

# GCSE Cymraeg Language and Literature Qualification Outline (Single Award and Double Award)

Version 1.0



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## Summary of Amendments

Version	Description	Page Number
1.0	Document Introduction	N/A

## Introduction

This document provides an overview of the WJEC GCSE Cymraeg Language and Literature qualification.

It is based on Qualifications Wales's Approval Criteria

(<https://qualifications.wales/media/ln1huno/gcse-cymraeg-language-and-literature-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 GCSE Cymraeg Language and Literature qualification will support the Curriculum for Wales by:

- supporting the statements of what matters<sup>1</sup>, giving learners the opportunity to:
  - develop their understanding, empathy and their ability to respond and to 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 progression<sup>2</sup> by giving learners the opportunity to:
  - build on their linguistic skills
  - grow holistically in their understanding and purposeful use of languages, literacy and communication
  - apply their understanding of linguistic concepts
  - 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.
- supporting the key considerations for language development and selecting literature<sup>3</sup> by giving learners the opportunity to:
  - experience relevant, engaging, authentic and challenging stimuli to inspire purposeful speaking and writing
  - experience a wealth of literature.

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<sup>1</sup> [Languages, Literacy and Communication: Statements of what matters - Hwb \(gov.wales\)](#)

<sup>2</sup> [Languages, Literacy and Communication: Principles of progression - Hwb \(gov.wales\)](#)

<sup>3</sup> [Languages, Literacy and Communication: Designing your curriculum - Hwb \(gov.wales\)](#)

## Qualification Structure

The qualification will comprise of four units of study for Single Award and six units for Double Award. Three of the units (Units 1, 2 and 3) will be common to both the Single and Double Awards but will be weighted differently.

Common units	
<b>Unit 1: Narrative</b> Written Examination 30% of the qualification (15% of the double) Marked by WJEC	
<b>Unit 2: Identity</b> Non-examination assessment 20% of the qualification (10% of the double) Marked by the centre, moderated by WJEC	
<b>Unit 3: Attitudes</b> Non-examination assessment 20% of the qualification (10% of the double) Marked by the centre, moderated by WJEC	
Single Award	Double Award
<b>Unit 4a: Linguistic Connections Single Award</b> Written Examination 30% of the qualification Marked by WJEC	<b>Unit 4b: Linguistic Connections Double Award</b> Written Examination 22.5 % of the qualification Marked by WJEC
	<b>Unit 5: Respond and Create</b> Non-examination assessment 20% of the qualification Marked by the centre, moderated by WJEC
	<b>Unit 6: Communicating Meaning</b> Written Examination 22.5% of the qualification Marked by WJEC

The following assessment objectives will be targeted in all units:

<b>AO1</b>	<b>Understanding and response</b> i. Understand and respond critically to a range of written texts, visual texts and speech, selecting and evaluating relevant points to illustrate and support interpretations and develop ideas. ii. Make comparisons and explain links within and between both written texts and spoken communication, synthesising and summarising information, ideas and themes as appropriate. iii. Explain how language, structure and form contribute to the presentation of information, ideas and themes in written texts and speech and how these have an impact on the reader/viewer/listener. iv. Understand written texts, visual texts and speech in their social, cultural and historical contexts and how these may inform different viewpoints and perspectives.
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<b>AO2</b>	<b>Communication and expression</b> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Communicate clearly, effectively and imaginatively, using forms, vocabulary and techniques to engage the reader/viewer/listener.</li> <li>Adapt communication by selecting register, vocabulary and techniques appropriate to different contexts and audiences.</li> <li>Organise communication using a variety of linguistic and structural features to support cohesion and overall coherence.</li> <li>Use a range of sentence structures for clarity, purpose and effect, with appropriate grammar and, in written communication, accurate punctuation and spelling.</li> </ol>
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This will be a unitised qualification.

There is no hierarchy in the order in which the units are presented. The order does not imply the teaching order of the units.

It will be possible to sit the common units within the Single Award and the Double Award from the 2026 summer series onwards.

Units which are discrete to Single/Double Award will be available from 2027.

## Unit Information

References to Assessment Objectives within each unit are given as an indication of focus. Decisions around exact weightings and which strands of an AO are targeted will be made during the detailed development.

### Unit 1 – Narrative (*single* and *double* award)

**The purpose of this unit is to:**

- **appreciate content, themes, plot and character development**
- **identify and appreciate the author's style**
- **present a personal and creative response to the novel**
- **write a piece in a specific form based on reading material for different audiences which will form the basis of the writing**
- **write clearly and coherently.**

This unit will focus on:

- narrative.

The unit will be assessed via a written examination available from the 2026 summer series onwards. It will include a mix of questions that will target AO1 and AO2, with greater emphasis on AO1. The questions will be based on the learners' studies of their chosen novel and on non-literary reading passages. Centres will select their chosen novel from a prescribed list produced by WJEC.

