

School-based Assessment Contributing to GCSE Grades

- Summary Information for Year 11 Parents -

**Tuesday 7 October
2025**



When Will Controlled Assessment Be Carried Out?

A small number of GCSE courses will schedule Controlled Assessment in from Term 1 in Year 11, but for most subjects it will take place in Year 12. The marks obtained in Controlled Assessments contribute to the overall grades achieved at GCSE. **It is therefore very important that students are fully committed to the preparation and task taking stages of Controlled Assessment for each of their GCSE courses.**

What is Controlled Assessment?

Controlled assessment is an approach for those GCSE subjects which require internal assessment. Candidates, over a period of time, complete aspects of the subject which are marked by their teacher. Important processes in coursework, now referred to as 'controlled assessment', relate to:

Setting Tasks - To ensure that tasks are valid and reliable by making them less predictable and formulaic.

Taking Tasks - To control the circumstances under which tasks are taken in order to address issues of authentication of the work.

Marking Tasks - To ensure high-quality teacher judgements are made when teachers assess candidates' work.

For each of the above processes, different levels of control are possible: **high, medium and low/limited.**

A high level of control for each process would be very similar to an existing examination. Within any subject, varying levels of control are likely to be required across the three processes. Controlled assessment regulations set out the level of control at each process for individual subjects. The aim is to address issues of authenticity, plagiarism and comparability of process and demand across specifications in the same subject offered by different awarding bodies.

Task Taking Explained

The main issue for schools relates to the level of supervision required when candidates are completing their controlled assessment tasks. The level of supervision varies for individual subjects and is defined in each specification.

Formal Supervision (High Level of Control)

With this level of control, candidates' work must be completed under direct supervision. This might be the candidates' teacher, or another person nominated by the school. For most specifications, candidates do not have to complete their work in one sitting, unlike an external examination. Formal supervision usually happens during the final stages of the work when candidates write up the results of preparatory work or research and present the outcome for assessment. When this takes place over a number of sessions, candidates' work should be collected, stored securely and redistributed as necessary.

Informal Supervision (Medium Level of Control)

With this level of control, candidates can work on their own with some guidance by the teacher. In some subjects, for example Art and Design, and Music, it may be necessary for candidates to complete part of the assessment outside the classroom. Whatever arrangements are made the teacher or supervisor must be able to state that what each candidate has presented for assessment is the candidate's own work. This can be assured by close supervision of portfolio work which may have been started in class and completed in the candidate's own time or started outside the classroom and completed by the candidate in class. In either case, the amount of work carried out during class time should be sufficient for the teacher or supervisor to determine each candidate's capability in relation to what is presented for assessment. An analytical discussion with the candidate about his/her work would be one method of ensuring authenticity.

Limited Supervision (Low Level of Control)

With this level of control, candidates undertake work without teacher supervision. Candidates may undertake research and preparatory work which will inform, but should not be included in, the final piece of work presented for assessment.

Some Year 11 Controlled Assessment Tasks are scheduled for late June. It is important that Year 11 students are present in school to carry out these Tasks.

			TASK TAKING		
			Authenticity		Time/Word Limit
Subject	Number of Tasks	When will it be completed?	Level of Supervision	Level of Control	
Art and Design (CCEA - 100% Controlled Assessment)	2	Year 11 Terms 1, 2, 3	Component 1 (60%) Part A: Exploratory Portfolio (25%) Part B: Investigating the Creative and Cultural Industries (35%) Component 2 (40%) Externally Set Assignment 10 hrs timed exam In this specification both Component 1 and Component 2 are controlled assessment components. These include tasks such as producing a portfolio of experimental work and developing ideas in response to a stimulus paper.	Medium	No time limit
		Year 12 Term 1		High	Minimum of 20 hrs
		Year 12 Term 2, 3			
English Language (CCEA - 40% Controlled Assessment)	3	Year 11 Terms 1, 2 & 3	Unit 2: Speaking and Listening (20%) - research: limited supervision - all other elements: formal supervision Unit 3: Studying Spoken and Written Language (20%) Task 1 - research: limited supervision - all other elements: formal supervision Task 2 - research: limited supervision - all other elements: formal supervision	Medium	Each activity: up to 30 mins Presentation: suggested 5 mins
		Year 12 Terms 1 & 2		High	1 hr 1 hr
		Year 11 Term 3			
		Year 11 Term 2			
Music (CCEA - 30% Controlled Assessment)	2	Year 11 Terms 2 & 3	Component 2: Controlled Assessment Students create two compositions. One in response to a pre-release stimulus and one is free choice. Compositions are recorded. All students provide a score, a lead sheet or a written account of their work. Teachers mark the tasks and CCEA moderates a sample.	Medium	Submitting Compositions: - A score - A lead sheet A written account (600 words max)
		Year 12 Terms 1 & 2		High	

