



1 July 2021

Dear Head of Centre

As the academic year 2020/21 will soon be coming to an end, and most learners have been issued their provisional centre determined grades, we would like to remind you of arrangements that have already been communicated about the 2021/22 academic year and advise you of our next steps.

Summer 2022

In [March](#), we advised you that assessment requirements will be adapted for learners studying for GCSEs, AS and A levels and the Skills Challenge Certificate Qualifications in summer 2022. This is in recognition of the disruption to learning for these young people due to the pandemic and your need for clarity on content that will need to be covered as you prepare teaching plans.

We have updated our Requirements for Adapting assessments for GQ qualifications, which requires WJEC to make suitable adaptations.

WJEC ran a short consultation with teachers and lecturers on options for the Skills Challenge Certificate qualifications and this closed at the end of May. The adapted arrangements have been shared with schools and colleges.

WJEC ran a separate consultation with teachers and lecturers on adaptations for GCSEs, AS and A levels; this closed on 23 June. Consideration was given to the timing of this and balancing the fact that centres were very busy with the arrangements for awarding centre determined grades to learners, against the need for centres to have clarity on what the adaptations would be as soon as possible. The views of learners were also gathered via a separate consultation, and this closed at the same time.

The responses are now being considered by WJEC and the intention is that they will publish final details before the end of term.

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We have previously stated that AS results from summer 2021 will not contribute to the A level award in summer 2022. This is as per the planned approach for summer 2021, had exams taken place. There are no marks from AS units from summer 2021, so it is impossible to combine the AS and A2 unit marks in summer 2022 to award an overall A level grade. In summer 2022, A levels will be awarded on the basis of performance in the A2 units only, or learners will be able to take all units if they prefer.

Work is ongoing to develop the approach to grading for summer 2022 as a further mitigation for the disruption to teaching and learning experienced by this cohort of learners. As part of this, we will be mindful of approaches in other jurisdictions that also offer GCSEs and A levels.

Whilst we are planning for these qualifications to be assessed in the way they were designed to be assessed, with suitable adaptations to exams and/or non-examination assessments, we are conscious that the pandemic could continue to have a substantial impact that goes beyond the summer, and that could disrupt a national exam series. Whilst blended learning approaches have become further imbedded in the approach to dealing with the impact of the pandemic, if disruption to face to face teaching and learning happens on a big enough scale, then alternative arrangements may need to be considered. The arrangements put in place for awarding qualifications in summer 2021 differ across the UK nations, and we are evaluating the different approaches to inform contingency arrangements for summer 2022. We will confirm contingency arrangements early in the autumn term.

Winter series 2021/22

We [wrote](#) to schools and colleges in May 2021, confirming that the November series for GCSEs in English language, Mathematics, Mathematics-Numeracy and Welsh language would go ahead. We also confirmed that the adapted assessment requirements that were applicable to summer 2021 exam series, if it had taken place, would apply to this exam series.

Once WJEC's GCSE adaptations are finalised for summer 2022 awarding, we will be able to provide an update on the approach to be taken for the January 2022 series. It is anticipated that the January 2022 series will go ahead, and that the summer 2022 adaptations will apply. Arrangements for the January 2022 series will be confirmed as soon as possible.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Blaker". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'B'.

Philip Blaker
Chief Executive