

FAQ's about Centre Determined Grades (CDG's) and the Assessment 2021 process -

Questions relating to equality:

1. What are protected characteristics?

There are 9 protected characteristics which include things such as disabilities, ethnicity, trans gender and also students who are LAC or young carers. Please see the Public Sector Equality Duty website for more guidance. [Public Sector Equality Duty | Equality and Human Rights Commission \(equalityhumanrights.com\)](https://equalityhumanrights.com)

2. In the same way that different schools have been impacted to varying degrees by Covid, so have individual students. How will extenuating circumstances for individual students be taken into account as part of this process?

We will rely on teachers to identify students who have those individual circumstances and we will support those students so that we have the best selection of evidence. We have flexibility to allow us to do that in the assessments.

3. Can you clarify the phrase "best exemplifies"? Is this the pupil's best work, or their most typical?

There are many different factors to determine the students ability in a range of work and we need to look the weight of evidence, so if a student has one poorer mark in an assessment, that will not determine their final grade. The evidence is looked at in its entirety across the range of evidence, ensuring that all skills are covered.

4. How much variation is there between schools in terms of this CDG process

Every school has to follow the basic principles shared at the beginning of the webinar to ensure consistency between schools.

5. How will they provide grades if the assessments/different topics offer a variety of grades in a subject? e.g. an A in one assessment but a C in another.

All assessments have access to all grades unless they have tiered papers. The assessments are planned so they cover all Assessment Objectives allowing all grades to be covered.

Access arrangement questions:

6. What does 'access arrangement' mean?

Access arrangements are things such as extra time, readers, scribes.

7. There was discussion in my child's form group about ensuring that students have the access arrangements they are entitled to such as extra time. Does the new assessment format change the nature of any of these arrangements and how much is it the responsibility of the student to make sure they have their access arrangements?

We will make sure students have the access arrangements in place for the anchor and subsidiary assessments.

Assessment-specific questions:

8. What is an anchor assessment?

Anchor assessments are NEAs and assessments taken from adapted WJEC papers and will be taken between now and the end of May. They are a recent capture of learning. See the powerpoint for more detail.

9. What is a subsidiary assessment?

Subsidiary assessments are other assessments that have been taken throughout the course. See the powerpoint for more detail.

10. How are assessments different to exams?

They are different to exams because they are chunked into the teaching and learning and take place in the classroom. You will know in advance when the assessments are being completed and you will also be told the topic of each assessment.

11. Will I get extra time in an assessment?

If you are due to have extra time as part of the access arrangements, then you will have extra time as part of the assessments.

12. Who will mark my assessments?

It is most likely that your teacher will mark your assessment.

13. If my mock exam was done online does this count?

It may count as part of the subsidiary assessment. This does not mean that it will necessarily contribute towards the final CDG.

14. Do I have to finish my NEA (coursework)?

Your teacher will be able to tell you whether or not the NEA needs to be completed.

15. How are the different assessments weighted? For example, do the anchor assessments account for a certain percentage of the overall grade

There is no weighting and it is a case of selecting the evidence that show the best performance for each student. If the anchor assessment is not the best evidence of performance and other evidence is better, we would use that and if the anchor assessment is the best evidence, then we would use this over the subsidiary evidence.

16. Please can you say what criteria teachers are using to make their assessments and if these are the same criteria as would have been used normally. Are these criteria available for students to see?

We will use the criteria laid out by the WJEC board, including the specifications.

17. How many assessments will be put forward as evidence for each subject?

This will vary from subject to subject. We have to ensure that we have enough evidence without overloading students.

18. How frequent will the anchor assessments be per subject? Is it an assessment per topic?
This varies between subject, but these are not exams, they are carefully managed in the T& L and will be well managed, chunked down and students are given ample notice. Before the assessments, the students will have revised the topics in the lessons prior to the assessment being given.

19. Have all the subsidiary assessments already been completed?
In most subjects, most have already been completed and the focus will now be on the anchor assessments. Subsidiary assessments may still be required in some subjects.

20. When do all assessments finish?
The assessments will be completed by the end of May.

21. What do exam class students do after the final assessments are submitted?
We have no guidance on this currently and as soon as we know we will inform students and parents. We may have an opportunity to offer further learning to Year 11 students in preparation for Year 12 as we did last year, so we will see what is available when we have more guidance.

22. Will students be given access to the WJEC grade descriptors?
They should be able to access the grade descriptors; however, they are not in student friendly language. Teachers will always have an eye on making sure students understand what is expected for each grade in the assessments.