Physical Education Component 2: The active participant in physical education: Non-exam assessment (EDUQAS 40%)	3 different physical activities (2 team/1 individual or 2 individual/1 team). (30%) 1 written piece of analysis and evaluation (10%)	Year 11 Term 3 and Year 12 Terms 1, 2 & 3 Year 12 Terms 2 & 3	Chosen Practical Activities – Internally standardised throughout the course, official internal standardisation and external moderation in Year 12. Written analysis and evaluation – formal supervision and independent study.	Medium High	Each activity 30-60 mins Written Evaluation task - research 6 hrs – unsupervised - complete assignment: 6 hrs
Technology and Design (CCEA - 50% Controlled Assessment)	1	Year 11 Terms 2 & 3 Year 12 Terms 1 & 2	Unit 3: Design and Manufacturing Project - Compulsory unit for all students and carries a weighting of 50% of the full qualification. - Marked out of 100 (60% portfolio and 40% project) - Themes released in January of Year 11 and controlled assessment starts then. - Pupils to demonstrate their ability to design and manufacture a product.	Medium Medium	Design Portfolio and Manufacturing - It has a guidance time limit of 40 hours. - The design portfolio should be a maximum of ten A3 pages on one side only. - The manufactured solution should be functional and appropriately presented. - Regular deadlines set across the year.
Digital Technology (Route A: Multimedia) CCEA 30% Controlled Assessment	2	Year 12 Terms 1 & 2	Unit 3: Digital Authoring Practice - Students develop a database solution to a problem - Students develop a website solution to a problem - Students will formally document their solutions	Medium	The problem statement will be released at the beginning of Year 12 and will form the basis of both the website and database components. Skills acquired will also be examined in Unit 2 (in Year 12).
Drama (CCEA - 60% Controlled Assessment)	2	Year 12 Terms 1 & 2	Component 1: - Devised Performance (25%) - Student log – written - Performance Component 2: - Scripted Performance (35%) - Research - Performance	High High Low High	Component 1: 30 hrs 2000 words. Performance - 10-30 mins for 2-6 candidates. (5 mins per candidate) 3-6 mins. Component 2: 42 hrs Performance - 10-30 mins for 2-6 candidates. (5 mins per candidate).

Food and Nutrition (CCEA - 50% Controlled Assessment)	1	Year 12 Term 1 (Task released to schools in September Term 1 for award in summer)	Unit 2: Practical Food and Nutrition • Part A. Research and Viewpoints • Part B. Justification of Choice • Part C. Planning • Part D. Practical Activity • Part E. Evaluation	Medium Medium Medium High	The word limit for the task is 3500 words. Part A. Research and Viewpoints (800 words) Part B. Justification of Choice (1500 words) Part E. Evaluation (1200 words) Practical Exam: A maximum of 3 hours to make the chosen dishes under exam conditions.
Health and Social Care (CCEA – 50% Controlled Assessment)	1	Year 12 Term 1, 2 and 3 (Task released to schools in November 2025 for award in summer 2026)	Unit 2: Working in the Health, Social Care and Early Years Sectors Three-part scenario-based assessment. Students must complete section A, B	Medium High	Part A: 800 words Part B: 1800 words Part C: 2400 words
Learning for Life and Work (CCEA - 40% Controlled Assessment)	1	Year 12 Term 1	Unit 4: An Investigation • Part A: Planning • Part B: Research • Part C: Communicating findings • Part D: Self-evaluation • Part E: Presentation of Task	Medium High	Part A. Planning (800 words) Part B. Research (400 words) Part C. Communicating Findings (1400 words) Part D. Self-Evaluation (400 words)
Business Studies (CCEA - 20% Controlled Assessment)	1	Year 12 Term 1	Unit 3: Planning a business • Part A - Planning and Research: Informal supervision Students will conduct their own research into a given topic. This will be completed in both class and at home. • Part B - Communication of findings and recommendations: Students will sit a 1 hr task using their research from Part A to support their answers. The task is scheduled for March.	Medium High	Unit 3: • Research: 12 hrs (15 marks) • Report: 1 hr (45 marks)
English Literature (CCEA - 20% Controlled Assessment)	1	Year 12 Term 1	Unit 3: The Study of Shakespeare • Planning and preparation: limited supervision • Production of final marked piece: formal supervision	Low High	One extended writing task on a set theme 2 hrs
Biology - Practical Skills Assessment (CCEA - 25%)	2	Year 12 Term 2/3 Year 12 External Exam	Unit 3 - Practical Skills • Students complete two short experimental tasks in a 2 hrs continuous session between January and May of Year 12. (7.5%) • A written, practical theory paper timetabled during CCEA external exam period. (17.5%)	High High	2 hrs 1 hr
Chemistry - Practical Skills Assessment	2	Year 12 Term 1/2/3	Unit 3 - Practical Skills	High	2 hrs

(CCEA - 25%)		Year 12 External Exam	- Students complete two short experimental tasks in a 2 hrs continuous session between December and May of Year 12. (7.5%) - A written, practical theory paper timetabled during CCEA external exam period. (17.5%)	High	1 hr
Physics - Practical Skills Assessment (CCEA - 25%)	2	Year 12 Term 2/3	Unit 3 - Practical Skills - Students complete two short experimental tasks in a 2 hrs continuous session between January and May of Year 12. (7.5%) - A written, practical theory paper timetabled during CCEA external exam period. (17.5%)	High	2 hrs
		Year 12 External Exam		High	1 hr
DA Science Practical Skills Assessment (CCEA - 25%)	6	Year 12 Terms 2 and 3 Year 12 External Exam	Unit 7 - Practical Skills - Students complete three short experimental tasks for Biology, Chemistry and Physics during three separate 1hour sessions between December and May of Year 12. (7.5%) - Three written, practical theory papers (one for each Science subject) timetabled during CCEA external exam period. (17.5%)	High High	3 X 1 hr 3 X 30 mins