

# PRIORITY QUALIFICATIONS LIST

This is a list of qualifications for which we have published approval criteria, or are under consideration for approval.



MARCH 2022

## **QUALIFICATIONS WALES**

### **PRIORITY QUALIFICATIONS LIST AND FORWARD LOOK**

This document contains the Priority Qualifications List, which is jointly prepared by Qualifications Wales and Welsh Government. It also contains Qualifications Wales' Forward Look.

The Priority Qualifications List is reviewed regularly and updated as necessary to include qualifications for which there are new approval criteria, and/or restrictions imposed (or under consideration for restriction) and to reflect the end of any priority approval periods. Those qualifications whose priority approval period end date has expired will be moved to the unrestricted qualifications with expired priority approval periods section of this document.

The Forward Look is also reviewed regularly by Qualifications Wales to ensure it continues to give awarding bodies notice of possible future priorities. The Forward Look is published below the Priority Qualifications List but is not part of it.

### **PRIORITY QUALIFICATIONS LIST**

Qualifications Wales and Welsh Ministers have prepared the Priority Qualifications List in exercise of their powers under section 13 of the Qualifications Wales Act 2015 (duty to prepare list of priority qualifications).

Qualifications Wales may approve qualifications that have been designed to meet the needs of learners in Wales. The Priority Qualifications List is a list of the qualifications for which Qualifications Wales has published approval criteria, or for which qualifications are under consideration of restriction and in respect of which it must, under section 18 of the Qualifications Wales Act 2015, consider any applications for approval from appropriately recognised awarding bodies. Qualifications on this list will only be approved if they meet the published approval criteria. Approved status is not an indicator of the relative importance of a qualification.

Qualifications Wales will consider for approval qualifications that are not on the Priority Qualifications List if there are published approval criteria. However, the approval of qualifications that are on the Priority Qualifications List will be of higher priority.

Qualifications Wales may also designate qualifications. Both approved and designated qualifications are provided by recognised awarding bodies and are eligible for use on publicly funded programmes of training and education for learners under the age of

19. Designated qualifications are not necessarily unique to Wales and are usually available to learners in other countries of the UK. Qualifications Wales will work with recognised bodies in relation to applications for the designation of qualifications not on the Priority Qualifications List.

Qualifications Wales has published the [Priority Qualifications List and Restricted Qualifications Policy](#), which provides more detail of how the Priority Qualifications List is managed.

### **Restricted priority qualifications**

Qualifications Wales may apply a restriction to limit the number of forms of a qualification that may be approved at any time. This section contains two parts. Part 1 relates to those qualifications where Qualifications Wales has an intention to restrict. Representations in response to the notification to restrict will be considered before any determination to restrict is published. Determinations to restrict are indicated in Part 2.

#### ***Part 1 - Intentions to restrict***

#### ***Part 2 - Determinations to restrict***

Qualifications Wales has restricted the following descriptions of qualifications to **one form each**:

Advanced Skills Baccalaureate Wales (Level 3)

#### **Building Services and Construction**

Core in Construction and the Built Environment (Level 2)

Foundation in Construction and the Built Environment (Level 2)

Progression in Building Services Engineering (Level 2)

Progression in Construction (Level 2)

Building Services Engineering (Level 3) – heating and ventilating installer

Building Services Engineering (Level 3) – heating and ventilating craftsperson

Building Services Engineering (Level 3) – plumbing and heating

Building Services Engineering (Level 3) – electrotechnical installation

Construction (Level 3) – dry lining

Construction (Level 3) – roof slating and tiling

Construction (Level 3) – civil operations – groundworks

Construction (Level 3) – timber frame erection

Construction (Level 3) – bricklaying

Construction (Level 3) – architectural joinery

Construction (Level 3) – site carpentry

Construction (Level 3) – painting and decorating  
Construction (Level 3) – solid plastering  
Construction (Level 3) – wall and floor tiling  
Construction (Level 3) – plant operations  
Construction (Level 3) – further plant operations

### **Health and Social Care, and Childcare**

GCSE Health and Social Care, and Childcare (Single Award)  
GCSE Health and Social Care, and Childcare (Double Award)  
Level 2 Health and Social Care: Core  
Level 2 Children’s Care, Play, Learning and Development: Core  
Level 2 Health and Social Care: Principles and Contexts  
Level 2 Health and Social Care: Practice (Adults)  
Level 2 Children’s Care, Play, Learning and Development: Practice and Theory  
Level 2 Children’s Care, Play, Learning and Development: Practice  
GCE A level and AS in Health and Social Care, and Childcare  
Level 3 Diploma in Health and Social Care: Principles and Contexts  
Level 3 Children’s Care, Play, Learning and Development: Practice and Theory  
Level 3 Health and Social Care: Practice (Adults)  
Level 3 Health and Social Care: Practice (Children and Young People)  
Level 3 Children’s Care, Play, Learning and Development: Practice  
Level 4 Preparing for Leadership and Management in Health and Social Care  
Level 4 Preparing for Leadership and Management of Children’s Care, Play, Learning and Development  
Level 5 Leadership and Management of Health and Social Care: Practice  
Level 5 Leadership and Management of Children’s Care, Play, Learning and Development: Practice  
Level 4 Health and Social Care: Professional Practice  
Level 4 Social Service Practitioner  
Level 4 Advocacy  
Level 4 Adult Placement/Shared Lives  
Level 4 Children’s Care, Play, Learning and Development: Professional Practice

### **Unrestricted qualifications with current priority approval**

**GCSEs**

**AS and A levels**  
Digital Technology

## **Unrestricted qualifications with expired priority approval**

The priority approval periods for the following qualifications have expired. These qualifications continue to have current approval criteria and any qualifications submitted against those criteria may be considered for approval.

