



January 2023

Data Exchange Procedures

The following procedures outline the data that must be provided by WJEC during the January 2023 data exchange for each qualification forming part of the data exchange process.

This is a **Regulatory Document** under **Condition B7** of the Standard Conditions of Recognition¹ (March 2017): Compliance with Regulatory Documents.

This Regulatory Document applies to Wales' Welsh Baccalaureate Skills Challenge Certificate qualifications, Approved Health and Social Care (HSC) qualifications, Approved Child Care qualifications and Wales specific GCSE qualifications.

January 2023

The January series is a scheduled series offering unit assessments for some GCSEs, the Welsh Baccalaureate Skills Challenge Certificate, and Approved Level 2 and 3 Health and Social Care (HSC) qualifications and Approved Level 2 and 3 Child Care qualifications at unit and whole qualification level.

Following two years of alternative arrangements for awarding grades due to the pandemic, exams went ahead in summer 2022 and, in line with policy in Wales, national outcomes reflected a broadly midway point between national outcomes from 2019 and 2021. A similar policy will apply for summer 2023 but with the aim of results reflecting a broadly midway point between national outcomes from 2019 and 2022. The November 2022 series was seen as a pre-cursor to the summer 2023 series, given the predominant age of the cohort of entry.

The January 2023 series includes units that will contribute to qualifications awarded in summer 2023. It will, therefore, also be conceptualised as a precursor to the summer 2023 series. As with awarding the November 2022 series, there is a need for the

¹ <http://qualificationswales.org/media/2410/standard-conditions-of-recognition-300317-e.pdf>

approach to awarding to be adjusted slightly in this series. The context of the January 2023 series is, therefore, exceptional and awarding principles and methods may be specific to the series.

Given that there are differences in the cohorts, entry and other factors, the cumulative percentage outcomes at each specified level of attainment ("grade") will likely differ relative to those in summer 2023. Any comparisons of outcomes in January 2023 to previous January series are complicated by changing entry practices, assessment methods, and the impact of the pandemic.

WJEC must set standards in the context of the current circumstances. Awarding should seek alignment, as far as possible, with the level of attainment typically required to achieve the level of performance likely required to deliver the policy outcome of summer 2023 results. When setting this standard, and therefore setting grade boundaries, WJEC must ensure that the level of attainment demonstrated by learners at the recommended grade boundaries is sufficient to maintain public confidence in the qualification, accounting for:

- a. the unusual context of the January 2023 series
- b. the desire to align as far as possible with summer 2023
- c. and the requirements set out in this document.

With regards to Level 2 Health and Social Care, Level 2 Child Care and Level 3 Child Care qualifications, grade boundaries will be set according to the approach agreed by WJEC and QW.

With regards to Level 3 Health and Social Care qualifications, grade boundaries at component/unit level will still be set according to processes agreed by WJEC and QW.

With regards to Welsh Baccalaureate Skills Challenge Certificates, grade boundaries at qualification and component/unit level will be set according to the regulatory document 'Requirements for setting specified levels of attainment for the Skills Challenge Certificate qualifications (Welsh Baccalaureate)'.

GCSE

GCSE English Literature (Unit 1) and GCSE Welsh Literature (Unit 1)

WJEC is required to report outcomes for GCSE English Literature and GCSE Welsh Literature units to Qualifications Wales.

WJEC is not required to create predictions for the individual components.

ICT (Unit 1 and Unit 3 RE-sit only)

WJEC is required to report outcomes for GCSE ICT to Qualifications Wales.

WJEC is not required to create predictions for the individual components.

Welsh Baccalaureate Skills Challenge Certificates

Key Stage 4 and Advanced Skills Challenge Certificate components

WJEC is required to report outcomes for the individual components of the Key Stage 4 and Advanced Welsh Baccalaureate Skills Challenge Certificates to qualifications Wales.

WJEC is not required to create predictions for the individual components.

WJEC should also note the Awarding Principles for Skills Challenge Certificates in Appendix 2.

