



QUALIFICATIONS 22/23

Your guide to exams and assessments



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Introduction

If you're studying qualifications this year, exams and assessments will take place as planned.

Exams will run in the summer for GCSEs, AS and A levels, and for some vocational qualifications. Practical and other non-examination assessments will also be carried out.

Last year, qualification assessment requirements were adapted because of the disruption to your education throughout the pandemic. Adaptations (changes to qualifications) are not in place this academic year, however, advance information will be provided for Made-for-Wales GCSEs, AS and A levels (those provided by WJEC) to support you to prepare for your exams.

The information in this guide will help you understand how your exams and assessments will work this year. There is an overview of this year's arrangements, information about how your qualifications will be graded, plus other helpful info and support.



Our role

You may not have heard of Qualifications Wales before. We regulate all non-degree qualifications in Wales. It's our job to make sure that qualifications meet your needs.

We also promote confidence in the qualifications system in Wales, to make sure that your qualifications are valued and will support you to take the next step in your education or employment.

We oversee the setting of appropriate standards to support public confidence in the following qualifications:

- GCSE
- AS level
- A level
- Welsh Baccalaureate Skills Challenge Certificate
- Vocational Qualifications.

We work closely with Welsh Government and awarding bodies to regulate qualifications in Wales.



Key dates for GCSEs, AS, A levels and the Welsh Baccalaureate 2023

**NOW-
APRIL**

You will continue studying for your qualifications and be completing non-examination assessments in some subjects

**MAY-
JUNE**

You will sit your exams

**MAY-
JULY**

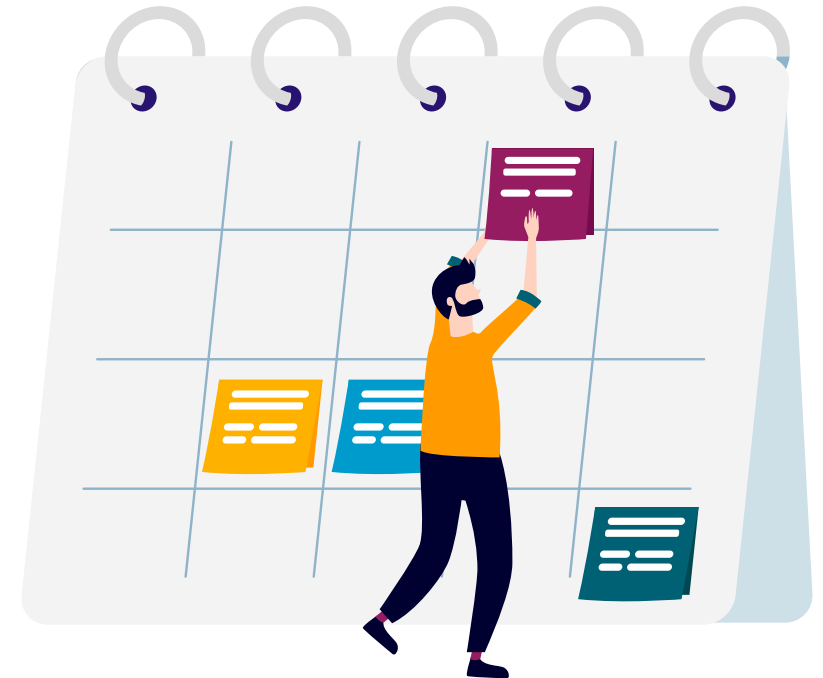
Your exam papers will be marked and graded by the awarding bodies

**THURS
17
AUG**

Results day for AS, A level and Advanced Skills Challenge Certificate

**THURS
24
AUG**

Results day for GCSE and Foundation/National Skills Challenge Certificate



Key dates for vocational qualifications 2023

**NOW-
JULY**

You will continue studying for your qualifications

**NOW-
JULY**

You will continue to sit your assessments and exams (if your qualification has formal exams)

**JUNE-
JULY**

Your grades will be awarded

**JULY-
AUG**

You will receive your results



Advance information

As we take the next step back to what assessment arrangements and grading were like before the pandemic, there is still some support in place this year. Advance information has been provided for Made-for-Wales GCSEs, AS and A levels to help you prepare for your exams and assessments. There will also be some for WJEC Health and Social Care and Childcare qualifications.

Advance information gives you an indication of the topics, themes, texts or other content that you can expect in your exams. This means that you will have some information on what will be assessed before your exam takes place. It will be different for each subject and should help you to prepare for your exams.

In most cases, the advance information will not cover everything that is going to be assessed. Some exam questions may require additional knowledge. Therefore, you should revise the whole course content, while using the advance information to focus your revision.

Advance information is not possible for the Skills Challenge Certificates. However, permanent changes have been made so that you will not need to complete as many challenges as learners did before the pandemic.

Awarding bodies have shared the advance information with your school or college. Speak to your teachers and lecturers if you have any questions about advance information.



How will I be assessed this year?

