

Regulatory Document

Special Conditions of Recognition

Special Condition: Statement of Approach for the development of Approved, Made-for-Wales GCSEs and related 14-16 Qualifications.

Application

This Special Condition to which an awarding body's recognition are subject, are imposed under Schedule 3, Section 4 of the Qualifications Wales Act 2015 ('the Act').

This Special Condition applies to the following Approved, Made-for-Wales qualifications:

- all Relevant GCSE qualifications as expressed in SPCQFF2¹;
- Level 2 Additional Core Cymraeg, and
- Level 2 Additional Mathematics.

This Special Condition will come into effect on the date on which an awarding body first submits one or more Made-for-Wales qualifications for 14-16-year-olds for Approval.

- SPCMfW1** In respect of each qualification or qualifications which it proposes to make available, an awarding body must:
- (a) produce a Statement of Approach;
 - (b) ensure that its Statement of Approach complies with any requirements which may be published by Qualifications Wales and revised from time to time; and
 - (c) have regard to any guidance in relation to the production of a Statement of Approach which may be published by Qualifications Wales and revised from time to time.

Interpretation and definitions

- SPCMfW2** For the purposes of Special Condition SPCMfW1, the following shall apply –
- (a) the rules of interpretation and definitions outlined in Standard Condition J1;
 - (b) the definitions outlined in the GCSE Made-for-Wales Qualification Level Conditions.

- SPCMfW3** In this Special Condition the following word(s) shall have the meaning given to them below (and cognate expressions should be construed accordingly) –

Statement of Approach A written statement, provided by the awarding body upon request by Qualifications Wales, which provides assurance regarding the overarching approaches and processes for the development of one or more Approved, Made-for-Wales qualifications for 14-16-year-olds.

- SPCMfW4** The requirements imposed by this Special Condition apply in addition to the requirements imposed by the:
- (a) Standard Conditions of Recognition;

¹ <https://qualifications.wales/media/4ubp122g/special-conditions-of-recognition.pdf>

- (b) GCSE Made-for-Wales Qualification-level Approval Criteria;
- (c) any relevant subject-level Approval Criteria;
- (d) GCSE Made-for-Wales Qualification Level Conditions, and
- (e) any other relevant Regulatory Document.

SPCMfW5 To the extent that there is any inconsistency between the requirements imposed by this Special Condition, and

- (a) a requirement of a Standard Condition of Recognition;
- (b) GCSE Made-for-Wales Qualification-level Approval Criteria;
- (c) any relevant subject-level Approval Criteria;
- (d) GCSE Made-for-Wales Qualification Level Conditions, and
- (e) any other relevant Regulatory Document

such that an awarding body could not comply with both such requirements, an awarding body must comply with the requirements of this Special Condition and is not obliged to comply with the relevant requirement in any of the Regulatory Documents outlined in (a)-(e) above.

An awarding body should inform Qualifications Wales as soon as practicable if there is a need to rely on this Condition.

Requirements relating to the provision of a Statement of Approach

Special Condition SPCMfW1(a) and (b) allows us to specify requirements and guidance in relation to the provision of a Statement of Approach by an awarding body.

We set out below our requirements for the purposes of Condition SPCMfW1(a).

1. WJEC must provide evidence that it has ensured that the Curriculum for Wales is embedded in its approach to the development of Made-for-Wales qualifications as outlined in Special Condition SPCQFF2.

The evidence must demonstrate that:

- (a) Principles and guidance ensure that Curriculum for Wales is embedded in qualification development;
- (b) Consideration of the cross-cutting themes is incorporated in the qualification development process;
- (c) Consideration of how integral skills/cross-curricular skills can be developed is incorporated in the qualification development process, and
- (d) WJEC colleagues and external appointees have a common understanding of the principles, guidance and processes for qualification development, whilst also understanding how approaches should be tailored for some subjects or Areas of Learning and Experience.

In particular, WJEC must provide evidence demonstrating that the themes of:

- (a) Diversity, and
- (b) Sustainability;

are embedded in qualification development.

2. WJEC must provide evidence of the processes, principles and/or guidance for the development of Made-for-Wales qualifications it has put in place to achieve the most appropriate balance between Manageability, Engagement, Reliability and Validity.

The evidence must demonstrate that:

- (a) Principles and guidance are in place to achieve an appropriate balance of Manageability, Engagement, Reliability and Validity in assessments, and
- (b) Policies and guidance are in place to manage risks to Learner authenticity, particularly those arising from the use of artificial intelligence.

3. WJEC must provide evidence that effective systems and processes are in place to ensure that on-screen assessments are fit for purpose and that risks relating to the delivery of on-screen assessments will be mitigated.

The evidence must demonstrate that:

- (a) The development process for on-screen assessments ensures that they are fit for purpose and achieve an appropriate balance of Manageability, Engagement, Reliability and Validity;
- (b) The Manageability of system and equipment requirements is integral to the approach to developing on-screen Assessments by Examination;
- (c) Effective processes are in place to test on-screen Assessments by Examination;
- (d) Processes and guidance are in place to ensure that on-screen Assessments by Examination are designed in a way that enables the application of Reasonable Adjustments, and
- (e) Effective mitigations against the risk of technical failure are in place.

4. WJEC must provide evidence that it has appropriate cybersecurity measures and certification in place.

5. WJEC must provide evidence of how it will ensure appropriate and sufficient input from relevant stakeholders during qualification development.