23. Will students be made aware of the anchor/ subsidiary assessment results as they progress or only at the end in June?
We understand that students will want to know their results, but we need to ensure all marks are moderated and quality assured before we give them to students. Students will be given the marks, but they may not follow immediately after the assessment. Students will not get the grades until later in the process.

24. If marks aren't returned quickly on anchor assessments, how is formative feedback provided?
There will be no formative feedback on anchor assessments as they are summative.

25. Will there be more than one anchor assessment per subject?
Yes there will be but all students will be given dates for the assessments allowing you to plan your time and will be given the topic that is to be covered. Some assessments will be different lengths and they will be carefully managed with ample time to prepare for them.

26. Will we get a chance to improve these assessments? For instance as we didn't get the chance to improve mocks and I'm worried that'll have a great contribution?
Students will not be able to improve the assessment, but having revision, support from your teacher and notice of the assessments should allow all students to feel as supported as possible to achieve the best result possible for them.

27. Are questions to be taken from past papers i.e could some learners have seen or indeed answered them previously?
The WJEC have provided adapted past papers to be used by schools for assessments.

28. When subjects have more than one group; will the assessments be 'sat' on the same day?
The assessments may not be completed on the same day, but we are going to make it clear to all learners that if the student tries to or succeeds in sharing information or asking for information about an assessment, this will be taken as malpractice. Students will be asked to sign a declaration to confirm that they understand what is acceptable and the work has to be their work, with no support or help from anyone else – any breach of this will be taken seriously.

29. Will students be given a schedule of dates & topics for their anchor assessments?
Yes, we are collating that information at the moment and will hope to get that out to all students and parents as soon as possible. We will try to keep to these dates but as we all appreciate from the last year, there may be a need to move a date for a particular reason.

30. Is the WJEC or the school creating the anchor and subsidiary assessments?
WJEC have given us some of the assessments. Where this has already been completed schools have been given guidance to create their own.

31. Will we be likely to have multiple of these assessments per day?
Yes, it is likely we will have more than one assessment on some days.

32. What will happen if you miss an assessment due to being ill?
There will be an opportunity to sit an assessment once the student is better and returns to school.

33. How much notice will students get before assessments?
We will be sending out a timetable of when the assessments will take place very soon, and your teachers will also give you plenty of warning of the assessments.

34. When will we receive the assessment plans?
We are working on the plans at the moment, so we do not have a definite date. As soon as we have we will let you know through Parentmail.

35. Are anchor assessments open book?
No, they are closed book assessments. Students will not know the questions, but the students will know the topics and they will receive support to answer the questions to the best of their ability.

36. If subsidiary assessments have already been completed how can a parent check what work has been assessed due to ongoing contact with the school?
Everyone will receive a summary of all assessments that are being used and if you require further information please get in touch with the class teacher for further clarity.

37. How long do the students have to complete the anchor assessments?
This will vary between subjects and the qualifications you are doing. They range from 10 – 15 minutes for an assessment to 40 to 45 minutes but they will not last the duration of the whole lesson.

38. I am glad the WJEC is providing the quality assessment across centres. Will there be a cap on schools to stop grade inflation?
We are awaiting more guidance on this from Qualification Wales and WJEC.

Appeals/Results questions:

39. Would the appeals process start in June (after provisional results) or in August when they are official?

Stage 1 of the Appeals process is a centre review of the grade in June. We are awaiting more details on this process and will update students and parents when we have more information.

40. Do you expect the provisional results to be different from the final results in August?

They will be sent off to the WJEC for them to be checked so we cannot guarantee that they will be the same.

41. Will results be emailed in August?

We will have to see what the situation is like in August re. Covid and will make a decision closer to the time.

AS/University questions:

42. Are AS levels still 40% of overall A level mark?

No, AS grades are separate qualifications for Year 12 and Year 13 will already have a grade for their AS qualification and will receive a separate grade for their A2 qualification.

43. Previously, students were not able to receive a grade lower than the AS grade, will this be the same this year?

No, it will not. The Welsh Government did that last year as a result of the unhappiness surrounding the algorithm used. It is not the case this year, the A2 grade will stand alone and have no bearing on the AS grade from last year. They will be given as two separate grades as separate qualifications.

44. Do AS levels have UCAS points?

Yes, they do but not as well as the A level. If a student takes 3 subjects to A2 level, these are the grades that will be considered for UCAS points. Any additional AS grade, not continued to A2, these can be used toward UCAS points.