

Exams Information – for the year ahead

2024-25

Year 10

Exams staff are:

Mr P Jones – Exams officer pjj@penglAIS.org.uk
Mrs M Fulton – Exams Assistant fultonm8@penglAIS.org.uk



Most subjects are with the WJEC exam board - there is a lot of useful information on their website www.wjec.co.uk

The screenshot shows the WJEC website's student support page. At the top, the URL is www.wjec.co.uk/home/student-support/. The page features a navigation menu with links for Cymraeg, Teach in England?, About Us, Useful Contacts, Appointees, Portal, Qualifications, Professional Learning, Administration, and Student Support. A search bar is also present. The main content area includes a banner with the text "GIVE IT YOUR ALL" and a "Student Support" heading. Below this, a paragraph states: "Everything you need to know, from revision to results! You'll find a range of useful information including articles, top tips, practical advice and much, much more." There are two featured tiles: "Key dates and exam timetables" (with a calendar graphic) and "Revision resources" (with a desk and stationery graphic). A "Need Help?" button is located at the bottom right of the page.

1. Subject info – select qualifications to find:
Specification
Past papers & mark schemes
Examiners' reports
'walk through' exams

2. Student Support – includes lots of information & advice, including

Wellbeing
Revision
Blogs



You will have started your GCSE / BTEC studies in the last half term of your Year 9

These are two-year courses

You will be following course specifications throughout these two years

Assessment in these courses can be written exams or Non-exam Assessments – maths is only assessed by written exams

You will only have a few formal exams in Year 10, these are usually in

- English Literature Unit 1
- Science – the first units in Biology, Chemistry, Physics
- Welsh Second Language Unit 1 – this is an oral exam
- You might have an exam in history, health & social care if you opted for these subjects
- You may have one non-exam unit entry in the Welsh Bacallaureate

Most of your exams, and non-exam assessments are completed in Year 11



What is the Welsh Baccalaureate & the Skills Challenge Certificate?



The **National Welsh Bacc** is awarded at a Pass grade when learners achieve all elements of the wheel at an A* to C grade.

The **Foundation Welsh Bacc.** is awarded at a Pass grade when learners achieve a Pass* or Pass in the Skills Challenge Certificate, and an A* to G in the other qualifications on the wheel.

The **Skills Challenge Certificate** at National/Foundation level is graded as follows:
National Skills Challenge Certificate – A* to C grade
Foundation Skills Challenge Certificate – Pass* or Pass

Summer 2025 exam entries

Summer exam entries are made in January. Teachers will make entries for students on class lists in Year 10 lessons. A draft exam timetable will be printed at the start of February. (If you are not on the class list you may not be entered)

If you wish to sit any additional subjects, such as other languages, you need to speak with exams staff during the Autumn term.

If any changes need to be made it is your responsibility to do this **well before** the deadline of February 20th. Changes may be missing entries, entries not needed, no cash in entry, an incorrect name or date of birth on your entry sheet. Note: WBQ has a later deadline.

At the start of the Autumn term, we know the summer exam timetable.

This now shows on the WJEC website [Microsoft Word - Summer 2025 - WALES and Eduqas GCSE - FINAL Exam Timetable \(14.04.24\) \(wjec.co.uk\)](#)

This shows the main written exams for students in Year 10 are

English Literature: Monday 12th May

Biology: Monday 9th June

Chemistry: Friday 13th June

Physics: Monday 16th June

Welsh oral exams are timetabled 18th – 20th March (this is 25% of your final mark)



Mock exams

You will have some mock exams before the formal summer exams

After the formal summer exams have finished, you will have some mock exams in subjects you have not sat formal exams this year

In Year 11, you will have mock exams during December



Results

Summer 2025 GCSE results are available in school on Thursday 21st August 2025 , between 08.00 – 11.00, in the Main Hall

You are **strongly advised** to collect these results in school. On Results' Day in school, you can

1. Ask staff for advice if needed
2. Check grade boundaries
3. Request & get copies of your scripts
4. Check your mark breakdowns (marks per question)

After results day, and before Sept 26th you can also speak with staff about

5. Checking your scripts against the mark schemes (to help check the marking)
6. Discuss / put in requests for reviews of marking (exams staff must make the requests)

If you choose not to be in school on this day, you can give written permission to Mrs Fulton for someone else to pick up your results. Be aware that staff in school on that morning will be meeting with students who have picked up their results, and they will not be able to deal with any queries about your results.



Use your time in Year 10 wisely

A school year is 39 weeks

There are 38 weeks with students in school

Exams often start 9 weeks before the end of the school year

This gives a maximum of 29 weeks in Year 10 before your exams start

This leaves a maximum of 27 weeks to the start of the exams

Divide this by 2

(our 2-week timetable)

This leaves fewer than 14 cycles of the timetable to the start of the exams

The better you do in Year 10, will help your final marks and grades in Year 11

There is an option to re-sit Year 10 exams in the summer of your Year 11, but this would take time and energy away from your Year 11 studies – so aim to achieve your best in the exams in Year 10

