

By email

Kirsty Williams
Minister for Education

01 December 2020

Dear Minister

In our response to your direction dated 24 November 2020 we indicated that the Qualifications Wales Board had agreed principles that would be applied to any future decisions related to the assessment model for Wales approved GCSEs, AS and A levels in summer 2021.

We understand that following the advice that you will receive from your Design and Delivery Advisory Group, you will set out your policy direction for the assessment model and the principles below will form part of the Qualifications Wales Board decision-making process.

Principles

1. The assessment model must:
 - a. give clarity to learners about what assessments will count towards their final grades
 - b. be made up of assessments that are representative of the qualification content as set out in the specification
 - c. aim to maximise the chance that all learners are familiar with the content that they will be assessed on
 - d. support the production of consistent performance evidence across centres
 - e. be deliverable and manageable for learners, centres and WJEC
 - f. be capable of accommodating learners not studying in a centre setting
 - g. allow for an appeals process which is fair and transparent for learners whilst being manageable for centres and WJEC
 - h. allow for WJEC and centres to ensure they comply with the requirements of Equalities Law, including having clear arrangements for making reasonable adjustments to assessments, and ensuring that an assessment does not produce unreasonably adverse outcomes for learners who share a common attribute or circumstance

Qualifications Wales

Q2 Building, Pencarn Lane
Imperial Park,
Newport
NP10 8AR
☎ 01633 373 222



www.qualificationswales.org

Cymwysterau Cymru

Adeilad Q2, Lôn Pencarn
Parc Imperial,
Casnewydd
NP10 8AR
☎ 01633 373 222

2. There must be a quality assurance process, led by WJEC, that allows the award of grades only where:
 - a. there is sufficient evidence of attainment at that grade for each learner
 - b. the evidence used for grading decisions is consistent
3. To ensure fairness for learners in Wales a similar standard to that used in GCSEs, AS and A levels In England and Northern Ireland should be used to award qualifications that are credible.
4. Accountability for appeals must lie with the party that conducts that assessment (e.g. WJEC for awarding body marking, schools for teachers' marking).

As we indicated in our previous letter, we believe it is important the Design and Delivery Advisory Group are also aware of these principles as they consider their detailed proposals for the assessment model. With this in mind, we have shared them with the Group's Chair.

We hope that the principles are clear and transparent, and would welcome the opportunity to offer any clarifications that you may require.

Yours sincerely,



David B Jones OBE DL
Chair



Philip Blaker
Chief Executive