REGULATORY DOCUMENTS LIST

CYMWYSTERAU CYMRU
QUALIFICATIONS WALES

Contents List

Please note: All documents can be found on our website unless otherwise indicated.

Please send any comments to ***policy@qualificationswales.org***

Introduction

Our Standard Conditions of Recognition refer to "Compliance with regulatory documents" (see Condition B7) and "Compliance of qualifications with regulatory documents" (see Condition D5.)

The documents listed within this Regulatory Documents List are the Regulatory Documents that are currently in force for awarding bodies that we recognise. In cases of difference or contradiction between Regulatory Documents, unless specifically stated, the Standard Conditions of Recognition will take precedence over other Regulatory Documents.

Some Regulatory Documents are applied generally (general application), while other Regulatory Documents are applicable to specific qualifications (qualification specific application.) Qualification specific Regulatory Documents may also have additional subject specific requirements that need to be adhered to (subject specific application.)

There are four main categories of regulatory documents.

CONDITIONS	CRITERIA
Regulatory requirements that an awarding body is required to demonstrate ongoing compliance with	Regulatory requirements that we check as part of a defined gateway process and subject to ongoing compliance

PROCEDURES	POLICIES
Procedural regulatory requirements	Policies outlining our regulatory approach

Conditions

Conditions are regulatory requirements that an awarding body is required to demonstrate ongoing compliance with. **There are Generally Applied Conditions that apply to all recognised Awarding Bodies in general, as well as Specific Conditions that apply to specific qualifications.**

Generally Applied Conditions

Standard Conditions of Recognition
This document sets out the Conditions that all awarding bodies and their qualifications must meet when developing, delivering and/or awarding qualifications in Wales.

Additional Certificate Requirements
This document sets out the requirements for the design and production of each certificate an awarding body issues in relation to all regulated qualifications or credit award which it makes available in Wales.

Qualification and component levels
This document supports the Standard Conditions of Recognition, by setting out requirements and guidance for assigning levels to regulated qualifications and (where appropriate) their components.

Qualification Specific Conditions

Additional Standard Conditions of Recognition for GCSE and GCE qualifications
These Conditions cover three main areas:
   i.   Reviews, Moderation and Appeals;
   ii.   Setting new GCSE, A level and AS level grade boundaries; and
   iii. The subjects we allow as GCSE / GCE qualifications to be made available in Wales.

Additional Standard Conditions of Recognition for the Welsh Baccalaureate Skills Challenge Certificate
Awarding bodies seeking to offer Welsh Baccalaureate Skills Challenge Certificates qualifications must comply with Qualification Specific Conditions found in this document.

Awarding Principles (for GCSE, GCE and Welsh Baccalaureate Skills Challenge Certificate)
Outlines the overarching principles in the award of GCSE and GCE qualifications, and the Welsh Baccalaureate Skills Challenge Certificate.

[GCSE Controlled assessment regulations](#)
This document applies to Controlled assessments of GCSE qualifications where first teaching of the qualification was prior to the academic year 2015/16.
These regulations do not apply to:
- Reformed GCSE A*-G qualifications for first teaching from September 2015:
- Reformed GCSEs (graded 9 to 1).

[GCSE, GCE, Principal Learning and Project Code of Practice](#)
as amended by [Addendum to the GCSE, GCE, Principal Learning and Project Code of Practice](#)
- From 00.01 hours on Thursday 18 August 2016 this document no longer applies to GCE qualifications.
- From 00.01 hours on Thursday 25 August 2016 this document no longer applies to GCSE qualifications.

Following these dates, the GCSE, GCE, Principal Learning and Project Code of Practice only remains in force for Project and Principal Learning qualifications.

[Requirements for setting specified levels of attainment for GCE and GCSE qualifications](#)
These requirements have been introduced because, as of 20 July 2016, we have withdrawn the sections of the GCSE, GCE, Principal Learning and Project Code of Practice May 2011 (Code of Practice) which cover the current rules for the GCSE (A* to G) qualifications and legacy AS and A levels. The new requirements reflect those in the Code of Practice. We are applying the same provisions to reformed AS and A levels and GCSEs.

[Requirements for setting specified levels of attainment for the Skills Challenge Certificate qualifications (Welsh Baccalaureate)](#)
This document sets out our requirements for setting specified levels of attainment for Foundation, National, Foundation/National and Advanced Skills Challenge Certificates.

[Resit Rules GCE AS and A level qualifications](#)
This document outlines the rules which apply to approved AS and A level qualifications only.

[Resit Rules GSCE qualifications](#)
This document outlines the rules which apply to approved GCSE qualifications only.

