

YSGOL  
**ABERCONWY**



**GCSE, BTEC, A Level**

**Important Information  
for Students**

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Starting your GCSEs or A Levels can be a worrying period. Your teachers and you all face certain things you can and cannot do. This booklet contains the advice from the JCQ ( Joint Council for Qualifications) to help you avoid any problems.

**Information for candidates for written examinations:**

This will be given to you again with your examination timetables and it tells you everything you need in order to avoid any issues in your examinations.

**Information for candidates on coursework assessments / non-examination assessments:**

These pages are very important because in some subjects your final grades involve you working outside examination conditions. The most important piece of information is the work which you submit for assessment must be your own and you must not copy from someone else or allow another candidate to copy from you. This includes copying information from a source/Internet.

Finally, please stick to deadlines set by teachers. These are given to you for a reason.

Good Luck

### For written examinations – effective from 1 September 2018

**This document has been written to help you. Read it carefully and follow the instructions.**

If there is anything you do not understand, especially which calculator you may use, ask your teacher.

#### **Regulations – Make sure you understand the rules**

1. Be on time for all your exams. If you are late, your work might not be accepted.
2. Do not become involved in any unfair or dishonest practice during the exam.
3. If you try to cheat, or break the rules in any way, you could be disqualified from all your subjects.
4. You must not take into the exam room:
  - a) notes;
  - b) potential technological/web enabled sources of information such as an iPod, a mobile phone, a MP3/4 player or similar device, a smartwatch or a wrist watch which has a data storage device.

**Any pencil cases taken into the exam room must be see-through.**

**Remember:** possession of unauthorised material is breaking the rules, even if you do not intend to use it, and you will be subject to penalty and possible disqualification.

5. If you wear a wrist watch the invigilator will ask you to remove it and place it on your desk.
6. Do not use correcting pens, fluid or tape, erasable pens, highlighters or gel pens in your answers.
7. Do not talk to or try to communicate with, or disturb other candidates once the exam has started.
8. You must not write inappropriate, obscene or offensive material.
9. If you leave the exam room unaccompanied by an invigilator before the exam has finished, you will not be allowed to return.
10. Do not borrow anything from another candidate during the exam.

### **Information – Make sure you attend your exams and bring what you need**

1. Know the dates and times of all your exams. Arrive at least ten minutes before the start of each exam.
2. If you arrive late for an exam, report to the invigilator running the exam.
3. If you arrive more than one hour after the published starting time for the exam, you may not be allowed to take it.
4. Only take into the exam room the pens, pencils, erasers and any other equipment which you need for the exam.
5. You must write clearly and in black ink.
  - Coloured pencils or inks may only be used for diagrams, maps, charts, etc. unless the instructions printed on the front of the question paper state otherwise.

### **Calculators, Dictionaries and Computer Spell-checkers**

1. You may use a calculator unless you are told otherwise.
2. If you use a calculator:
  - a) make sure it works properly; check that the batteries are working properly;
  - b) clear anything stored in it;
  - c) remove any parts such as cases, lids or covers which have printed instructions or formulas;
  - d) do not bring into the exam room any operating instructions or prepared programs.
3. Do not use a dictionary or computer spell checker unless you are told

### **Instructions during the exam**

1. Always listen to the invigilator. Follow their instructions at all times.
2. Tell the invigilator at once if:
  - a) you think you have not been given the right question paper or all of the materials listed on the front of the paper;
  - b) the question paper is incomplete or badly printed.
3. Read carefully and follow the instructions printed on the question paper and/or on the answer booklet.
4. Fill in all the details required on the front of the question paper and/or the answer booklet before you start the exam. Make sure you fill these details in on any additional answer sheets that you use.
5. Remember to write your answers within the designated sections of the answer booklet.
6. Do your rough work on the proper exam stationery. Cross it through and hand it in with your answers. Make sure you add your candidate details to any additional answer sheets that you use.

### **Advice and assistance**

1. If on the day of the exam you feel that your work may be affected by ill health or any other reason, tell the invigilator.
2. Put up your hand during the exam if:
  - a) you have a problem and are in doubt about what you should do;
  - b) you do not feel well;
  - c) you need more paper.
3. You must not ask for, and will not be given, any explanation of the questions.

### **At the end of the exam**

1. If you have used more than one answer booklet and/or any supplementary answer sheets, place them in the correct order. Place any loose additional answer sheets inside your answer booklet. Make sure you add your candidate details to any additional answer sheets that you use.
2. Do not leave the exam room until told to do so by the invigilator.
3. Do not take from the exam room any stationery. This includes the question paper, answer booklets used or unused, rough work or any other materials provided for the exam.

**This notice has been produced on behalf of:**

**AQA, OCR, Pearson and WJEC**

## **Information for candidates: non-examination assessments**

**This document tells you about some things that you must and must not do when you are completing your work.**

**When you submit your work for marking, the awarding body will normally require you to sign an authentication statement confirming that you have read and followed these regulations.**

If there is anything that you do not understand, you **must** ask your teacher or lecturer.

In some subjects you will have an opportunity to do some independent research into a topic.

The research you do may involve looking for information in published sources such as textbooks, encyclopaedias, journals, TV, radio and on the internet.

Using information from published sources (including the internet) as the basis for your assignment is a good way to demonstrate your knowledge and understanding of a subject. You must take care how you use this material though - you cannot copy it and claim it as your own work.

**The regulations state that:**

- **the work which you submit for assessment must be your own**
- **you must not copy from someone else or allow another candidate to copy from you**

When producing a piece of work, if you use the same wording as a published source you must place quotation marks around the passage and state where it came from. This is called “referencing”.

You must make sure that you give detailed references for everything in your work which is not in your own words. A reference from a printed book or journal should show the name of the author, the year of publication and the page number, for example: Morrison, 2000, pg.29.

