



A Level Centre Determined Grades Outline

March, 2021

Dear Parent and Guardians,

As part of its quality assurance processes WJEC has asked all schools to outline to pupils and parents the assessment parameters for determining CDGs for the 2021 season. Below is this outline and the possible timings for assessments for A levels.

Teachers, in lessons, have discussed methods of assessment with their pupils keeping them informed of the process. We hope the information below will give parents and pupils further guidance on the processes for assessment, many of which will take place next term.

You will appreciate the timings may need to be altered in response to any further national or local lockdown situations.

The pupils have been working very well in lessons and staff are very pleased with the levels of engagement.

English Literature – Pupils will be assessed using an adapted assessment paper for Unit 3, Section A (Christina Rossetti). Their assessment for this is likely to take place over 3 lessons, potentially in the weeks commencing 10th and 17th May. They will also be assessed using an adapted assessment paper for Unit 4 (Shakespeare). Their assessment for this is likely to take place over 4 lessons, potentially in the weeks commencing 19th and 26th April and 3rd May. Pupils have already completed drafts of their Unit 5 non-examination assessments and will be expected to submit final essays by 28th May. Consideration may also be given to pupils' performance in mock exams, classwork and blended learning work completed at home, particularly where individual pupils may have missed aspects of the course due to absence.

Psychology - Pupils will be assessed using WJEC adapted assessment papers for Unit 3. These assessments are likely to take place during Psychology lessons potentially in the weeks commencing 18th April. Consideration may also be given to pupil's performance in class-based tasks completed after this date, class tests and work completed during blended learning.

Sociology - Pupils will be assessed using WJEC adapted assessment papers for Unit 3 and 4. These assessments are likely to take place during Psychology lessons potentially in the week commencing 26th April (Unit 3) and week commencing 17th May (Unit 4). Consideration may also be given to pupil's performance in class-based tasks completed after this date, class tests and work completed during blended learning.

Maths – Pupils will be assessed using WJEC adapted assessment papers for both the Pure and Applied elements of A Level Mathematics. There will be 2 assessments for Pure and 2 assessments for Applied. Each of these assessments will be completed in Maths lessons following a series of lessons of focussed teaching on the topics being assessed in each assessment. The assessments are likely to take place over a total of 9 weeks.

Biology – Pupils will be assessed using WJEC adapted assessment papers for Units 3 & 4 These assessments are likely to take place over a period of 2 weeks per unit potentially in the weeks commencing 10th May 2021. Consideration may also be given to pupil's performance in end of topic assessments and mock exams during the year.

Chemistry - Pupils will be assessed using WJEC adapted assessment papers for Units 3 & 4. These assessments are likely to take place over a period of 2 weeks per unit potentially in the weeks commencing 10th May 2021. Consideration may also be given to pupil's performance in end of topic assessments and mock exams during the year.

Physics - Pupils will be assessed using WJEC adapted assessment papers for Units 3 & 4. These assessments are likely to take place over a period of 2 weeks per unit potentially in the weeks commencing 10th May 2021. Consideration may also be given to pupil's performance in end of topic assessments and mock exams during the year

Computer Science – Pupils will be assessed using WJEC adapted assessment papers for Unit 1 and 2 adapted theory papers. These assessments are likely to take place in May over 5 lessons. Pupils will continue with their Non-Examined Assessments for Unit 5 over the coming weeks which will also contribute towards their final grade.

Applied ICT – Pupils will be assessed using their Non-Examined Assessments for Unit 3 and 4. They will complete their final tasks for unit 3 over Easter. Pupils will then continue with their Non-Examined Assessments for Unit 4 over the coming weeks which will also contribute towards their final grade.

Product Design - Pupils have been assessed using WJEC adapted assessment papers for Unit 3. Pupils will be completing their Non-Examined Assessment at the Pencoedtre site over the coming weeks.

Geography – Pupils will be assessed using WJEC adapted assessment papers for both unit 4 (Weather and Tectonics) which is taught at Whitmore and unit 3 (Global Systems) which is taught at Pencoedtre. These assessments are likely to take place in the week beginning Monday 17th May. Pupils are also being assessed on their NEA investigation (Unit 5) which will need to be completed before the end of May. Consideration may also be given to pupil's performance in other assessed work completed during the year.