Temporary Conditions

[Extraordinary Regulatory Framework – General Qualifications: Conditions and Requirements](#)
This document is part of a suite of documents which sets out our regulatory requirements for awarding bodies offering affected general qualifications during the Covid-19 pandemic.

[Requirements for Adapting assessments for GQ Qualifications (GCSE, GCE and Welsh Baccalaureate Skills Challenge Certificate) in 2021](#)
This document sets out the principles to be applied by WJEC when adapting assessments for General Qualifications in 2021. It also sets out our requirements in relation to adapting assessments for those General Qualifications.

[Extraordinary Regulatory Framework: Vocational Qualifications – COVID-19 Conditions and Requirements (Temporary)](#)
This document is part of a suite of documents which sets out our regulatory requirements for awarding bodies offering vocational qualifications during the Covid-19 pandemic. This document sets out VQ Covid-19 Conditions. These Conditions came into effect on **3 June 2020** for all vocational qualifications which fall within categories 1 – 3[1].
Also, there is related guidance:

[Extraordinary Regulatory Framework: Vocational Qualifications – COVID-19 Guidance (Temporary)](#)

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[1] A qualification listed as a Category 1, 2, or 3 Qualification by Qualifications Wales and identified as such on Qualifications Wales's website or on a website made available by or on behalf of Ofqual.

Criteria

Criteria are regulatory requirements that we check as part of a defined gateway process and are subject to ongoing compliance.

Some regulatory criteria are applied generally **(General Criteria)** while other criteria are applicable to specific qualifications **(Qualification Specific Criteria.)** In addition, certain subjects may also have subject specific criteria requirements that need to be adhered to **(Subject Specific Criteria.)**

General Criteria

Criteria for General Recognition
This document sets out the requirements which need to be met by an awarding body before it can gain recognition status. This document was updated in September 2015 to enable us to apply the criteria for recognition to applications made by awarding bodies for recognition under the Qualifications Wales Act 2015.

Approval Criteria and Conditions of Approval
This document outlines the criteria that a qualification must meet before it can be approved, and the conditions of approval placed on an approved qualification.

Priority Qualifications List (PQL)
This is a list of qualifications for which we have published approval criteria, or are under consideration for approval. Qualifications on this list will only be approved if they meet the published approval criteria. Approved status is not an indicator of the relative importance of a qualification. We will consider qualifications that are not on the Priority Qualifications List if there are published approval criteria, however the approval of qualifications that are on the Priority Qualifications List will be of higher priority.

Qualification Specific Criteria

Criteria for Recognition to award GCSE / GCE Qualifications
This document contains criteria that must be met by any awarding body that wishes to award GCSE or GCE qualifications in Wales.

Update to Design principles for Essential Skills Wales
This is an update to the Essential Skills Design Principles that were published in 2015. This document includes updates made following our review of the implementation of the revised Essential Skills qualifications published in December 2017.

[Design principles for the Welsh Baccalaureate](#)
This applies for all Welsh Baccalaureate qualifications where first teaching of the qualification was during or after the academic year 2015/16. ***As amended by*** [Addendum to the document "Design principles for the Welsh Baccalaureate](#)

Criteria for reformed GCSEs

These apply for GCSE qualifications where first teaching of the qualification was **during or after** the academic year 2015/16. Certain reformed GCSE qualifications in Wales are subject to Subject Principles and/or Approval Criteria (in addition to the General Criteria).

[GCSE qualification principles](#)as amended by [Amendments to the GCSE qualification principles](#)

[Approval Criteria for GCSE Qualifications](#)

Subject Principles

[Subject Principles for GCSE English Language](#)
[Subject Principles for GCSE Mathematics](#)
[Subject Principles for GCSE Mathematics – Numeracy](#)
[Subject Principles for GCSE Welsh Language](#)

Approval Criteria

[Approval Criteria for GCSE Business](#)
[Approval Criteria for GCSE Computer Science](#)
[Approval Criteria for GCSE Design & Technology](#)
[Approval Criteria for GCSE Media Studies](#)
[Approval Criteria for GCSE Welsh Second Language](#)

General Criteria for Reformed GCE - AS and A Level

These apply for A Level qualifications where first teaching of the qualification was **during or after** the academic year 2015/16. Certain reformed GCE qualifications in Wales are subject to Approval Criteria (in addition to the General Criteria).

[GCE AS and A level qualification principles](#)
This applies for GCE AS and A level qualifications where first teaching of the qualification was during or after the academic year 2015/16

[Approval Criteria for GCE AS and A Level Qualifications](#)

These set out the requirements for all new GCE AS and A Level specifications approved for award in Wales from September 2017.

