

QUALIFICATIONS 2026–2027

Your guide to exams and assessments

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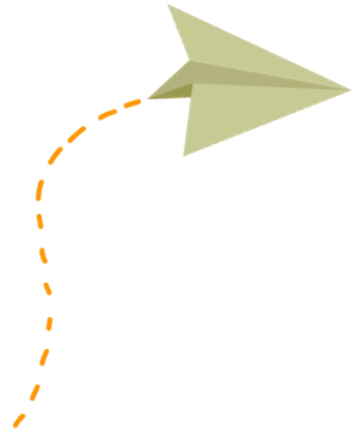
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TIP

When clicking a link in this document, right click and open in a new tab so that you don't lose your place

This document is also available in Welsh

Introduction

We're here to support learners, parents, carers, schools and colleges through the 2026-2027 academic year.

Exams will take place this year for GCSEs, AS and A levels and some vocational qualifications. There will also be practical and other non-examination assessments.

This guide is here to help you understand how your exams and assessments will work. It includes key dates, information about how your qualifications will be graded, plus other helpful info and support.



Have Your Say

Every year, we're keen to hear feedback from learners who have taken exams and assessments. We will be launching this year's survey on **10 May 2027** and you can access it via our social media channels and website. It's quick and easy to complete and gives us important insight that we can use for future exam series.

Our role

You may not have heard of Qualifications Wales before. We regulate non-degree qualifications in Wales. It's our job to make sure that qualifications meet your needs.

We also promote confidence in the qualifications system in Wales, to make sure that your qualifications are valued and will support you to take the next step in your education or employment.

Learners are at the heart of what we do - we want you to be confident that your qualifications are awarded fairly and provide a valued record of your knowledge and skills.

We oversee the setting of appropriate standards to support public confidence in the following qualifications:

- GCSE
- AS level
- A level
- Advanced Skills Baccalaureate Wales
- Vocational qualifications

We work closely with Welsh Government and awarding bodies to regulate qualifications in Wales

We want everyone in Wales to be confident that the qualifications achieved by our learners are:

- fair
- trusted
- valued throughout the UK and internationally

Key dates

GCSEs, AS, A levels and Advanced Skills Baccalaureate Wales

SEPT 26 - APRIL 27	Continue studying for your qualifications and complete non-examination assessments in some subjects
MAY 27 - JUNE 27	Sit your exams
MAY 27 - JULY 27	Exam papers will be marked and graded by the awarding bodies
THURS 12 AUG	Results day for AS, A level and Advanced Skills Baccalaureate Wales
THURS 19 AUG	Results day for GCSE and National/Foundation Skills Challenge Certificate



Key dates
Vocational qualifications

SEPT 26 - JULY 27	Continue studying for your qualifications
SEPT 26 - JULY 27	Continue to sit your assessments and exams (if your qualification has formal exams)
JUNE 27 - JULY 27	Your grades will be awarded by the awarding bodies
JUNE 27 - AUG 27	You will receive your results



How will I be assessed?

GCSE, AS and A level qualifications

Most GCSEs, AS and A levels were designed to be assessed totally or partly by exams. Everyone will have the same papers, at the same time and in the same way.

- ✓ You will finish any non-examination assessments, if your subject has any of these (you may have already completed some earlier in your course)
- ✓ You will sit your exams in May and June
- ✓ WJEC will award your grades after your exams and any non-examination assessments have been marked

Vocational qualifications

Vocational qualifications are more varied in the way that they are assessed. Awarding bodies will have information on their websites about the arrangements for vocational qualifications.

- ✓ You will continue to sit your assessments and exams (if your qualification has formal exams)
- ✓ The awarding bodies will award your grades between June and August

Grading



Once your exams and assessments have been marked, your awarding body will award your grades. They will follow the usual processes to make sure that marking is fair and consistent.

As part of our role as the regulator, we will monitor the awarding bodies as they mark your papers and award your grades.

What grade each learner gets in a subject depends on how many marks they get in their exams and non-examination assessments. Once marking is complete, an ‘awarding committee’ meets to set the grade boundaries for each exam paper and assessment.

