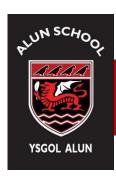
# Alun School - Ysgol Alun Key Stage 4 Information Evening 2nd October 2025





# Key Stage 4 Curriculum



# The core subjects in the Key Stage 4 Curriculum are:

- GCSE English Language and Literature
- GCSE Mathematics: Numeracy and Mathematics
- GCSE Science: Double Award and separate sciences
- GCSE Cymraeg Core
- PE
- Separate scientists will not be studying the Welsh Baccalaureate diploma.

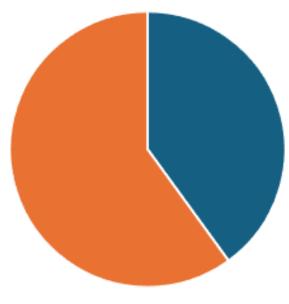
# GCSE English Language and Literature

# What will the two years will look like?

Year 10 (40% Double Award completed)	Year 11 (60% Double Award completed)
Unit 2: The Woman in Black controlled assessment - November 2025	Unit 4 - <b>Motivations</b> Exam (Analytical essay and creative writing) 2027
Unit 2: Individual Research Presentation (a speech)- February 2026	Unit 5- <b>Continuity and Change</b> Romeo and Juliet controlled assessment
Unit 3: Power and Influence controlled assessment- March 2026	Unit 5- paired discussion on poetry
Unit 1: Context and Meaning exam (poetry and creative writing) 15th May 2026	Unit 6 <b>Connections</b> exam (non -fiction analysis and non -fiction writing) 2027
Unit 3: Power and Influence Group Task- oracy. <b>June</b> 2026	Single Award students will sit Units 1-4 Double Award Students Unit 1-6
Unit 4: Motivations Controlled Assessment <b>July 2026</b>	

# Changes from the old GCSE

- **Single Award** or **Double Award** decided in Year 11 (based on controlled assessment + exam results). *Majority will sit Double Award*.
- Controlled Assessments
  - Increase from 4 → 6 pieces
  - Greater expectation for home revision
- Oracy Tasks
  - 3 Speaking & Listening: Group | Individual | Paired
- Exams
  - Heavier weighting in Year 11
- New Grading System
  - Double Award: A\*A\* GG
  - Single Award: A G



# W/C Monday 3rd November (after half term)

- All students completing The Woman in Black controlled assessment in lesson time.
- X3 40 minute sessions in exam conditions.
- Half term revision will be important.

# "What can I do to help at home?"

Read the texts at home and talk about them.

Use the available online WJEC resources

New revision packs becoming available.

Support speaking and listeningspeeches, group and paired task.



# WJEC GCSE Mathematics and Numeracy (Double Award)





# **Assessment**

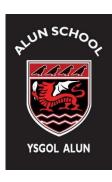
All students will be sitting WJEC GCSE Mathematics and Numeracy (Double Award)

The new course is split into 3 modules that align with the Curriculum for Wales (integrates Mathematics and Numeracy). These can be taken during exam periods in year 10 or 11.

There are no controlled assessments or coursework in KS4 Mathematics.

Students in Set 1a will also have an opportunity to achieve Level 2 qualification in Additional Mathematics in Year 11.

2





- Unit 1 Financial Mathematics & Other Applications (30%)
- Finance and money management, workplace contexts
- Calculators allowed

Unit 2 — Non-calculator (30%)

Emphasis on Geometry, Algebra and probability

Unit 3 — Calculator (40%)

Emphasis on Statistics and measure, data handling

Aspects of each concept are explored in every unit of the qualification, supporting the statement that 'the different areas of mathematics are highly interconnected and dependent on one another' included in the specific considerations for this Area.





The new **GCSE Double Award** combines both parts of the previous courses. It keeps a strong focus on the **mathematical skills** needed for further study, technical pathways, and employment, while also emphasising the **numeracy required for everyday life**.

Learners will explore real-world problems ranging from **personal finance** to interpreting data in society. The qualification is designed to develop **fluency**, **reasoning**, **problem-solving**, and clear **communication**, helping young people apply mathematics with confidence in both academic and practical contexts.





# **Tiers of Entry**

There are 2 tiers of entry for KS4 Mathematics:

Higher Tier: Grades A\*A\* – DD

Foundation Tier: Grades CC – GG



# Mathematics equipment



**Every** student is expected to have all of the equipment shown.



Pencil

Ruler

Rubber

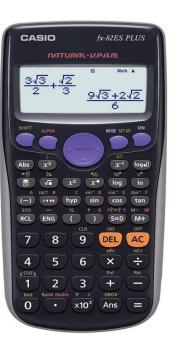
Pencil Sharpener

Protractor

Compass

Casio fx-82ES-PLUS /Casio fx-83GT CW Scientific Calculator









# Questions



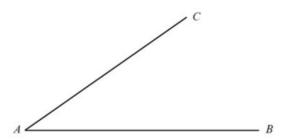
Examination Questions Assessment Sheet Intermediate – Coordinates, Scale Drawings and Bearings

#### Question 1

of the path AC.