[Approval Criteria for AS and A Level Design & Technology](#)
[Approval Criteria for AS and A Level Government & Politics](#)
[Approval Criteria for AS & A Level Law](#)
[Approval Criteria for AS & A Level Mathematics](#)
[Approval Criteria for AS and A Level Further Mathematics](#)
[Approval Criteria for AS & A Level Media Studies](#)

Criteria for pre-reformed GCSEs and GCE

These Criteria apply for pre-reformed GCSE qualifications where first teaching of the qualification was **prior** to the academic year 2015/16

[Criteria for GCSE qualifications](#)
Used as the basis for the development and accreditation of pre-reformed GCSEs where first teaching of the qualification was prior to the academic year 2015/16.

[Criteria for GCE AS and A level qualifications](#)
Used as the basis for the development and accreditation of all GCE AS and A levels where first teaching of the qualification was prior to the academic year 2015/16.

Subject criteria for pre-reformed GCSE and GCE qualifications were developed prior to the establishment of Qualifications Wales. Any awarding body offering these qualifications must apply the subject criteria that can be found on the Ofqual website, for [GCSE](#) and for [GCE](#).

Reforms following sector reviews

Following sector reviews, we have published approval criteria in the following areas:

Health and Social Care, and Childcare;
Construction and the Built Environment;
Digital Technology.
Approval Criteria for Health & Social Care and Childcare qualifications

[Approval Criteria for GCSE Health and Social Care, and Childcare (April 2018)](#)

[Approval Criteria for Children's Care. Play Learning and Development: Core (L2) (March 2019)](#)

[Approval Criteria for Children's Care. Play Learning and Development: Practice (L2) (March 2019)](#)

[Approval Criteria for Children's Care. Play Learning and Development: Practice (L3) (March 2019)](#)

[Approval Criteria for Health and Social Care: Core (L2) (March 2019)](#)

[Approval Criteria for Health and Social Care: Practice (Adults) (L2) (March 2019)](#)

[Approval Criteria for Health and Social Care: Practice (Adults) (L3) (March 2019)](#)

[Approval Criteria for Health and Social Care: Practice (Children and Young People) (L3) (March 2019)](#)

[Approval Criteria for Health and Social Care: Principles and Contexts (L2) (May 2019)](#)

[Approval Criteria for Children's Care, Play, Learning and Development: Practice and Theory (L2) (June 2019)](#)

[Approval Criteria for GSE AS & A level Health and Social Care, and Childcare (July 2019)](#)

[Approval Criteria for Health and Social Care: Principles and Contexts (L3) (August 2019)](#)

[Approval Criteria for Children's Care. Play Learning and Development: Practice and Theory (L3) (September 2019)](#)

[Approval Criteria for Preparing for Leadership and Management in Children's Care, Play, Learning and Development (L4) (November 2019)](#)

[Approval Criteria for Preparing for Leadership and Management in Health and Social Care (L4) (November 2019)](#)

[Approval Criteria for Professional Practice in Children's Care, Play, Learning and Development (L4) (November 2019)](#)

[Approval Criteria for Adult Placement/Shared Lives (L4) (February 2020)](#)

[Approval Criteria for Independent Advocacy (L4) (February 2020)](#)

[Approval Criteria for Social Services Practitioner (L4) (February 2020)](#)

[Approval Criteria for Professional Practice in Health and Social Care (L4) (January 2020)](#)

[Approval Criteria for Leadership and Management of Children's Care, Play, Learning and Development: Practice (L5) (November 2019)](#)
[Approval Criteria for Leadership and Management of Health and Social Care: Practice (L5) (January 2020)](#)

Approval Criteria for Construction and the Built Environment qualifications

[Approval Criteria for GCSE Built Environment (August 2019)](#)
[Approval Criteria for GCE AS & A level Built Environment (August 2019)](#)

Approval Criteria for Digital Technology qualifications

[Approval Criteria for GCSE Digital Technology (May 2020)](#)

Procedures

These documents outline procedural regulatory requirements. Some procedures are applied generally, and some are specific to certain qualifications.

General Procedures

Rules about Applications for Awarding Body Recognition

This applies to anybody which wishes to apply to become a recognised awarding body and to have its qualifications regulated in Wales.

Rules About Applications for Designation of Qualifications

This document is for a recognised awarding body who wishes to apply for its qualification to be designated by Qualifications Wales.

Scheme made under Section 15 of the Qualifications Wales Act 2015

In accordance with Section 15 of the Qualifications Wales Act ("the Act"), the present document makes provisions for how we will make arrangements for the development of restricted priority qualifications.

Scheme made under Section 17 of the Qualifications Wales Act 2015

In accordance with Section 17 of the Qualifications Wales Act ("the Act"), the present document makes provisions for applications for approval under section 17(2) of the Act, and our consideration of those applications.

