



Requirements for setting specified levels of attainment for the Skills Challenge Certificate qualifications (Welsh Baccalaureate)



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REGULATORY DOCUMENT

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Version history

This is version 2 of this Qualifications Wales Regulatory Document and was published on 17 January 2022.

This document was updated in January 2022 due to the discontinuation of the WJEC Foundation (Post-16) and WJEC National (Post-16) Skills Challenge Certificate (Welsh Bacculaureate) qualifications and their associated Welsh Bacculaureate frameworks.

This document is also available in [Welsh](#).

We keep our Regulatory Documents under review and welcome feedback at any time. Please send any comments to policy@qualificationswales.org.

Application of this Regulatory Document

This document applies only in relation to the following Skills Challenge Certificate qualifications and their associated Welsh Bacculaureate frameworks:

- WJEC Foundation/National Skills Challenge Certificate (Welsh Bacculaureate) - QWAN C00/0721/7 (and framework WJEC National/Foundation Welsh Bacculaureate - QWAN C00/0721/3)
- WJEC Advanced Skills Challenge Certificate (Welsh Bacculaureate) – QWAN C00/0721/2 (and framework WJEC Advanced Welsh Bacculaureate - QWAN C00/0721/6).

Introduction

This document sets out Qualifications Wales' requirements for setting specified levels of attainment for the Skills Challenge Certificate qualifications and their associated Welsh Baccaalaureate frameworks specified above.

Compliance with the requirements set out in this document by awarding bodies making these qualifications available is required in accordance with Condition WB.M1 of the Additional Standard Conditions of Recognition for relevant Welsh Baccaalaureate Skills Challenge Certificate qualifications.

The Uniform Mark Scale (UMS) is used for these qualifications and other unitised specifications as a device for reporting, recording and aggregating Learners' unit assessment outcomes. The aim is to ensure that Learners who achieve the same standard will have the same uniform mark, irrespective of when the component was taken.

The maximum uniform mark for any component depends on that component's weighting in the specification. There are four components common to each of the relevant qualifications, each with the same weighting per component, as follows:

- **Individual Project** - 50% weighting / maximum UMS of 150
- **Enterprise and Employability Challenge** - 20% weighting / maximum UMS of 60
- **Global Citizenship Challenge** - 15% weighting / maximum UMS of 45
- **Community Challenge** - 15 % weighting / maximum UMS of 45

When Learners have completed all four components, their uniform marks are aggregated, providing a total out of 300 and the grade is then determined. A Learner must pass all four components in order to achieve a grade.

For ease of reference, the specified levels of attainment are referred to in this document as 'grades'.

SECTION 1 - Requirements for setting specified levels of attainment for WJEC Foundation/National Skills Challenge Certificate (Welsh BaccaLaureate) and its associated framework

1. The requirements for setting specified levels of attainment outlined in this section apply only in relation to the WJEC Foundation/National Skills Challenge Certificate (Welsh BaccaLaureate) – QWAN C00/0721/7 qualification, and its associated Welsh BaccaLaureate framework, WJEC National/Foundation Welsh BaccaLaureate - QWAN C00/0721/3.
2. Aggregate marks must be calculated on the basis of a uniform mark scale (UMS):
 - a) Uniform marks for each component must be calculated in such a way as to maintain the Learners' relative positions between raw grade boundaries.
 - b) Each component must be reported in uniform marks.
 - c) Uniform marks for each component must be added to generate a final grade for the qualification as a whole.
 - d) A mark of zero on the raw mark scale must be converted to zero on the UMS. The maximum raw mark for the component is always converted to the maximum uniform mark for the component.
3. An awarding body must set the following component grade boundaries with reference to Learner work:
 - a. Level 2 Pass;
 - b. Level 2 Distinction;
 - c. Level 1 Pass.
4. For each component the Level 2 Merit boundary will be set arithmetically, at half the distance between the Level 2 Pass and Level 2 Distinction boundaries. Where there is a remainder of one, the extra mark is added to the Merit boundary.
5. The raw grade boundary marks for each component must be converted to the equivalent UMS boundary marks according to table 1 below.

Table 1.

Component	Max raw mark	Max uniform mark
Individual Project	96	150
Enterprise and Employability	36	60

Global Citizenship	36	45
Community	36	45

6. Component grades must be awarded according to table 2 below.

Table 2.