### **GCSEs**

English  
Welsh  
English Literature  
Welsh Literature  
Mathematics  
Mathematics Numeracy  
Biology  
Chemistry  
Physics  
Science (Double Award)  
Applied Science (Single Award)  
Applied Science (Double Award)  
Geography  
French  
German  
Spanish  
Music  
Science suite  
Drama  
Physical Education  
History  
Food and Nutrition  
Religious Studies  
Art and Design  
Business  
Computer Science  
Design and Technology  
Media Studies  
Welsh (Second Language)  
Built Environment  
Digital Technology

### **AS and A levels**

English  
Welsh  
English Literature  
Welsh Literature  
Mathematics  
Further Mathematics  
Biology  
Chemistry  
Physics  
Welsh (Second Language)  
Law  
Media Studies  
Drama  
Music  
Physical Education  
Geography  
French  
German  
Spanish  
Religious Studies  
Design and Technology  
Government and Politics  
Built Environment

Level 1/2 Foundation/National Skills Challenge Certificate

Level 3 Advanced Skills Challenge Certificate

Suite of Essential Skills Wales qualifications (Entry Level to Level 3)

The qualifications listed on the Priority Qualifications List were jointly agreed by the Cabinet Secretary for Education and Qualifications Wales and published on **29 April 2021**.

## FORWARD LOOK

The Forward Look describes the qualifications that Qualifications Wales is considering for inclusion on the Priority Qualifications List in the future. The Forward Look enables Qualifications Wales to give awarding bodies notice of future priorities and to enable the development of appropriate approval criteria by Qualifications Wales.

The inclusion of qualifications or descriptions of qualifications in the Forward Look is not a guarantee that they will be included in a future Priority Qualifications List. Similarly, a qualification or description of qualification may be included in a future Priority Qualifications List without first appearing on the Forward Look.

The regulation of vocational qualifications is an important element of Qualifications Wales' work. In order to make the regulation of vocational qualifications more manageable and effective, we are adopting a sectoral approach to the review of qualifications. The current sectors being reviewed are:

- Travel, Tourism, Leisure, Hospitality and Catering; and
- Sports and Public Services.

One of the outcomes of these reviews may be the inclusion of qualifications for these sectors on the Priority Qualifications List in the future.

Qualifications Wales is looking at how qualifications taken by 16-year-olds in Wales may need to change to meet the future needs of learners and support the new Curriculum for Wales. This work is likely to lead to some reviewing and reforming of qualifications for 16-year-olds.

Following a public consultation in 2021, we announced our decision<sup>1 2</sup> to create new GCSEs and other made-for-Wales qualifications in the following Areas of Learning and Experience (AoLEs):

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<sup>1</sup> <https://qualifications.wales/media/iehjpxeb/qualified-for-the-future-our-decisions.pdf>

<sup>2</sup> [https://qualifications.wales/media/vc1fzzle/decisions\\_future\\_welsh\\_language\\_qualifications\\_final.pdf](https://qualifications.wales/media/vc1fzzle/decisions_future_welsh_language_qualifications_final.pdf)

<b>Expressive Arts</b>	<b>Health and Wellbeing</b>	<b>Humanities</b>	<b>Languages, Literacy and Communication</b>	<b>Mathematics and Numeracy</b>	<b>Science and Technology</b>	<b>Integral Skills</b>
GCSE Art and Design	GCSE Food and Nutrition	GCSE Business Studies	GCSE Integrated Welsh (for learners in Welsh-medium and bilingual settings)	GCSE Mathematics Numeracy	GCSE Science (Double Award)	Reformed Skills Challenge Certificate (Level 1/2) with a focus on assessing the Integral Skills of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Creativity and Innovation</li> <li>• Critical Thinking and Problem Solving</li> <li>• Personal Effectiveness</li> <li>• Planning and Organising.</li> </ul>
			GCSE Welsh (for learners in English-medium settings)			
			Additional Welsh qualification for learners in English-medium settings who are ready to progress further and more quickly in their Welsh language skills			



			GCSE Integrated English			
GCSE Drama	GCSE Physical Education	GCSE History	GCSE French	Small qualification to assess a learner's numerical proficiency, using an on-screen assessment method.	GCSE Built Environment	
GCSE Music	GCSE Health and Social Care, and Childcare	GCSE Geography	GCSE German	Made-for-Wales Level 2 Additional Mathematics	GCSE Design and Technology	
GCSE Film and Digital Media		GCSE Religious Studies	GCSE Spanish		GCSE Digital Technology	
Made-for-Wales Dance qualification		GCSE Social Studies	Small qualifications in a range of international languages		GCSE Computer Science	
			Made-for-Wales British Sign Language (BSL) qualification		GCSE Engineering and Manufacturing	