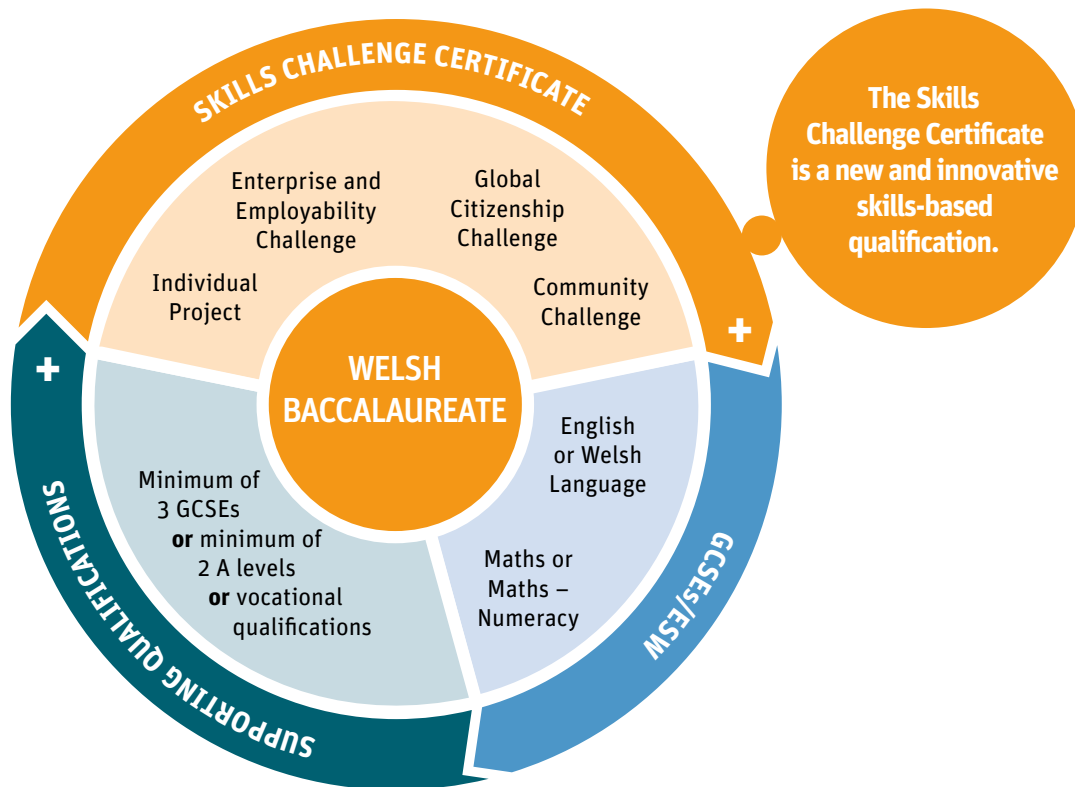




# A closer look at **Welsh Baccalaureate**

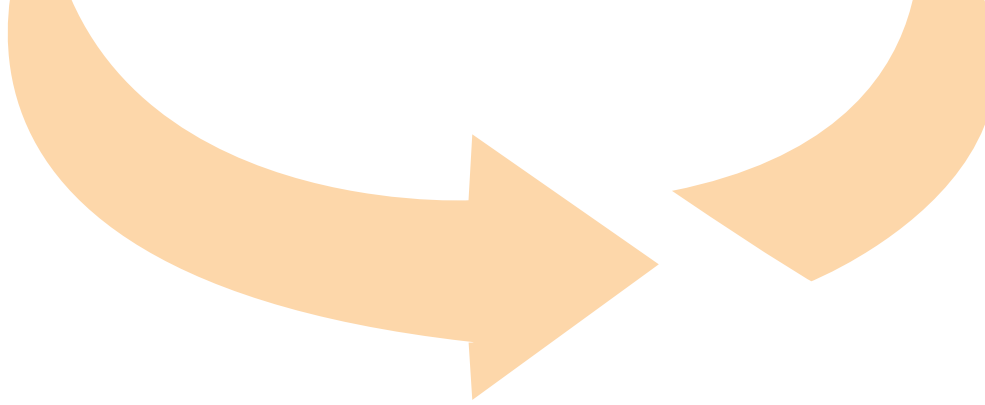
The Welsh Baccalaureate (Welsh Bacc), at each level, is made up of a Skills Challenge Certificate and supporting qualifications.



\*Essential Communication Skills level 1 (Foundation) or 2 (National), and Essential Application of Number Skills level 1 or 2 for post-16.

The Skills Challenge Certificate comprises four components and is an innovative qualification that assesses skills for further study and employment.

*continued...*



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 skills through research activity	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 Bacc, students must achieve the Skills Challenge Certificate and supporting qualifications. The Welsh Bacc is available at levels 1, 2 and 3 and is graded as a pass or fail.

The Key Stage 4 Skills Challenge Certificate is equivalent in size and demand to a GCSE. It can be awarded as a qualification even if a student does not achieve the necessary supporting qualifications to be awarded the Welsh Bacc.

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.



## Your review of the Welsh Bacc Skills Challenge Certificate made recommendations for how the delivery and design of these qualifications could be improved. What progress have you made?

Since our Review we have established and met with a Welsh Bacc Design Group, whose role is to consider and develop proposals for changes to the Skills Challenge Certificate.

The Group includes representatives from CollegesWales, Estyn, the regional education consortia, Welsh Government and WJEC. Skills-based qualifications and assessment experts, commissioned to provide technical advice and guidance, also sit on the group.

Alongside the Design Group is the Welsh Bacc Practitioners' Group. This comprises teachers who deliver the Skills Challenge Certificate from a broad range of schools and colleges across Wales. They have a wealth of experience of the rewards and challenges of delivering the qualification and what it takes to engage students, inform parents and organise resources. This is the perfect forum to test the Design Group's proposals and to provide feedback to inform developments.

After testing several proposals with members of the Design and Practitioner Groups, we now have a preferred structure for the Key Stage 4 (KS4) Skills Challenge Certificate that we will be testing with stakeholders over the coming months<sup>1</sup>.

There is still work to do before we consult on our proposals for changes to the Skills Challenge Certificate at KS4 early in the new year, but we are confident that there is a clear route to a successful outcome due to the many positive contributions made from everyone involved to date.

## Who's taking these qualifications this summer?

The entry data shows that 28,030 students have been entered for the Key Stage 4 Skills Challenge Certificate which is a 0.9% increase compared to the 2018 entries. There are 11,995 entries for the Advanced Skills Challenge Certificate which is a 9.3% decrease compared to the 2018 entries.

There has been a decrease in the number of entries for the post-16 Skills Challenge Certificates compared with 2018. A total of 55 students have been entered for the Post-16 Skills Challenge Certificates; compared to 190 entries in 2018.



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<sup>1</sup><https://www.qualificationswales.org/english/publications/review-of-the-skills-challenge-certificate---welsh-baccalaureate-report/>