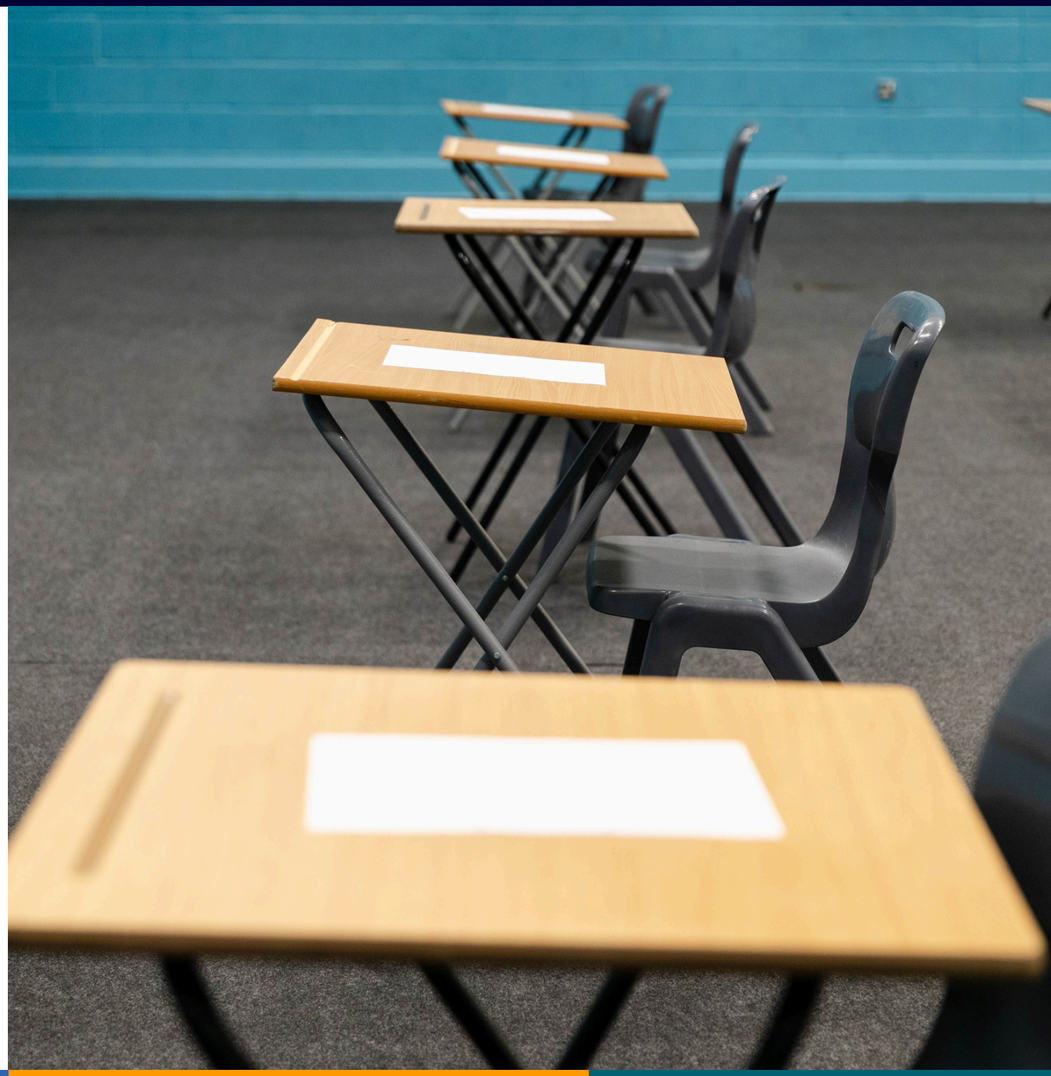
Grade boundaries are not fixed year on year, and there is no set quota for grades. Instead, grade boundaries can change to accommodate factors such as the difficulty of a particular paper.

What happens if I am ill or can’t sit an exam in the summer?

There may be reasons why you’re unable to sit one or more exams this year.

The exam timetable has been designed to allow some space between each exam in the same qualification. If you are ill, you will need to contact your school or college as soon as possible. They may be able to arrange for you to still sit your exam (for example, by isolating in another room), or they may advise you to stay at home.

WJEC runs a process called special consideration. If you miss one exam paper, and your school or college thinks you are eligible for special consideration, they can make an application for you. In many cases, you can still be awarded your grade, based on how you have done in another exam or assessment for the same qualification.



What happens after I receive my results?

GCSE and Foundation / National Skills Challenge Certificate

There are many options for you to explore after you have completed your studies.

If you did not achieve the grades you hoped for, you should seek advice from your school, destination college, provider, or employer.

A level and Advanced Skills Baccalaureate Wales

After receiving your A-level results, the next steps depend on the grades you achieved.

If you received the grades needed for your university place, you should confirm your place via UCAS.

If you did not achieve the grades you hoped for, then you will need to speak to your school, college, provider or employer to discuss your options. You can also apply for other courses via UCAS Clearing.

Vocational qualifications

Depending on the level of your vocational qualifications, you might consider several options as your next steps.

Like those learners receiving results for GCSE and A Level qualifications, if you did not achieve the grade you hoped for, you will need to speak to your college, provider, or employer to discuss your options.

Find out more by clicking on the links on the following page.

Support

We understand that preparing for exams and assessments can be a tough time for learners, parents, carers, schools and colleges. There is a range of support available.



Head to the Power Up content hub where you'll find revision tips, wellbeing guidance and info to get you through the exam and assessment season.

UCAS

Universities and Colleges Admissions Service (UCAS) manages the application process for university applicants. The UCAS website has lots of useful information to help you every step of the way of your university application.

Comisiynydd Plant Cymru
Children's Commissioner for Wales

The Children's Commissioner for Wales has lots of helpful information about support services for young people, including mental health and emotional support.

Gyrfa Cymru
Careers Wales

Careers Wales has lots of useful information about qualifications and training.

mind

Mind Cymru is an established mental health charity that offers a range of wellbeing support. Mind is there for you if you're finding things hard. You can get in contact for confidential advice and support.



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Best of luck in your exams and assessments!

For more information, visit
www.qualifications.wales