

## **GCSEs Summer 2021 & Centre Determined Grades**

The disruption of the Covid-19 global pandemic has been significant for everyone – and young people taking examinations have been significantly affected. There has been a significant amount of time that pupils have not been present on the school site. In normal circumstances, each GCSE would have 195 hours of delivery and assessment time throughout Year 10 & 11. Clearly, much of the 195 hours over the past year and a half has been via remote learning.

In order to compensate for some of the reduction in face-to-face learning, the examination board produced 'adapted specifications' which removed the need to teach and assess parts of the course. The adaptations vary between subjects from removal of certain topics of study, to removal of whole units of the qualification.

The information contained in this document should provide some clarity on what will happen over the coming weeks, how GCSEs will be awarded, and some answers to some frequently asked questions.

### **What is a Centre Determined Grade?**

As you will be aware, the Minister for Education in Wales took the decision in the Autumn term of 2020 to cancel public examinations. The Minister directed the examinations regulator (Qualifications Wales) and the WJEC examination board to work with other professionals to put in place alternative arrangements.

The alternative arrangements will see pupils in 2021 awarded with GCSEs based on 'Centre Determined Grades'. St. Joseph's Catholic and Anglican High School is a registered examinations centre – therefore we will be submitting grades to the WJEC examination board. However, the grades must be based on assessments taken by the pupils.

### **Can teachers just give a predicted or estimated grade?**

No, this is not possible. WJEC has provided information known as 'Qualification Assessment Frameworks' for every GCSE subject. These frameworks outline what parts of the GCSE content and skills must be covered. For each of these areas there should be an appropriate assessment. Teachers are not allowed to enter grades based on what they think a child would have achieved, it must be based on the standard of work they produce.

## **What assessment evidence will be used?**

Each subject has created an assessment plan that will allow pupils to demonstrate that they have covered all the content and skills in the Qualification Assessment Framework. You can see what evidence we will use to determine a grade in the tables/grids on the following pages. The evidence consists of some assessments that pupils have already completed and a number of assessments that will take place before the 28<sup>th</sup> May 2021.

## **What is NEA?**

Most subjects (but not all) have some Non-Examined Assessments (NEA) that would usually count towards their final grade. This type of work is often referred to as 'Controlled Assessment' and some people would recognise it as 'Coursework'. Where a subject has NEA – parts or all of it will still be used.

## **What are Modified Past Papers?**

In order to provide some consistency to assessment taking for pupils across Wales, WJEC have released some assessments that are based on examination papers from previous years. Nearly all subjects will be making use of these. These will not be undertaken as traditional examinations – instead, pupils will work through these modified papers over a number of weeks. Time allocated to them will vary to allow teachers to support pupils in the knowledge, understanding and skills required. When a teacher believes pupils are ready to complete assessments they will then undertake them in their usual classroom. Pupils will not be sitting whole papers in one sitting, they will be 'chunked-up' into manageable sizes.

## **Do pupils need to revise?**

Teachers will provide pupils with the topics that they will cover. Obviously, they will not be telling pupils the answers to the questions. Teachers will support pupils in such a way that will allow them to do their best in their assessments. Revision will happen in class, but further consolidation and revision at home will help. Pupils will need to ensure they demonstrate their knowledge, understanding and skills to the best of their ability – and apply that information in a relevant way to the particular questions they are completing.

## **Attendance**

It is really important that pupils attend all of their lessons in the summer term in order to complete their assessments. However, if a pupil shows any symptoms of COVID-19 they must stay at home, get a Covid-19 test, and if positive will need to self-isolate for 10 days. This will not affect any final grades, as there will be sufficient other evidence to award a grade. It is important that pupils continue to test twice a week using their Lateral Flow Tests – this will help keep them and their peers in school.

## **Mitigating Circumstances**

Unfortunately, there are circumstances which can adversely affect pupils e.g. death of a relative, medical issues etc... and pupils are impacted by these events. If you think there are circumstances that we should be aware of it is important that you write to me as soon as possible, stating the circumstances that you would wish to be taken into account.

## **SEN**

Where there are grounds for pupils to receive additional support with their assessments, we will provide this. I will write to parents of pupils who are entitled to concessions due to special educational need. If you have not received a letter by the 19<sup>th</sup> April 2021, please contact the SEN/ALNCo to discuss this.

### **When will pupils leave school?**

Welsh Government have stated that there is no change to term dates for Year 11. I will write to you after Easter to confirm the exact leaving date.

### **Subject Assessment Plans**

The information in the tables on the following pages outlines the assessment evidence that we intend to use to generate the Centre Determined Grades. You will see that information in green (Evidence 1) identifies any evidence that already exists. Information in the subsequent rows (Evidence 2+), outlines any assessments that will take place between now and May 28<sup>th</sup> 2021.

