



YGACS

Ysgol Gymunedol Aberdâr –
Aberdare Community School

Qualifications in summer 2022

Learner Information - November 2021

D

Deepening Thinking

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Role-Modelling Learning

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Purpose of this assembly is to:

- Clarify the process for the assessment of GCSE, AS and A level qualifications in summer 2022.
- Clarify what will happen **if** exams can't go ahead in summer 2022.
- Outline the evidence that would be required **if** exams can't go ahead in summer 2022.
- Clarify the process of awarding Vocational Qualifications (BTEC's, etc.) in summer 2022.
- Provide information on the exam timetable for summer 2022, including contingency arrangements.



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Who does this information impact on in summer 2022?

Learners in Year 10:

- GCSE English Literature
- GCSE Mathematics-Numeracy
- GCSE IT (only for those who opted for this subject).

Learners in Year 11:

- All GCSE and Vocational Courses (BTEC's, etc.)

Learners in Year 12:

- AS Qualifications

Learners in Year 13:

- All A level and Vocational Courses (BTEC's, etc.)



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Current arrangements for summer 2022 Qualifications:

- Summer 2022 GCSEs, AS and A level qualifications **will be** assessed by exams and non-examination assessment (NEA), for qualifications that have NEA. Once exams and NEA tasks have been marked, WJEC will award your grades.
- As you may know, WJEC have made changes to the qualifications for summer 2022, there is information about these changes available on WJEC's website. These changes are in place because of the disruption to learning caused by the pandemic (in the previous year and during this academic year). They are different in each qualification and will help you focus your time when it comes to preparing for your exams next summer.



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What happens if exams cannot go ahead in summer 2022?

- We expect exams to take place as planned and they will only be cancelled in exceptional circumstances. But, if the exam series is cancelled, then a contingency approach (a backup plan) will be needed. In this case we, as a school, will be asked to award learners grades based on your work in assessments across the qualification.
- If exams are cancelled, summer 2022 Centre Determined Grades will be awarded on the basis of demonstrated attainment in areas of the qualification content that a learner has covered. Centre determined grades are not the same as target or predicted grades as they will not be awarded on the basis of potential attainment.
- Each grade awarded by the school must be underpinned by robust evidence to demonstrate a learner's attainment across key themes and skills. These forms of evidence will vary per qualification, as determined by the requirements of each WJEC Qualification. Some subjects have Non-Examination Assessments (NEAs or 'coursework') that will contribute to the evidence whilst other subjects will rely on in class assessments and PPE's (Pre-Public Exams or 'mocks').



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What evidence will be used?

It will not be possible or permitted for teachers, or the school, to attempt to issue a Centre Determined Grade based on professional prediction, target or predicted grades or the potential of a learner but only by **actual evidence** of learner work.

The evidence that would be used can best be split into three categories:

- In class assessments and PPE's (pre-public examinations) which learners will complete between now and the summer.
- NEAs/coursework.
- Other “subsidiary evidence” from earlier in the course could be used to back up the Centre Determined Grades judgement.



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Important!!!

- Learners must be aware that assessments carried out over the next few terms could be used as evidence of attainment, rather than relying more on assessments carried out in the final weeks of the course, if exams are cancelled. This helps to spread the assessments out for learners and for school staff who will be marking assessments. It also reduces the risk linked to leaving most assessment until the end of the course and the public health situation at that time making this difficult.



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Pre-Public Examinations (PPEs)

To help prepare you for the summer 2022 examinations, there will be the following PPEs over the academic year:

- **Year 11** - Monday 6th to Thursday 16th December 2021.
- **Year 10** - Monday 6th to Friday 10th December 2021 (English Literature and ICT only). There will be a PPE for Maths-Numeracy in the spring term 2022.
- **Year 12 & 13** – Tuesday 4th to Friday 15th January 2022.



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Contingency approach for vocational qualifications (BTEC's, etc.).

- Adaptations are already in place for the assessment of vocational qualifications in 2021/22. These vary across awarding bodies depending on the purpose of the qualification and how they are structured and assessed.
- Where vocational qualifications are assessed by examination, these will go ahead as planned in 2021/22. As is the case for general qualifications, should there be further significant disruption that results in the cancellation of future examinations series, contingency arrangements will be put in place. Centre Determined Grades (Teacher Assessed Grades (TAG) as they are often referred to in vocational qualifications) may be reintroduced for those qualifications that were eligible for a CDG/TAG in summer 2021



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WJEC final exam timetable for summer 2022

- WJEC have published their final exam timetable for summer 2022.
- First timetabled GCSE and AS/A Level exam is on Monday 16th May 2022.
- The awarding bodies have designated Wednesday 29 June 2022 as a 'contingency day' for examinations.
- The designation of a 'contingency day' within the common examination timetable is in the event of national or significant local disruption to examinations in the United Kingdom. It is part of the awarding bodies' standard contingency planning for examinations. **Therefore, all candidates must remain available until Wednesday 29 June 2022 should an awarding body need to invoke its contingency plan.**



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Questions?

If you have any questions, please email the examinations officer:

exams@aberdareschool.co.uk

There is also a section on the school website under the 'Qualification summer 2022' tab with all of this information and the letter that was sent to parents/carers.

Attend, Engage, Achieve!

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