

GCSE Core Cymraeg Qualification Outline

Version 1.0



Made for Wales.
Ready for the world.

Summary of Amendments

Version	Description	Page Number
1.0	Document Introduction	N/A

Introduction

This document provides a high-level overview of the WJEC Core Cymraeg qualification.

It is based on Qualifications Wales's Approval Criteria

(<https://qualifications.wales/media/wd5pij0v/gcse-core-cymraeg-approval-criteria.pdf>). Our qualification **must** meet these requirements.

The qualification outline will provide a guide for the development of the Specification and Sample Assessment Materials (SAMs). Aspects of the outline may need to be revisited if issues arise during the development process.

Qualification Overview

The construct of GCSE Core Cymraeg is based on the Welsh Government¹ subject specific considerations and statements of what matters for Languages, Literacy and Communication ²:

- understanding the world around us
- enjoyment of Cymraeg and seeing value for Cymraeg outside the classroom
- using language associated with interests
- developing the use of Cymraeg for socialising and the workplace
- a wide variety of opportunities for learners to hear, see and read material which is rich and diverse in Cymraeg
- develop linguistic skills in order to use Cymraeg in a confident manner.

The GCSE Core Cymraeg qualification will support the Curriculum for Wales by:

- Supporting the statements of what matters³ by giving learners the opportunity to:
 - develop their understanding, empathy and ability to respond and mediate effectively
 - interact, explore ideas, express viewpoints knowledge and understanding and build relationships
 - experience and respond to a variety of diverse literature that gives them insight into the culture, people and history of Wales as well as the wider world
 - spark their imagination and creativity.
- Supporting the principles of progression⁴ by giving learners the opportunity to:
 - build on their linguistic skills
 - grow holistically in their understanding and purposeful use of languages, literacy and communication
 - develop their linguistic repertoire through understanding how Cymraeg works
 - adapt and manipulate language to communicate effectively to a range of different audiences
 - develop receptive, interpretive and expressive language skills
 - transfer existing knowledge and skills into new contexts including the social and cultural aspects of language.

¹ [Languages, Literacy and Communication: Introduction - Hwb \(gov.wales\)](#)

² [Languages, Literacy and Communication: Statements of what matters - Hwb \(gov.wales\)](#)

³ [Languages, Literacy and Communication: Statements of what matters - Hwb \(gov.wales\)](#)

⁴ [Languages, Literacy and Communication: Principles of progression - Hwb \(gov.wales\)](#)

- Supporting the key considerations for language development⁵ by giving learners the opportunity to:
 - develop phonological and phonemic awareness
 - build on learners' previous knowledge of language(s) to support Welsh learning
 - hear, view and read rich and varied Welsh
 - provide suitable and sufficient opportunities for learners to use their Welsh purposefully in an authentic context.

Qualification Structure

Unit 1: Speaking and Listening

Non-examination assessment

25% of qualification

A task for a pair/group of three and WJEC will provide stimuli to stimulate discussion

Set by WJEC, marked by the centre and moderated by WJEC

Unit 2: Speaking and Listening

Non-examination assessment

25% of qualification

A task for a pair/group of three and WJEC will provide stimuli to stimulate discussion

Set by WJEC, marked by the centre and moderated by WJEC

Unit 3: Reading and Writing

Written Examination

25% of qualification

Reading and writing (formal) (Reading 12% Writing 13%)

Set and marked by WJEC

Unit 4: Reading and Writing

Written Examination

25% of qualification

Reading and writing (creative) (Reading 13% Writing 12%)

Set and marked by WJEC

This will be a linear qualification.

⁵ [Languages, Literacy and Communication: Designing your curriculum - Hwb \(gov.wales\)](#)

The assessment objectives will be targeted as follows:

		Unit 1	Unit 2	Unit 3	Unit 4
AO1	Understanding and response: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> understand and respond critically to a range of written texts and speech, selecting and evaluating relevant points to illustrate and support interpretations and develop ideas make comparisons and explain links within and between both written texts and spoken communication, using appropriate terminology and supporting opinions with appropriate details from the text communicate thoughts, feelings and opinions in a range of contexts, structuring arguments and challenging what others say confidently and sensitively understand written texts and oral communication, critically recognising a variety of viewpoints to reach considered conclusions use translation skills to enhance communication 	X	X	X	X
AO2	Communication and expression: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> communicate clearly and effectively in different contexts, using forms, vocabulary and techniques to engage the reader/listener adapt communication by selecting register, vocabulary and techniques appropriate to different contexts and audiences organise communication using a variety of linguistic and structural feature use a range of sentence structures for clarity, purpose and effect, with accurate grammar and, in written communication, punctuation and spelling 	X	X	X	X

Unit Information

Unit 1 - Speaking and Listening

The purpose of this unit is to:

- enable learners to understand and use Cymraeg with others in a spontaneous and confident way
- use Cymraeg to communicate and interact with others
- convey information, expressing and justifying opinions using a variety of sentences, language patterns and different verb tenses
- ask and respond effectively to questions
- demonstrate understanding of oral language from more than one speaker
- understand the main message, specific detail and different viewpoints
- use an appropriate register and clear pronunciation
- demonstrate understanding of oral language when listening to one or more speakers in social situations.

