

Subject: Science

Qualification: Single Applied GCSE

**What assessments are we using?**

WJEC has made available to centres a series of GCSE past papers, which have been adapted to reflect changes to the specification for summer 2021.

The department has identified which of these papers will be utilised within the assessment materials.

The assessment materials used have been selected based on coverage of the specification by the department, so as to allow learners the best opportunity to demonstrate their ability in the subject.

The department will ensure that learners have the opportunity to showcase their capacities in the widest range of skills across all learning objectives.

Teachers will ensure that the assessment tasks are incorporated appropriately into their teaching and learning programme.

**Evidence to be used to inform CDG judgements:**

1. WJEC Past Paper & Coursework Task

| <u>Unit to be assessed:</u>                | <u>Assessment chosen:</u>  | <u>Assessment details:</u> | <u>Dates of assessment:</u>   |
|--|----------------------------|----------------------------|---|
| Unit 2 – Science to support our lifestyles | Past paper Foundation Tier | Control Level 3            | 1. 13 <sup>th</sup> May - 114A-5B Biology Lesson 3 (33mins)<br>2. 20 <sup>th</sup> May - 114A-5B Chemistry Lesson 2 (24mins)<br>3. 27 <sup>th</sup> May - 114A-5B Physics Lesson 3 (33mins) |
| Unit 3 – Coursework Task Assessment        | Coursework Past Paper      | Control Level 3            | Completed in Chemistry lessons from 22 <sup>nd</sup> March (2 hours in total)   |

2. NEA - N/A

3. Other contributing evidence – end of topic tests/assessments already completed in class. Past paper questions marked in accordance with WJEC mark schemes. Control 3.

**Levels of control:**

1 In class/open book/ teacher support provided

- 2 In class / open book
- 3 In class/no book/ test conditions
- 4 Exam conditions and venue.

### **Further T&L required / support for learners**

Before the Science assessments begin, pupils will have been taught all topics within the specification. Opportunity will be provided for them to revise specific topics, in line with the adaptations and with the assessment selected.

A thorough revision list will be provided to all pupils, identifying the topics that may appear in the assessment tasks.

Staff will make pupils aware of the schedule for assessment tasks and the scope and criteria for these tasks. The content of these assessments will be identified via the revision lists provided.

Teachers will not inform pupils which past paper questions they will be completing as part of their assessment tasks.

### **Delivery of assessment tasks**

Pupils will have access to the WJEC-devised assessment materials between April 12<sup>th</sup> and May 28<sup>th</sup>

All assessment material must be completed within this time frame.

Pupils will be required to complete assessment tasks independently. They will complete them in school and under the conditions required to ensure that work produced is their own.

Pupils will be given the required time allocated by WJEC to complete the assessments. This time will be disaggregated across a number of lessons/sessions but will not exceed the total time set by the WJEC.

No feedback will be provided to learners on the scores attained in the assessment tasks. Modified assessment materials will be provided, where required, following consultation with the ALNCo. All learners entitled to additional time or other access arrangements will be provided with this opportunity.

Assessments will be split into one Biology, one Chemistry and one Physics section. Students will complete the assessments using black pen. The assessments will be supervised by class teachers and pupils will be required to sign an authentication sheet to state that they have adhered to the assessment conditions and that their work is their own. Pupils will have access to standard exam materials e.g. calculators/rulers in the classroom. Once pupils have completed an assessment, they will not have access to that paper again.

### **Outline of procedures for marking, feedback and QA:**

Assessments will be marked using WJEC Mark Schemes by class teachers. Decision records will detail who assessed the evidence, when the decision was taken, identification of any reasonable adjustments/special considerations applied, and where the evidence is stored on a pupil record sheet. Once marked in red pen, a sample will be moderated from each teacher in green pen which covers at least 20% of the total entries. Work moderated will be done anonymously to mitigate the risk of conscious or unconscious bias. The head of department will then take a sample from every class to quality assure marking and moderation has been completed accurately.

If work is marked and deemed to have been plagiarised or copied from another student/persons, pupils will be invited in to partake in a question and answer session to demonstrate understanding of knowledge or to sit a different assessment of the same nature before a final grade is awarded.

### **How will a final grade be determined?**

Each pupil's grade will be determined using a 'best-fit' model, whereby strengths in some areas may balance shortcomings elsewhere.