Geology – Pupils will be assessed using WJEC adapted assessment papers for Component 1 (Fundamentals of Geology), Component 2 (Geological Principles) and Component 3 (Geological Applications). These assessments are likely to take place in the weeks beginning Monday 19th April (Component 1), Monday 10th May (Component 2) and Monday 24th May (Component 3). Consideration may also be given to pupil's performance in other assessed work completed during the year.

History Pupils will be assessed using WJEC adapted assessment papers for Unit 3 at Whitmore and Unit 4 at Pencoedtre. The assessment at Whitmore is likely to take place over 2 lessons potentially in the weeks commencing 10th May. Pupils will also be assessed using the WJEC controlled assessment which will be completed at Pencoedtre. Consideration may also be given to pupil's performance in essays completed during the year.

RE – Pupils will be assessed using WJEC adapted assessment papers for Unit 4 (Ethics) and Unit 5 (Philosophy). These assessments are likely to take place in lessons potentially over three weeks commencing the 18th of April and the week commencing 17th May.

Music – Pupils will be assessed in three areas: Performing (Unit 4), Composing (Unit 5) and Appraising (Unit 6). Performances and compositions will be marked based on evidence gathered up to Friday 21st of May. Some students may have already completed units 4 & 5. We will be using WJEC adapted assessment papers for unit 6. These assessments are likely to take place over 4 lessons potentially in the weeks commencing the 17th and 24th of May. Consideration may also be given to pupils' performance in mock exams, classwork and blended learning work completed at home, particularly where individual pupils may have missed aspects of the course due to absence.

Theatre Studies – Pupils have already completed their Unit 3 non-examination performance assessments in school. This includes both practical and written assessment tasks. They will also be assessed using an adapted assessment paper for Unit 4: Section A ('Mametz') Section B ('Sweeny Todd'). These assessments will take place between the 12/4/21 and the 28/4/21. The 10/5/21 to 21/5/21 will be an opportunity for any pupils to complete any aspects of the work outstanding for Unit 4. Consideration may also be given to pupils' performance in mock exams, classwork and blended learning work completed at home, particularly where individual pupils may have missed aspects of the course due to absence.

Sport- this course is a BTEC qualification and therefore a moderation and sampling process will take place during the summer term for a selection of units that have been covered so far. The centre is assessed via an external sampling process that will help determine pupils' grades. The sampling process is underway and will be finalised by June / July.

Art – Pupils will be assessed using WJEC adapted assessment statements to aid the marking of students work. This will be alongside the WJEC marking scheme and exemplar evidence. These assessments will take place during May; students will be given the deadline of 13th May to complete their coursework, including the work below and a final piece(s). Consideration may also be given to mind maps, mood boards artist’s research & analysis, own photography, observational drawings, creative making, development of ideas, reviewing & refinement of own ideas, final design, annotation, practise pieces relating to final design, final piece(s) and an evaluation making connections to the artist who inspired own work. Pupil’s may choose to complete work at home, but where this is lengthy, we ask that their efforts are recorded using photography. We require evidence to assess every pupil’s grade, therefore it is essential that students make the most of the time left to show what they are capable of.

Photography – Pupils will be assessed using WJEC adapted assessment statements to aid the marking of students work. This will be alongside the WJEC marking scheme and exemplar evidence. These assessments will take place during May; students will be given the deadline of 13th May to complete their coursework, including the work below and a final piece(s). Consideration may also be given to mind maps, mood boards photographer’s research & analysis, own photography, own photos (contacts/wallets), planning sketches, creative making, development of ideas, reviewing & refinement of own ideas, final design, annotation, practise pieces relating to final design, final piece(s) and an evaluation making connections to the artist/photographer who inspired own work. Pupil’s may choose to complete work at home, but where this is lengthy, we ask that their efforts are recorded using photography. We require evidence to assess every pupil’s grade, therefore it is essential that students make the most of the time left to show what they are capable of.

Skills Challenge – As the Skills Challenge A level is assessed in a different way, the WJEC are asking for holistic grades based on two of the challenges. Students completed the Global Challenge in Year 12 and students received these results following entry in January 2021. The second challenge is the Individual Project which will be marked and moderated during the assessment window.

May I take this opportunity to wish you and your family a restful and happy Easter break; let’s hope we have some sunshine to enjoy.

Yours sincerely,



Mrs. E. Price, Assistant Headteacher