

Cowbridge Comprehensive School

Qualifications 2021 – Centre Determined Grades

Year 10 – GCSE English Literature.

Version 1

26 March 2021

As has already been communicated to parents in various Parentmail updates, there are no summer examinations for students taking GCSEs in 2021. Instead, qualifications will be awarded using Centre Determined Grades (CDGs). This means that individual examination centres will determine the grades awarded for each qualification. For pupils in Year 10 this will only affect the GCSE English Literature qualification.

As an examination centre, Cowbridge Comprehensive School's approach to determining CDGs will follow the 'Guidance on Alternative Arrangements for Approved GCSEs, AS and A levels provided by [Qualifications Wales](#).

Centre-Determined Grades (CDGs)

A Centre Determined Grade is the grade awarded by the school, as an examination centre, on the basis of attainment which has been demonstrated in the areas of the qualification content that a student has covered.

For GCSE English Literature, teachers will use a WJEC Assessment Framework which includes grade descriptors to support the accurate awarding of grades. Each grade awarded by the school must be supported by evidence to demonstrate a student's attainment across key themes and skills within the subject. Centre Determined Grades are not professional predictions, neither do they reflect the potential of a student. They are not the same as grades which may have appeared on interim or formal reports to parents. Teachers will be required to apply their professional judgement and decide whether the knowledge and skills demonstrated meets the usual standard for a grade.

To arrive at an accurate CDG, the school will be required to make a 'best-fit' judgement. Students are not required to demonstrate all aspects of a grade descriptor to be awarded the grade. Students should be awarded a grade which supports evidence of attainment across enough content within the subject. Students may achieve the same grades by demonstrating different combinations of knowledge, skills and understanding. This means that strengths in some areas may counterbalance less secure knowledge, understanding and skills in others. As a result, the 'best-fit' grade may be awarded. Where there is insufficient evidence, or where evidence suggest attainment is below that required of the lowest grade for a qualification (ie. G grade at GCSE) then a student will be awarded a Centre Determined Grade of U.

How CDGs will be determined

CDGs will be arrived at using evidence of work completed by a student, using the adapted specification content. In determining a grade, the following types of evidence will be used.

1. Adapted past-paper questions

The school will make use of WJEC adapted past-papers when setting tasks to help determine a grade in English literature. This is because they:

- have already been externally quality assured;
- are fully supported by clear mark schemes;
- and are familiar to both students and staff.

Teachers will ensure these past papers, which will form a key part of the evidence, will be incorporated within their teaching and learning plans.

2. Non-Examination Assessment (NEA)

Teachers can use the performance of students in this element to help contribute towards the determination of a grade.

3. Other contributing evidence

a) Teachers may use evidence from previously completed WJEC past-paper questions, which have been externally quality assured, with a published mark scheme, and where they have been completed under controlled conditions.

b) Assessments undertaken prior to the publication of the CDG requirements will only be used to help confirm a judgement. However, this evidence may not be used by itself to determine grades since, at the time of completion, it is possible that students would not have been aware of the importance of these tasks. This is designed to ensure fairness and equity to all students.

The evidence generated will not be completed in the form of traditional examinations. Assessed work will be completed in classrooms within normal lesson time. Most “new” assessed work using adapted past papers will be completed and evidence gathered in the half term after the Easter holidays. This work produced will provide evidence of the best fit grade.

Given the type of evidence to be gathered to support CDGs, it is not possible to publish a detailed subject specific timetable. As students will not be sitting formal exams, it is likely that they may be completing activities at different stages to others within the same year group. However, the English department are in the process of finalising their assessment approaches and schedules.

Work will be completed independently by students, under similar ‘control levels’ to existing arrangements, which are supervised by teachers, for NEA.

This is to ensure evidence produced is the student’s own. Wherever possible, this work will be completed in class in place of standard work, which is then assessed. Where external factors prevent this from happening, such as national lockdowns, self-isolation etc, then work may need to be completed at home. However, where this is the case, the school will introduce measures to verify that the work is the student’s own.

Quality Assurance Processes

The WJEC will require internal processes to be undertaken to promote consistency. Quality assurance processes will be undertaken to ensure the grades determined are valid, reliable, equitable and fair.

Recording Decisions

The school will keep a record to document the rationale for grade decisions.

Review of Centre Determined Grades and Appeals

The full procedures relating to the reviewing of centre grades and the appeals process has not been finalised and confirmed by the WJEC and Qualifications Wales. We await details relating to the grounds for any appeal and the process by which any appeal can be made. However, we can inform you that students will be informed of a provisional grade on 16/06/21.

A student who is not satisfied with their grade will be able to appeal their grade. The appeals process will have three stages:

Stage 1 involves a centre review of the provisional CDG on the grounds of judgement and/or a procedural error has been made.

Where a review has been requested, it will be considered by a member of staff who was not the original assessor. Members of the School's Senior Leadership Team will also review that the school's processes have been followed, in terms of associated decision-making records etc. New or additional evidence will not be considered as part of the review process. Where a review has been upheld, the Centre Determined Grade will be amended.

Stage 2 will involve an appeal to WJEC on the grounds that the judgement that the centre has made is unreasonable and/or a procedural error has been made;

Stage 3 involves a request to Qualification Wales for an Exam Procedures Review Service (EPRS) to review whether WJEC has followed the required procedures.

In all appeals students will need to be aware that a centre determined grade may be improved, stay the same, or be lowered.

Public Sector Equality Duty and Data Protection

The school will ensure it meets its Public Sector Equality Duty.

Evidence gathered by the School to support the determination of grades will make use of WJEC standardised materials. This includes the use of adapted past-paper questions, and mark schemes. These materials have already been through a process of equality impact assessment to ensure they meet the needs of the general equality duty. This approach, and individual subject assessment plans, ensure that arrangements for those students entitled to concessions are met. Moderation activities will ensure that a broad range of students, which include those from protected characteristics, are included.

The School will ensure it meets data protection and processing regulations in line with existing policies and procedures. The school's privacy notices will be reviewed in line with the ICO's Data Protection Impact Assessment guidance.

This letter outlines the situation on 26 March 2021. We will provide you with updated details regarding the process as soon as we are able to do so.

Regards,

Cowbridge Comprehensive School Senior Leadership Team.