The scale drawing below shows two straight paths AB and AC meeting at point A.

#### Scale: 1 cm represents 20 m



(a)	Measure and write down the size of the angle between the two paths.
	•
	[1]
(b)	Measure the length of the line $AB$ and then calculate the actual length of the path $AB$ .
	Length of line AB
	Length of path AB
	[3]
(c)	On the scale drawing above, draw a line from the end of the path at B to the mid-point

[1]



# Homework





### QR code to WJEC Knowledge organiser

Space for comments on what has been done well as well as a specific target based on what the student got incorrect.

# Name: Date: Due date: Assessment grade:

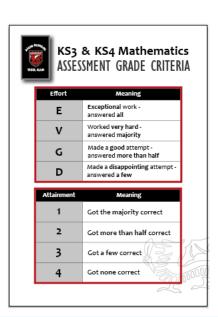
#### Topic: Sequences (Non-calculator)

Skill	Questions	Mark	Max	RAG	Mathswatch clips
Describing and continuing sequences	1		4		47
Using the nth term of a linear sequence	2		2		87
Finding the nth term of a linear sequence	3, 4		12		88
Using the nth term of a quadratic sequence	5a		2		135
Finding the nth term of a quadratic sequence	5b, 5c		4		177
Foundation Total			18		
Higher Total			24		

Teacher feedback

Response to feedback

Space for assessment grade.



Guidance as to relevant Maths Watch Clip Numbers.



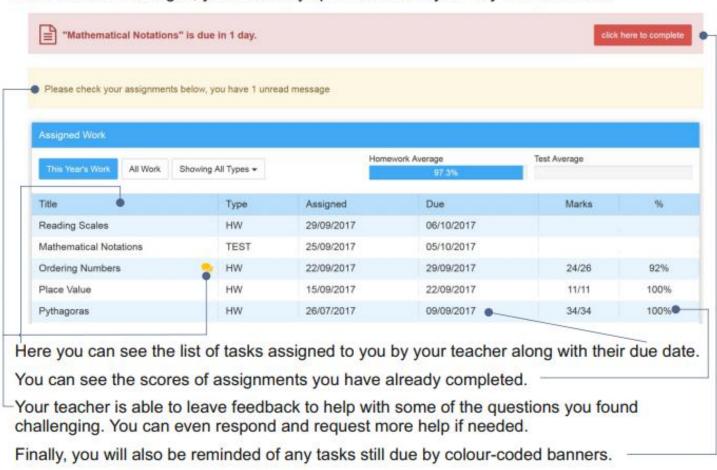
## vle.mathswatch.co.uk



# All students have their own username and password



After a successful log in, you are always presented with your "My Work" section.

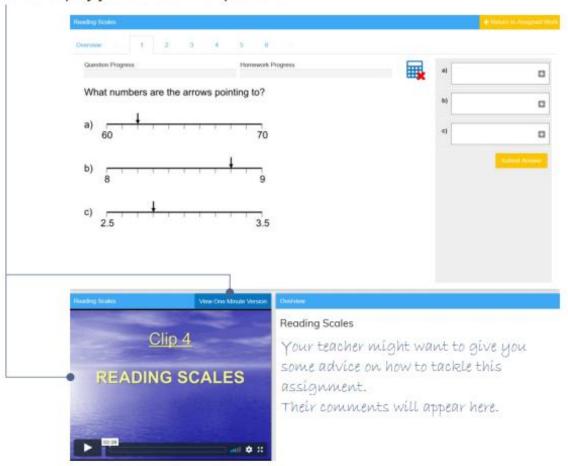


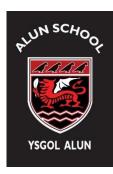
You just have to click on a task to open it.



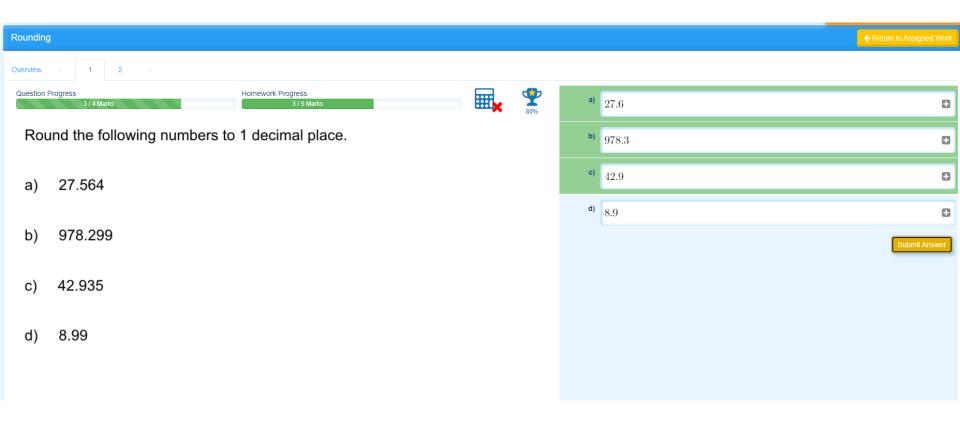
**Homeworks** can be attempted as many times as you like until the due date. Your teacher will have access to your score at the end of each attempt.