When determining the grade, we will take account of unit and assessment objective weightings in the specification (including the effect of any adaptations) and consider each learner's evidence in relation to the WJEC grade descriptors.

Any extenuating circumstances will be taken into account before the final grade is allocated. The final grade will be based on a judgement of evidence collected across units and assessment objectives, taking account of any adaptations made for 2021.

All grades awarded will undergo stringent moderation procedures to ensure accuracy and consistency.

### **GCSE Grade Descriptors**

The WJEC-set grade descriptors are provided to give a general indication of the standards of achievement likely to have been shown by learners awarded particular grades. The descriptors must be interpreted in relation to the content set out in the GCSE specification (as adapted for 2021).

The most appropriate grade to award will depend in practice upon the extent to which the learner has met the assessment objectives overall. Shortcomings in some aspects of the evidence may be balanced by better performances in others. The WJEC-set grade descriptors for Science can be found on page 43 of the grade descriptor [document](#).

### **What is the contingency plan if pupils are absent/self-isolating?**

We have allowed plenty of time for assessment completion before the final grade submission date. This gives us 'catch-up' time if pupils were absent or isolating and have missed specific assessments. As all learners will sit the assessment at the same time, if a pupil is absent on their return to school they will sit a different assessment of the same nature. As qualification Wales states staff cannot predict or provide grades on potential, pupils who have provided us with no assessment evidence over the year will not be able to achieve a grade and will therefore be allocated a 'U'.

### **Malpractice, Maladministration and Plagiarism**

- For the purpose of this document 'malpractice' is defined as:

Any act, or failure to act, that threatens or compromises the integrity of the assessment process or the validity of qualifications and their certification. This includes: maladministration and the failure to maintain appropriate records or systems; the deliberate falsification of records or documents for any reason connected to the award of qualifications; acts of plagiarism or other academic misconduct; and/or actions that compromise the reputation or authority of YBB, its officers and employees.

- YBB will report all relevant cases of suspected malpractice to Awarding Bodies, accepting that in certain circumstances Awarding Bodies may take action of its own, including imposing sanctions.
- All subject assessment plans will include a section on malpractice, maladministration and plagiarism.

Some examples of pupil malpractice are described below. These examples are not exhaustive and all incidents of suspected malpractice, whether or not described below, will be fully investigated, where there are sufficient grounds to do so.

- Obtaining assessment material without authorisation.
- Collaborating with another pupil or individual, by any means, to complete an assessment, unless it has been clearly stated that such collaboration is permitted.
- Damaging another pupil's work.
- Failure to comply with published awarding bodies' examination regulations.
- Disruptive behaviour or unacceptable conduct, including the use of offensive language, at the school (including aggressive or offensive language or behaviour).
- Misrepresentation or plagiarism.
- Possession of any materials not permitted in the assessment room, regardless of whether or not they are relevant to the assessment, or whether or not the pupil refers to them during the assessment process, for example notes, blank paper, electronic devices including mobile phones, smart watches, personal organisers, books, dictionaries / calculators (when prohibited).
- Communicating in any form, for example verbally or electronically, with other pupils in the assessment room when it is prohibited.
- Copying the work of another pupil or knowingly allowing another pupil to copy from their own work.
- Failure to comply with instructions given by the class teacher, including but not limited to: a) working beyond the allocated time; b) refusing to hand in assessment script / paper when requested; c) not adhering to warnings relating to conduct during the assessment.

Examples of malpractice by, teachers and other officers, are listed below. These examples are not exhaustive and all incidents of suspected malpractice, whether or not described below, will be fully investigated, where there are sufficient grounds to do so.

- Allowing pupils to copy another pupil's assessment work.
- Allowing pupils to work collaboratively during an assessment, unless specified in the assessment brief.
- Completing the assessment for a pupil or providing them with assistance beyond that "normally" expected
- Failing to report a suspected case of pupil malpractice, including plagiarism, to the HT / DH and subsequently the awarding body.
- Failing to keep assessment question papers, assessment scripts or other assessment materials secure, before during or after the assessment.
- Allowing disruptive behaviour or unacceptable conduct to go unchallenged.
- Where there is malpractice it is dealt with under the disciplinary policy of the school and the awarding body will be informed.