Level 2 and 3 Health and Social Care (HSC) Certificates

Level 2 Health and Social Care: Principles and Contexts components

WJEC is required to report outcomes for the individual components of the Level 2 Health and Social Care: Principles and Contexts qualification to Qualifications Wales.

WJEC is not required to create predictions for the individual components.

Overall grades should be calculated using the Uniform Mark Scale (UMS).

Level 3 Health and Social Care: Principles and Contexts components

WJEC is required to report outcomes for the individual components of the Level 3 Health and Social Care: Principles and Contexts qualification to Qualifications Wales.

WJEC is not required to create predictions for the individual components.

Overall grades should be calculated using the Uniform Mark Scale (UMS).

Level 2 and 3 Children's Care, Play, Learning and Development Qualification

Level 2 Children's Care, Play, Learning and Development: Practice and Theory components

WJEC is required to report outcomes for the individual components of the Level 2 Children's Care, Play, Learning and Development qualifications to Qualifications Wales.

WJEC is not required to create predictions for the individual components.

Level 3 Children's Care, Play, Learning and Development: Practice and Theory components

WJEC is required to report outcomes for the individual components of the Level 3 Children's Care, Play, Learning and Development qualifications to Qualifications Wales.

WJEC is not required to create predictions for the individual components.

Overall grades should be calculated using the Uniform Mark Scale (UMS) on two relevant units (subject to the other non-UMS unit requirements being satisfied).

Reporting

WJEC must report all of its **January 2023** GCSE, Skills Challenge Certificate and Approved Level 2 and 3 Health and Social Care and Child Care qualification results using templates A - J **by noon 1 March** .

WJEC is required to provide Qualifications Wales with a reporting schedule for all qualifications.

Grade boundaries that are likely to cause any concern should be reported on using the agreed template.

Sending data

WJEC must confirm their data exchange contacts with Qualifications Wales before the process begins. All data are to be uploaded to the secure collaborative portal (see Appendix 2).

All returns are subject to the final ratification of the awards by WJEC.

On receipt of the above GCSE, Skills Challenge Certificate and Level 2 and 3 Health and Social Care and Child Care qualification information, Qualifications Wales:

1. will review the data on the basis of its published procedure,
2. may contact WJEC to ask for additional information or clarification, and aim to do this within 24 hours of receipt, and
3. will hold regular teleconferences with WJEC technical colleagues, as necessary, to review data and explore any implications.
4. will discuss January outcomes with WJEC at the Standards meeting at **9am on 2 March 2023**.

Appendix 1

Principles for awarding Skills Challenge Certificates January 2023

1. Component key grade boundaries for each series should be set judgmentally, informed by relevant qualitative and quantitative evidence.
2. In awarding each Skills Challenge Certificate, regard to an appropriate range of qualitative and quantitative evidence must be given; a documented rationale must be kept to justify the selection, prioritisation and weight of the evidence considered.
3. The overall grade for the Skills Challenge Certificate should be calculated using the Uniform Mark Scale (UMS).
4. Qualification outcomes at key grades (A and E for Advanced level and A, C (Level 2 pass) and Level 1 Pass for KS4 National/Foundation) will be reviewed by WJEC, in the context of January 2023 and the policy position being applied.
5. Grade outcomes must be awarded and reported at both component and qualification level.
6. **Additional principle for the Advanced Skills Challenge Certificate only**
WJEC may adjust component intermediate boundaries where an adjustment would bring qualification outcomes closer to the broad midpoint policy position, -as set out in the Special Condition of Recognition 8 - Setting intermediate grade boundaries for the Advanced Skills Challenge Certificate in January 2023.

Appendix 2

Principles for using the secure data sharing site

1. The site is to be used for sensitive data relating to the data exchange.
2. Email should be used as usual where no sensitive data is included or attached.
3. In terms of version control, all templates must be uploaded using the date as a prefix in the following format YYYYMMDD-HHMM-Template name, for example 20160701-0830-WJEC-Template 1. Therefore, whenever a revised data template is uploaded, please create this as a new document using the date and time as a prefix.
4. Old versions of templates must not be deleted from the site.
5. WJEC users must not create extra folders within the data exchange library of the portal without consulting Qualifications Wales first.