

Regulatory Document

Special Conditions of Recognition

Special Condition – Introduction of on-screen Assessment by Examination in Relevant GCSE Humanities 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 will come into effect on the date on which an awarding body first submits one or more Relevant GCSE Humanities Qualifications for 14-16-year-olds for Approval.

SPCHUM1 An awarding body must ensure when introducing on-screen Assessment by Examination in one or more of the Relevant GCSE Humanities Qualifications it makes available, or proposes to make available, it complies with –

- (a) any requirements, and has regard to any guidance, which may be published by Qualifications Wales and revised from time to time; and
- (b) any requirements which Qualifications Wales has communicated to it in writing.

Interpretation and definitions

SPCHUM2 For the purposes of Special Condition SPCHUM1, 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.

SPCHUM3 In this Special Condition the following word(s) shall have the meaning given to them below (and cognate expressions should be construed accordingly) –

Relevant GCSE Humanities Qualifications

GCSE History;
GCSE Geography;
GCSE Business;
GCSE Religious Studies, and
GCSE Social Studies.

SPCHUM4 The requirements imposed by this Special Condition apply in addition to the requirements imposed by the:

- (a) Standard Conditions 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.

SPCHUM5 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 introduction of on-screen Assessment by Examination in Relevant GCSE Qualifications within the Humanities Area of Learning and Experience (AoLE)

Special Condition SPCHUM1(a) and (b) allows us to specify requirements and guidance in relation to the introduction of on-screen Assessment by Examination in Relevant GCSE Qualifications within the Humanities Area of Learning and Experience (AoLE)

We set out below our requirements for the purposes of Condition SPCHUM1(a).

1. By 1 September 2027, WJEC must submit to Qualifications Wales a schedule for the introduction of on-screen Assessment by Examination in each of the Relevant GCSE Humanities Qualifications. This schedule must include:

- (a) confirmation that an on-screen Assessment by Examination will be available in each GCSE within five years of the first teaching of that GCSE;
- (b) the series in which each on-screen Assessment by Examination will first be made available to Learners, and the reason(s) for each decision;
- (c) the window in which it plans to submit each qualification amendment request to reflect the introduction of each on-screen Assessment by Examination.

2. WJEC must submit an implementation plan for each on-screen Assessment by Examination (or implementation plan(s) covering more than one Relevant GCSE Humanities Qualification) by:

- (a) 1 September 2028, or
- (b) at least one academic year before its introduction,

whichever is earliest.

The implementation plan must include:

- (a) details of whether the Assessment by Examination will be available on screen only or whether it will also be available on paper, and the reason(s) for that decision;
- (b) how the design and delivery of the on-screen Assessment by Examination will balance Manageability, Engagement, Reliability and Validity;
- (c) how WJEC has engaged with Users of qualifications to inform its decision about the timing of the introduction of the on-screen Assessment by Examination;
- (d) how WJEC will work with Qualifications Wales and Users of qualifications to prepare for the introduction of the on-screen Assessment by Examination;
- (e) details of the communication, relevant training, and other support WJEC will provide to Centres ahead of the introduction of the on-screen Assessment by Examination;
- (f) details of the ongoing support which will be available to Centres related to the on-screen Assessment by Examination.

3. Within five years of the first teaching of each qualification, WJEC must ensure that an on-screen Assessment by Examination is available in each of the Relevant GCSE Humanities Qualifications.

For the purposes of requirement 3, the dates on which an on-screen Assessment by Examination must be available are as follows:

- Summer 2030 for Relevant GCSE Humanities Qualifications made available for first teaching in September 2025, or
- Summer 2031 for Relevant GCSE Humanities Qualifications made available for first teaching in September 2026.