This unit will focus on:

- interaction
- expression
- supporting cultural development.

The unit will take the form of non-examination assessment, during the second half of the Autumn term in the final year of the course. The mixture of tasks for this unit will target AO1 and AO2, with equal weighting for the two assessment objectives. Speaking will be weighted at 10% and Listening at 15% for this unit. The tasks will be for a pair of learners or a group of three, and WJEC will provide visual stimuli to stimulate discussion with an opportunity to listen to different accents and dialects. WJEC propose 6-8 minutes for a pair and 8-10 minutes for a group of three. The non-examination assessment will be set by WJEC, marked by the centre and moderated by WJEC. The assessment must be submitted digitally. There will be a high level of control for this unit.

Unit 2 - Speaking and Listening

The purpose of this unit is to:

- enable learners to understand and use Cymraeg with others in a spontaneous and confident way
- communicate and interact using Cymraeg
- convey information, expressing and justifying opinions using a variety of sentences, language patterns and different verb tenses
- use an appropriate register and clear pronunciation
- demonstrate understanding of oral language when listening to one or more speakers in public situations
- understand the main message, specific detail and different viewpoints
- enable learners to respond to questions from contemporaries / other individuals.

This unit will focus on:

- interaction
- expression
- supporting cultural development.

The unit will take the form of non-examination assessment and will be submitted during the Spring term in the final year of the course. The mixture of tasks for this unit will target AO1 and AO2, with equal weighting for the two assessment objectives. Speaking will be weighted at 20% and listening at 5% for this unit. The tasks will be for a pair of learners or a group of three. WJEC propose 6-8 minutes for a pair and 8-10 minutes for a group of three. WJEC will provide a set of questions with 10 minutes to prepare. There will be a choice of topics. The non-examination assessment must be set by WJEC, marked by the centre and moderated by WJEC. The assessment must be submitted digitally. There will be a high level of control for this unit.

Unit 3 - Reading and Writing

The purpose of this unit is to:

- enable learners to develop their writing and reading skills in Cymraeg
- use a variety of language patterns
- use different verb tenses
- understand and respond to different types of written language in different forms written for a variety of purposes and audiences
- understand the main message, main points, specific details and different perspectives in a variety of long and short, simple and complex written texts, using different verb tenses
- help learners to understand the interrelationship between their learning and the world of work offering them opportunities connected to the world of work and careers.

This unit will focus on:

- expression
- application of knowledge and understanding
- supporting cultural development.

The unit will be assessed via an examination, which is available in the summer series of the final year of study. The mixture of tasks for this unit target AO1 and AO2, with equal weighting for the two assessment objectives. Reading will be weighted at 12% and Writing at 13% for this unit. The duration of the examination is likely to be approximately 1 hour and 30 minutes, set and marked by WJEC.

There will be no optionality in this unit.

The assessment materials and/or stimulus materials will give learners the opportunity to:

- explore and respond to local contexts and wider Welsh contexts
- consider content and materials that reflect a diverse Wales
- refine work through proofreading and editing
- translanguage
- translate short and simple text from English to Welsh.

Unit 4 - Reading and Writing

The purpose of this unit is to:

- **enable learners to develop their writing and reading skills in Cymraeg**
- **use a variety of language patterns**
- **use different verb tenses**
- **understand and respond to different types of written language in different forms, written for a variety of purposes and audiences**
- **understand the main message, main points, specific details and different perspectives in a variety of long and short, simple and complex written texts, using different verb tenses**
- **think creatively and to be imaginative when applying their skills.**

This unit will focus on:

- expression
- application of knowledge and understanding
- supporting cultural development.

The unit will be assessed via an examination, available in the summer series, in the final year of study. The mixture of tasks for this unit target AO1 and AO2, with equal weighting for the two assessment objectives. Reading will be weighted at 12% and writing at 13% for this unit. The duration of the examination is likely to be approximately 1 hour and 30 minutes, set and marked by WJEC.

There will be no optionality in this unit.

The assessment materials and/or stimulus materials will give learners the opportunity to:

- explore and respond to local and wider Welsh contexts
- consider content and materials that reflect a diverse Wales
- refine work through proofreading and editing.