The unit will be worth 30% of the single qualification and 15% of the double qualification. We anticipate that the length of the exam will be 2 hours, however this will be kept under review during the development process.

## Unit 2 - Identity (*single and double award*)

**The purpose of this unit is to:**

- **appreciate content, themes, plot and character development**
- **recognise and appreciate film techniques, and dialogue**
- **develop oracy skills.**

This unit will focus on:

- identity.

The unit will take the form of non-examination assessment from the 2026 summer series onwards. The unit will be based on assessing speaking and listening in response to a visual text and will include a group discussion. We propose that centres will have a free choice of film or episode/episodes of a TV series (at least one hour in length). The unit will target AO1 and AO2 equally. It will be worth 20% of the single qualification and 10% of the double qualification. We will confirm before the end of the Spring term 2024 whether non-examination assessment must be submitted digitally.

## Unit 3 – Attitudes (*single and double award*)

**The purpose of this unit is to:**

- **respond to poems in order to appreciate their content and message/theme**
- **recognise and appreciate poetic forms and styles**
- **present a personal response to the poems**
- **present and select information for an individual oral task/podcast.**

This unit will focus on:

- attitudes

The unit will take the form of non-examination assessment from the 2026 summer series onwards. The unit will be based on assessment of speaking and listening and reading and writing. There will be a variety of tasks based on a specified theme set by WJEC, including an individual oracy task and a written task responding critically to the studied poems.

Centres will need to study poems that cover a range of periods and a variety of measures, including canu caeth (strict metre poetry). Within these confines we anticipate that centres will have a free choice of poems to study with their learners.

The unit will target AO1 and AO2 equally. It will be worth 20% of the single qualification and 10% of the double qualification. We will confirm before the end of the Spring term 2024 whether non-examination assessment must be submitted digitally.

## Unit 4a – Linguistic Connections (*single* award only)

**The purpose of this unit is to:**

- **respond to and analyse a wide variety of written texts (continuous and non-continuous)**
- **combine and summarise information**
- **write effectively for different purposes and audiences, and in different forms (literary and non-literary).**

This unit will focus on:

- linguistic connections

The unit will be assessed via a written examination available from the summer 2027 series onwards. It will include a mix of questions that will target AO1 and AO2, with greater emphasis on AO2. The questions will be based on literary and/or non-literary texts and there will be an opportunity for learners to write factually and/or creatively.

The unit will be worth 30% of the qualification. We anticipate that the length of the exam will be 1 hour 30 minutes, however this will be kept under review during the development process.

## Unit 4b – Linguistic Connections (*double* award only)

**The purpose of this unit is to:**

- **respond to and analyse a wide variety of written texts (continuous and non-continuous)**
- **combine and summarise information**
- **write effectively for different purposes and audiences, and in different forms (literary and non-literary).**

This unit will focus on:

- linguistic connections.

The unit will be assessed via a written examination available from the 2027 summer series onwards. It will include a mix of questions that will target AO1 and AO2, with greater emphasis on AO2. The questions will be based on literary and/or non-literary texts and there will be an opportunity for learners to write factually and/or creatively.

The unit will be worth 22.5% of the qualification. We anticipate that the length of the exam will be 2 hours, however this will be kept under review during the development process.



## Unit 5 – Respond and Create (*double* award only)

**The purpose of this unit is to:**

- **listen and respond to each other's views**
- **interact with others asking questions and gathering ideas**
- **use spoken and written language to ensure clarity, purpose and impact with correct grammar and expression**
- **write in a creative way to communicate clearly and effectively adjusting tone and forms and choosing vocabulary and style that is appropriate to the task.**

This unit will focus on:

- responding and creating.

The unit will take the form of non-examination assessment available from the 2027 summer series onwards. The unit will be based on the assessment of speaking and listening and reading and writing. There will be a variety of tasks including a group oracy task based on factual text(s) set by WJEC and a creative writing task which stems from the factual text. We anticipate that centres will have a free choice regarding the genre of the creative task. The unit will target AO1 and AO2 equally. It will be worth 20% of the qualification. We will confirm before the end of the Spring term 2024 whether non-examination assessment must be submitted digitally.

## Unit 6 – Communicating Meaning (*double* award only)

**The purpose of this unit is to:**

- **respond to short stories in order to appreciate content, themes and characters**
- **recognise and appreciate style and form**
- **respond and analyse a wide variety of written form**
- **combine and summarise information.**

This unit will focus on:

- communicating meaning.

The unit will be assessed via a written examination available from the 2027 summer series onwards. It will include a mix of questions targeting AO1 and AO2, with greater emphasis on AO1. The questions will be based on the learners' study of an anthology of contemporary short stories and a response to a previously unseen reading passage(s).

The unit will be worth 22.5% of the qualification. We anticipate that the length of the exam will be 2 hours, however this will be kept under review during the development process.