Mr Wilkinson  
Headteacher

| <b>Religious Education</b>   |  |
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| <b>Evidence 1</b><br><i>(assessments that have already been completed)</i> | Unit 3 – Mock Exam<br>Unit 3 – Past Paper Questions<br>Unit 1 – Past Paper Questions |
| <b>Evidence 2</b>  | Unit 3 – Modified Past Paper – Relationships   |
| <b>Evidence 3</b>  | Unit 1 – Modified Past Paper - Judaism   |

| <b>English Language</b>  |  |
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| <b>Evidence 1</b><br><i>(assessments that have already been completed)</i> | Unit 1 – Individual Talk (AO1 recorded)<br>Unit 2 – Bryson Reading Skills Exam Questions and Descriptive and Exposition writing assessment (AO2)<br>Unit 3 – Argue / Persuade Writing Assessment (AO3) |
| <b>Evidence 2</b>  | Unit 2 – Modified Past Paper - Reading and Writing: Description, Narration and Exposition (AO2 & AO3)  |
| <b>Evidence 3</b>  | Unit 3 – Modified Past Paper - Reading and Writing: Argumentation, Persuasion and Instructional (AO2 & AO3)  |

| <b>Mathematics</b>   |  |
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| <b>Evidence 1</b><br><i>(assessments that have already been completed)</i> | Unit 1 – Mock Examination Paper 2020<br>Unit 1 – Past Paper 2019<br>Unit 2 – Past Paper 2019 |
| <b>Evidence 2</b>  | Unit 1 – Modified Past Paper - Non calculator  |
| <b>Evidence 3</b>  | Unit 2 – Modified Past Paper - Calculator  |

| <b>Numeracy</b>  |  |
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| <b>Evidence 1</b><br><i>(assessments that have already been completed)</i> | Unit 1 – Mock Examination Paper 2020<br>Unit 1 – Past Paper 2019<br>Unit 2 – Past Paper 2019 |
| <b>Evidence 2</b>  | Unit 1 – Modified Past Paper - Non calculator  |
| <b>Evidence 3</b>  | Unit 2 – Modified Past Paper - Calculator  |

### Science (Double Award)

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|--|---|--|
| <b>Evidence 1</b><br><i>(assessments that have already been completed)</i> | Mock Exam Papers<br>1 topic of past paper questions for each of Biology, Chemistry, Physics |  |
| <b>Evidence 2</b>  | Biology - Modified Past Paper   |  |
| <b>Evidence 3</b>  | Chemistry - Modified Past Paper   |  |
| <b>Evidence 4</b>  | Physics - Modified Past Paper   |  |

### Science (Separate Sciences)

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|--|---|--|
| <b>Evidence 1</b><br><i>(assessments that have already been completed)</i> | Mock Exam Papers for Physics and Biology (Chemistry exam did not take place due to lockdown)<br>1 topic of past paper questions for each of Biology, Chemistry, Physics |  |
| <b>Evidence 2</b>  | Biology - Modified Past Paper   |  |
| <b>Evidence 3</b>  | Chemistry - Modified Past Paper   |  |
| <b>Evidence 4</b>  | Physics - Modified Past Paper   |  |

### Welsh

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|--|---|--|
| <b>Evidence 1</b><br><i>(assessments that have already been completed)</i> | WJEC adapted assessments on:<br>Unit 3 - Holidays & Trips<br>Unit 4 - Celebrating/Special Occasions & Leisure Time<br>Unit 4 - Year 11 Mock Exam 2019 |  |
| <b>Evidence 2</b>  | Unit 2 – Communicating with other people (Oracy)  |  |
| <b>Evidence 3</b>  | Unit 3 – Modified Past Paper (Reading and Writing)  |  |
| <b>Evidence 4</b>  | Unit 4a – Modified Past Paper (Reading and Writing)<br>Unit 4b – Modified Past Paper (Writing)  |  |

### Art

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| <b>Evidence 1</b><br><i>(assessments that have already been completed)</i> | 60% NEA completed under the theme of 'Natural & Manmade' including:<br>AO1 – Artist Research (Critical Understanding)<br>AO2 – Media Experimentation (Creative Making)<br>AO3 – Development (Reflective Recording)<br>AO4 – Final Piece (Personal Presentation) Mock 2020 |  |
| <b>Evidence 2</b>  | 40% Mini Project ' Inside / Outside'<br>AO3 – Reflective Recording<br>AO4 – Personal Presentation   |  |

## Design & Technology

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|--|---|--|
| <b>Evidence 1</b><br><i>(assessments that have already been completed)</i> | Unit 2 – NEA partially completed (Brief / Specification; Initial Ideas; Final Design Sheet) |  |
| <b>Evidence 2</b>  | Unit 1 – Modified Past paper  |  |
| <b>Evidence 3</b>  | Unit 2 - NEA (Continuation of NEA)  |  |