Qualification Specific Procedures

Rules about Applications for Recognition to award GCSE / GCE Qualifications

This document is for any recognised awarding body wishing to apply for recognition to award GCSE / GCE Qualifications. This document should be read in conjunction with the Criteria for Recognition to award GCSE / GCE Qualifications.

Exam Procedures Review Service (Covid-19)

This provides an opportunity to hear an argument that an awarding body has failed to follow our regulatory requirements, or to apply, necessary policies and procedures in calculating grades for Approved GCSEs, GCEs, Welsh Baccalaureate Skills Challenge Certificates, and whether any error identified in the data used to generate a calculated grade(s), and/or in the grade(s) issued, was properly corrected

We published EPRS arrangements due to Covid-19 on 29 June and have suspended the previous version.

Wales Data Exchange Procedures and Data Requirements

Data Exchange Summer 2019
Data Exchange Winter 2019-20
Wales Summer 2020 Data Requirements

Policies

Our policies outline our regulatory approach. All policies are applied generally.

Enforcement

Taking Action When Things Go Wrong

This is for recognised awarding bodies and for members of the public to enable them to understand how we might use our enforcement and sanctions powers.

Fee Capping Policy

The Fee Capping Policy explains the circumstances under which we may impose a limit on the amount an awarding body may charge in connection with the award of publicly funded qualifications.

Monetary Penalties Policy

The aim of this policy is to set out the circumstances in which we are likely to impose a monetary penalty and the factors we are likely to take into account in determining the amount of that penalty.

Transfer Conditions Policy

This policy sets out circumstances in which an awarding body's recognition would be likely to be made subject to a Transfer Condition, and the circumstances in which we are likely to Direct an awarding body to transfer a qualification.

Reviews and evidence

Consultation Policy

This policy statement explains under which circumstances and in which manner we propose to carry out consultations.

Policy Statement on Conducting Reviews of Qualifications and the Qualifications System

This policy statement explains how we review the activities of recognised awarding bodies and their compliance with our regulatory requirements, as well as how we review the wider qualifications system.

Complaints About Awarding Bodies

This applies to anyone who wishes to complain about a recognised awarding body or about one or more regulated qualifications offered by such an awarding body.

[Regulatory Whistleblowing Policy](#)
The aim of the policy is to provide clarity on who can be classed as a whistleblower; to provide clarity on the type of disclosures we can, and cannot, consider, and to outline the process we will follow when handling whistleblower disclosures.

[Interim Statistical Outputs Policy](#)
This document describes how we will publish statistical outputs relating to data that we collect on regulated qualifications.

[Interim Revisions and Corrections Policy for Statistical Releases](#)
This document describes how we may make amendments and revisions to our routine statistical releases. "Statistical releases" refers to regular statistical releases that are published on our website.

Recognition and approval

[Priority Qualifications List and Restricted Priority Qualifications Policy](#)
The Priority Qualifications List policy sets out our approach to the approval of qualifications for awarding in Wales and outlines the rationale and processes for the restriction of priority qualifications.

[Recognition Policy](#)
The Recognition Policy explains our requirements for the recognition of awarding bodies, why we make criteria and rules for the recognition of awarding bodies and the circumstances in which recognition may be surrendered or withdrawn.

[Designation Policy](#)
The Designation Policy explains how we exercise our functions in relation to the designation of qualifications. Where an awarding body recognised by us wants one of its qualifications to be eligible for use on certain publicly funded courses, the awarding body will normally apply to us for the qualification to be designated.

[Regulatory Welsh-Medium and Bilingual Qualifications Policy](#)
This policy replaces the Interim Welsh Medium Statement and explains our overall approach to the provision of Welsh-medium and bilingual qualifications by recognised awarding bodies.

Appeals and incidents

[Regulatory Appeals Policy](#)
This applies to anyone who has been affected by our regulatory decisions and wishes to appeal that decision.

[Regulatory Incident Management Policy](#)
The policy outlines our internal processes for managing regulatory incidents. This procedure is for anyone who wishes to notify us of a regulatory incident so that they are clear on the procedure in place to manage this process.

Other functions

[Policy Statement on Joint Working](#)
This statement is for anyone who wishes to work jointly with Qualifications Wales in connection with our functions or other matters relating to qualifications. It explains the circumstances under which we may work jointly as defined under Section 52 (Joint working) of the Qualifications Wales Act 2015 ("the Act").

[Policy Statement on Provision of Services](#)
This statement explains the circumstances under which we will consider whether to engage in commercial activities as defined under Section 45 of the Qualifications Wales Act 2015.

[Regulatory Services Charging policy statement](#)
This policy is for awarding bodies. It explains the circumstances under which we may charge awarding bodies in respect of the costs incurred in connection with the exercise of our various functions.