For material taken from the internet, your reference should show the date when the material was downloaded and must show the precise web page, not the search engine used to locate it. This can be copied from the address line. For example: <http://www.geocases2.co.uk/rural1.htm> downloaded 5 February 2019.

You may be required to include a bibliography at the end of your piece of written work. Your teacher or lecturer will tell you whether a bibliography is necessary. Where required, your bibliography must list the full details of publications you have used in your research, even where these are not directly referred to, for example: Morrison, A. (2000) ‘Mary, Queen of Scots’, London: Weston Press.

**If you copy the words or ideas of others and do not show your sources in references and a bibliography, this will be considered as cheating.**

## Preparing your work – good practice

If you receive help and guidance from someone other than your teacher, you must tell your teacher who will then record the nature of the assistance given to you.

If you worked as part of a group on an assignment, for example undertaking field research, you must each write up your own account of the assignment. Even if the data you have is the same, you must describe in your own words how that data was obtained and **you must independently draw your own conclusions from the data.**

You must meet the deadlines that your teacher gives you. Remember - your teachers are there to guide you. Although they cannot give you direct assistance, they can help you to sort out any problems before it is too late.

Take care of your work and keep it safe. Do not leave it lying around where your classmates can find it. You must always keep your work secure and confidential whilst you are preparing it; do not share it with your classmates. If it is stored on the computer network, keep your password secure. Collect all copies from the printer and destroy those you do not need.

Do not be tempted to use essays from on-line essay banks — this is cheating. Electronic tools used by awarding bodies can detect this sort of copying.

You must not write inappropriate, offensive or obscene material.

## Plagiarism

Plagiarism involves taking someone else's words, thoughts or ideas and trying to pass them off as your own. **It is a form of cheating which is taken very seriously.**

Do not think you will not be caught; there are many ways to detect plagiarism.

- Markers can spot changes in the style of writing and use of language.
- Markers are highly experienced subject specialists who are very familiar with work on the topic concerned — they may have read or seen the source you are using (or even marked the essay you have copied from!).
- Internet search engines and specialised computer software can be used to match phrases or pieces of text with original sources and to detect changes in the grammar and style of writing or punctuation.

## Penalties for breaking the regulations

If your work is submitted and it is discovered that you have broken the regulations, one of the following penalties will be applied:

- the piece of work will be awarded zero marks;
- you will be disqualified from that component for the examination series in question;
- you will be disqualified from the whole subject for that examination series;
- you will be disqualified from all subjects and barred from entering again for a period of time.

The awarding body will decide which penalty is appropriate.

**REMEMBER – IT'S YOUR QUALIFICATION SO IT NEEDS TO BE  
YOUR OWN WORK**

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**AQA, City & Guilds, CCEA, OCR, Pearson and WJEC**

## **Information for candidates**

### **GCE, ELC and Project qualifications - coursework assessments**

**This document tells you about some things that you must and must not do when you are completing coursework.**

**When you submit any coursework for marking, you will be asked to sign an authentication statement confirming that you have read and followed these regulations.**

If there is anything that you do not understand, you **must** ask your teacher or lecturer.

Coursework provides you with an opportunity to do some independent research into a topic. The research you do will involve looking for information in published sources such as textbooks, encyclopaedias, journals, TV, radio and on the internet.

Using information from published sources (including the internet) as the basis for your coursework is a good way to demonstrate your knowledge and understanding of a subject. You must take care how you use this material though - you cannot copy it and claim it as your own work.

**The regulations state that:**

- **the work which you submit for assessment must be your own**
- **you must not copy from someone else or allow another candidate to copy from you**

If you use the same wording as a published source, you must place quotation marks around the passage and state where it came from. This is called “referencing”. You must make sure that you give detailed references for everything in your work which is not in your own words. A reference from a printed book or journal should show the name of the author, the year of publication and the page number, for example: (Morrison, 2000, pg.29).

For material taken from the internet, your reference should show the date when the material was downloaded and must show the precise web page, not the search engine used to locate it. This can be copied from the address line. For example: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/schools/16/sosteacher/history/49766.shtml>, downloaded 5 February 2019.

You must also include a bibliography at the end of your work. This **must** list the full details of publications you have used in your research, even where these are not directly referred to, for example: Morrison, A. (2000) “Mary, Queen of Scots”, London: Weston Press.

**If you copy the words or ideas of others and do not show your sources in references and a bibliography, this will be considered as cheating.**



## Preparing your coursework – good practice

If you receive help and guidance from someone other than your teacher, you **must** tell your teacher who will then record the nature of the assistance given to you.

Your parent/carer may provide you with access to resource materials and discuss your coursework with you. However, they must not give you direct advice on what should and should not be included.

If you worked as part of a group on an assignment, for example undertaking field research, you must each write up your own account of the assignment. Even if the data you have is the same, the description of how that data was obtained and the conclusions you draw from it should be in your own words.

You must meet the deadlines that your teacher gives you. Remember - your teachers are there to guide you. Although they cannot give you direct assistance, they can help you to sort out any problems before it is too late.

Take care of your work and keep it safe. Don't leave it lying around where your classmates can find it. You must always keep your coursework secure and confidential whilst you are preparing it; do not share it with your classmates. If it is stored on the computer network, keep your password secure. Collect all copies from the printer and destroy those you do not need.

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## Penalties for breaking the regulations

If your work is submitted and it is discovered that you have broken the regulations, one of the following penalties will be applied:

- the piece of work will be awarded zero marks;
- you will be disqualified from that unit for that examination series;
- you will be disqualified from the whole subject for that examination series; § you will be disqualified from all subjects and barred from entering again for a period of time.

The awarding body will decide which penalty is appropriate.

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