## Drama

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| <b>Evidence 1</b><br><i>(assessments that have already been completed)</i> | Unit 1 – Devising Theatre – Evaluation Parts 1-3 (AO1 & AO3)<br>Unit 3 – Interpreting Theatre (Sample Assessment Materials)<br>Unit 3 – Interpreting Theatre Mock Exam |  |
| <b>Evidence 2</b>  | Unit 1 – Devising Theatre – Performance (AO2)  |  |
| <b>Evidence 3</b>  | Unit 3 – Interpreting Theatre Modified Past Paper x 2  |  |

## French

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|--|---|--|
| <b>Evidence 1</b><br><i>(assessments that have already been completed)</i> | Unit 3 – Environment (past paper question)<br>Unit 4 – Writing (past paper questions)<br>Unit 1 - Speaking Assessment |  |
| <b>Evidence 2</b>  | Unit 2 – Listening Modified Past Paper  |  |
| <b>Evidence 3</b>  | Unit 3 – Reading Modified Past Paper  |  |
| <b>Evidence 4</b>  | Unit 4 – Writing Modified Past Paper  |  |

## Geography

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| <b>Evidence 1</b><br><i>(assessments that have already been completed)</i> | Unit 1 – Past Paper Questions (2019 – Landscapes, Tectonics, Rural-Urban)<br>Unit 2 – Past Paper Questions (2019 – Development & Resources; Weather, Climate & Ecosystems) |  |
| <b>Evidence 2</b>  | Unit 1 – Modified Past Paper   |  |
| <b>Evidence 3</b>  | Unit 2 – Modified Past Paper   |  |

## German

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|--|---|--|
| <b>Evidence 1</b><br><i>(assessments that have already been completed)</i> | Unit 4 - Self, Family and Relationships (past paper questions)<br>Unit 4 – Technology & social Media (past paper questions)<br>Unit 4 – Holidays and Tourism (past paper questions)<br>Unit 4 – Global Sustainability (past paper questions)<br>Unit 1 - x2 Role Plays (recorded) |  |
| <b>Evidence 2</b>  | Unit 2 – Listening Modified Past Paper  |  |
| <b>Evidence 3</b>  | Unit 3 – Reading Modified Past Paper  |  |
| <b>Evidence 4</b>  | Unit 4 – Writing Modified Past Paper  |  |

## Health & Social Care

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| <b>Evidence 1</b><br><i>(assessments that have already been completed)</i> | Unit 2 – Mock Exam<br>Unit 1 – NEA partially completed (Parts 1 & 2) |  |
| <b>Evidence 2</b>  | Unit 1 - NEA continued   |  |
| <b>Evidence 3</b>  | Unit 2 – Modified Past Paper   |  |

## History

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| <b>Evidence 1</b><br><i>(assessments that have already been completed)</i> | Unit 2 – Germany in Transition (past paper questions AO1, AO2, AO3)<br>Unit 4 NEA – part 1 – preparation (AO1 & AO3) |  |
| <b>Evidence 2</b>  | Unit 4 NEA – continuation  |  |
| <b>Evidence 3</b>  | Unit 1 – Modified Past Paper; Depression, War and Recovery   |  |

## ICT

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|--|---|--|
| <b>Evidence 1</b><br><i>(assessments that have already been completed)</i> | Unit 2 – NEA Controlled Assessment<br>Unit 3 – Networks (past paper questions)<br>Unit 3 – Mock Examination<br>Unit 4 – NEA partially completed |  |
| <b>Evidence 2</b>  | Unit 3 – Modified Past Paper  |  |
| <b>Evidence 3</b>  | Unit 4 – NEA completion (omitting evaluation section)   |  |

## Music

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| <b>Evidence 1</b><br><i>(assessments that have already been completed)</i> | Unit 3 – Appraising (partial past paper) 2017<br>Unit 3 – Appraising (past paper) 2018 |  |
| <b>Evidence 2</b>  | Unit 3 – Modified Past Paper   |  |
| <b>Evidence 3</b>  | Unit 1 – Performing (recording of solo performance)                                    |  |
| <b>Evidence 4</b>  | Unit 2 – Composing (final submission of composing NEA)                                 |  |

## PE

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| <b>Evidence 1</b><br><i>(assessments that have already been completed)</i> | Past Paper 2018<br>Mock Exam Paper               |  |
| <b>Evidence 2</b>  | Unit 1 – Modified Past Paper                     |  |
| <b>Evidence 3</b>  | Unit 2 NEA comprised of two practical activities |  |

## Skills Challenge Certificate

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| <b>Evidence 1</b><br><i>(assessments that have already been completed)</i> | Global Citizenship Challenge already moderated by WJEC<br>Enterprise and Employability Challenge already moderated by WJEC |  |
| <b>Evidence 2</b>  | Completion of Individual Research Project (Planning section only)  |  |