GCSE, AS and A level qualifications:

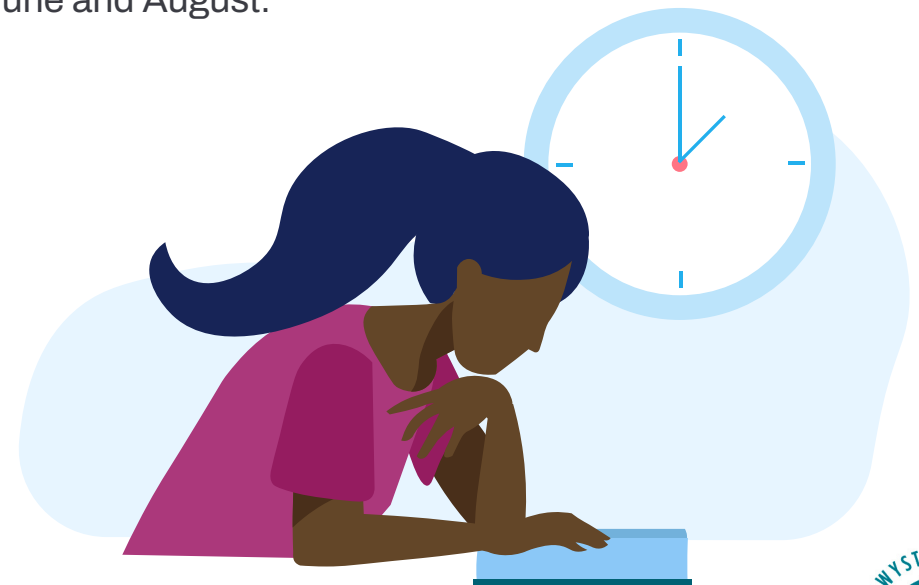
Most GCSEs, AS and A levels were designed to be assessed totally or partly by exams. That is why exams are the fairest way to assess these qualifications. Everyone will have the same papers, at the same time and in the same way.

- ✓ You will finish any non-examination assessments, if your subject has any of these (you may have already completed some earlier in your course).
- ✓ You will sit your exams in May and June.
- ✓ WJEC will award your grades after your exams and any non-examination assessments have been marked.

Vocational qualifications:

Vocational qualifications are more diverse in the way that they are assessed. Awarding bodies will have information about the arrangements for vocational qualifications on their websites.

- ✓ You will continue to sit your assessments and exams (if your qualification has formal exams)
- ✓ The awarding bodies will award your grades between June and August.



Grading qualifications this year

Who will award my grade this year?

Once your exams and assessments have been marked, your awarding body will award your grades. They will follow the usual processes to make sure that marking is fair and consistent.

Our role

As part of our role as the regulator, we will monitor the awarding bodies as they mark your papers and award your grades.

Results

For Made-for-Wales GCSEs, AS and A levels (those provided by WJEC), results will be broadly midway between results in 2019 (the last year before the pandemic) and 2022 (the first year that learners sat exams as we emerged from the pandemic). This means that when WJEC awards your grades, the process will continue to provide you with some extra support and a safety net as we take the next step on the journey back to pre-pandemic results.

For each subject, results are likely to be higher than they were in 2019 and lower than they were in 2022.

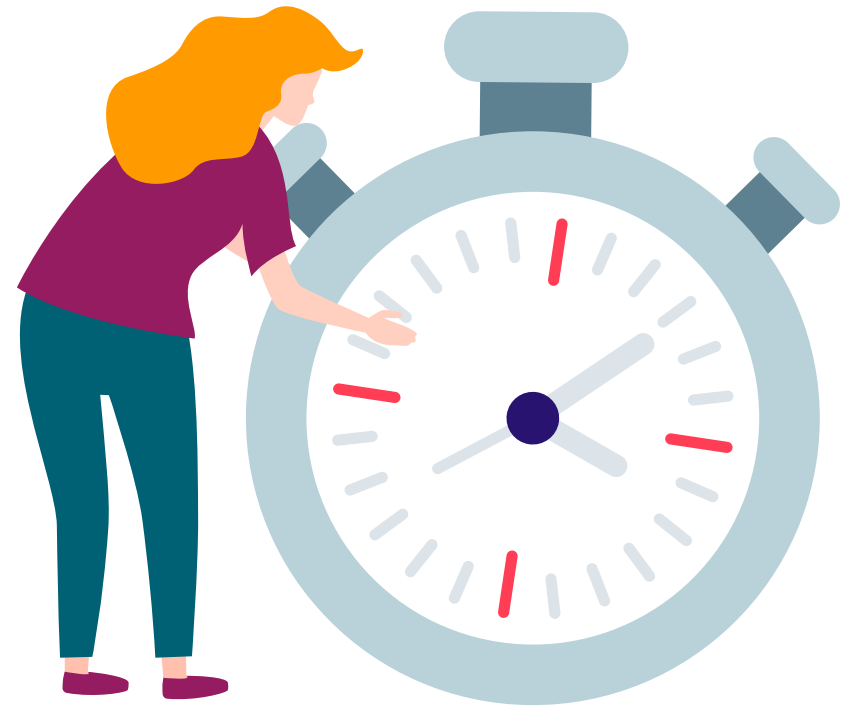


What happens if I am ill or can't sit an exam in the summer?

There may be reasons why you're unable to sit one or more GCSE, AS or A level exam this year.

The exam timetable has been designed to allow some space between each exam in the same qualification this summer. If you are ill, you will need to contact your school or college as soon as possible. They may be able to arrange for you to still sit your exam (for example, by isolating in another room), or they may advise you to stay at home.

WJEC runs a process called special consideration. If you miss one exam paper, and your school or college thinks you are eligible for special consideration, they can make an application for you. In many cases, you can still be awarded your grade, based on how you have done in another exam or assessment for the same qualification.



Support is available

We understand that preparing for exams and assessments can be a tough time. There is a range of support available.



Head to the Power Up content hub where you'll find revision tips, wellbeing guidance and info to get you through the 2022/23 exam and assessment season.



The Children's Commissioner for Wales has lots of helpful information about support services for young people, including mental health and emotional support.



Careers Wales has lots of useful information about qualifications and training.



Mind is there for you if you're finding things hard. You can get in contact for confidential advice and support.

BEST OF LUCK IN YOUR EXAMS AND ASSESSMENTS!



For more information, visit

www.qualificationswales.org