Component	Level 2 Distinction <i>(uniform marks)</i>	Level 2 Merit <i>(uniform marks)</i>	Level 2 Pass <i>(uniform marks)</i>	Level 1 Pass <i>(uniform marks)</i>
Individual Project	120	90	60	30
Enterprise and Employability	48	36	24	12
Global Citizenship	36	27	18	9
Community	36	27	18	9
%	80%	60%	40%	20%

7. The qualification grade must be calculated on the basis of the aggregation of the four component scores weighted in table 3 below.

Table 3.

Component	Weighting
Individual Project	50%
Enterprise and Employability Challenge	20%
Global Citizenship Challenge	15%
Community Challenge	15%
Total	100%

8. An awarding body must award at qualification level (Skills Challenge Certificate) using the uniform mark grade boundaries set out in table 4 below.
9. This qualification can be awarded a Foundation or National grade.
10. For a Foundation award, the Learner must pass all components.

11. For a National Award, Learners must pass all components with a minimum of 80% at level 2 and a maximum of 20% (one challenge) at level 1. Where Learners have met this requirement but have not achieved 120 uniform marks, they will be awarded a C grade.

Table 4.

	National Level 2				Foundation Level 1		
Grade boundaries	A* <i>(uniform marks)</i>	A <i>(uniform marks)</i>	B <i>(uniform marks)</i>	C <i>(uniform marks)</i>	Pass* <i>(uniform marks)</i>	Pass <i>(uniform marks)</i>	U <i>(uniform marks)</i>
Total uniform mark	270	240	180	120	90	60	0
%	90%	80%	60%	40%	30%	20%	0%

12. Learners are permitted one resit per component. Their grade for that component will be capped at a Level 2 Pass¹.

¹ This cap does not apply for Learners who registered in 2015.

SECTION 2 - Requirements for setting specified levels of attainment for WJEC Advanced Skills Challenge Certificate (Welsh Bacallaureate) and its associated framework

1. The requirements for setting specified levels of attainment set out in this section apply only in relation to the WJEC Advanced Skills Challenge Certificate (Welsh Bacallaureate) – QWAN C00/0721/2 qualification, and its associated Welsh Bacallaureate framework, WJEC Advanced Welsh Bacallaureate - QWAN C00/0721/6.
2. Aggregate marks must be calculated on the basis of a uniform mark scale (UMS):
 - a) Uniform marks for each component must be calculated in such a way as to maintain the Learners' relative positions between raw grade boundaries.
 - b) Each component must be reported in uniform marks.
 - c) Uniform marks for each component must be added to generate a final grade for the qualification as a whole.
 - d) A mark of zero on the raw mark scale must be converted to zero on the UMS. The maximum raw mark for the component is always converted to the maximum uniform mark for the component.
3. An awarding body must set the following component grade boundaries with reference to Learner work:
 - a. Level 3 Pass;
 - b. Level 3 Distinction.
4. For each component, the Level 3 Merit boundary will be set arithmetically, at half the distance between the Level 3 Pass and Level 3 Distinction boundaries. Where there is a remainder of one, the extra mark is added to the Merit boundary.
5. The raw grade boundary marks for each component must be converted to the equivalent UMS boundary marks according to table 5 below.

Table 5.

Component	Max raw marks	Max uniform mark
Individual Project	72	150
Enterprise and Employability	45	60
Global Citizenship	36	45
Community	27	45

6. Component grades must be awarded according to table 6 below.

Table 6.

Component	Distinction <i>(uniform marks)</i>	Merit <i>(uniform marks)</i>	Pass <i>(uniform marks)</i>
Individual Project	120	90	60
Enterprise and Employability	48	36	24
Global Citizenship	36	27	18
Community	36	27	18
%	80%	60%	40%

7. The qualification grade must be calculated on the basis of the aggregation of the four component scores weighted in table 7:

Table 7.

Component	Weighting
Individual Project	50%
Enterprise and Employability Challenge	20%
Global Citizenship Challenge	15%
Community Challenge	15%
Total	100%

8. An awarding body must award at qualification level (Skills Challenge Certificate) using the uniform mark grade boundaries set out in table 8 below.

Table 8.

Grade boundaries	A* <i>(uniform marks)</i>	A <i>(uniform marks)</i>	B <i>(uniform marks)</i>	C <i>(uniform marks)</i>	D <i>(uniform marks)</i>	E <i>(uniform marks)</i>	U <i>(uniform marks)</i>
Total uniform mark	270	240	210	180	150	120	0
%	90%	80%	70%	60%	50%	40%	0%

9. Learners must pass each component to achieve a qualification grade.

10. Learners are permitted one resit per component. Their grade for that component will be capped at a Level 3 Pass².

² This cap does not apply for learners who registered in 2015.