdraw from task

You have the right to withdraw at any time during the focus group. This can be for any or no reason. If you would like to withdraw, please inform the lead researcher who will discard any information you have already provided. Once analysis of the data has commenced, you will only be able to withdraw personal data (please see our privacy notice for more information).

Data protection

We have published a privacy notice outlining how we will store any personal data and your rights in this regard on our [website](#). If you would like to see a hard copy of this notice, please ask the researcher who is leading your focus group.

If you have any questions, please feel free to ask the researcher who is leading the focus group or email research@qualificationswales.org.

Thank you in advance for taking the time to attend. We really do appreciate your participation and we hope that you find the session interesting.

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