To help you with the completion of the task, the video explaining the topic will always be available to play just beneath the questions.





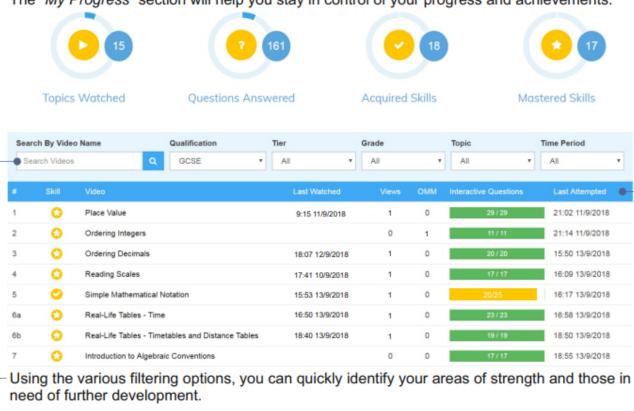
When you click on submit your answers, Mathswatch will colour it green if you are correct. Incorrect answers can be attempted again if you wish up until the lock date of the assignment.





### Keeping track

The "My Progress" section will help you stay in control of your progress and achievements.

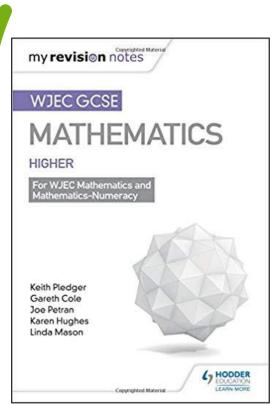


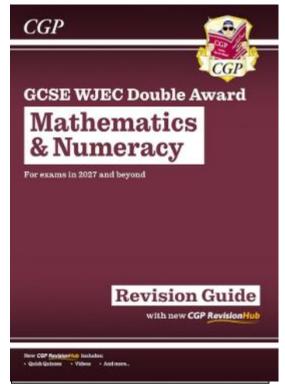
Clicking on the column headers can also help you sort the data in a more convenient way. This can be used very effectively to quickly remind yourself of which topics you recently covered, as well as of those that you haven't tackled yet.

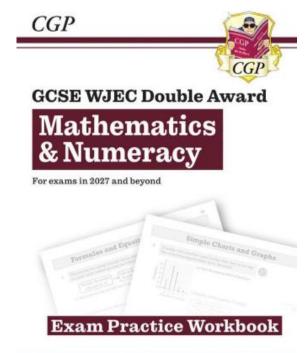


# GCSE Revision Guides









Includes Answers

# GCSE Sciences





### How do the GCSE Science courses work?









# **Separate Sciences**

- 6 1.45hr exams (3 in yr 10/3 in yr 11) 6 1.15hr exams (3 in yr 10/3 in yr 11)
- 3 practical assessments in yr 11
- 3 x Separate GCSEs in Biology, Chemistry and Physics
- 7 hours a week
- No Welsh Bacc qualification

# **Double Award Science**

- 2 practical assessments in yr 11
- 2 x Double Award GCSE in Science
- 5 hours on rotation
- 2 hours Welsh bacc

Both courses are suitable preparation for A level **BB** minimum grade for A level Sciences



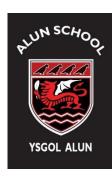
# How do the GCSE Science courses work?



# It's all about earning marks through exams and practical assessments over both Years 10 and 11.

The more marks students earn, the better their final grades will be.

Practical exams in Y11 are in the latter half of January/early February (TBC) so it is very important that all Y11 students are in school during this time



# **Double Award Science**





•	Three exams in Year 10	45%
---	------------------------	-----

• Three exams in Year 11 45%

• Two practical assessments in Year 11 10%

Total Mark /800

UMS total	Subject Award
720	A*A*
680	A*A
640	AA
600	AB
560	BB
520	BC
480	CC
440	CD
400	DD
360	DE
320	EE
280	EF
240	FF
200	FG
160	GG





# Separate Sciences





Exam in Year 10
Exam in Year 11
Practical assessment in Year 11
10%

Total mark for each subject /400

UMS	<b>A</b> *	Α	В	C	D	E	F	G
total								
Subject Award	360	320	280	240	200	160	120	80



# A real example: last year's Year 11



# Year 10 marks:

Student A sat 3 foundation tier exams in Year 10 and got the following results:

Biology 1	56	/120	(e)
Chemistry 1	40	/120	(f)
Physics 1	36	/120	(f)

# Year 11 marks:

Biology 2	72	/120	(c)
Chemistry 2	60	/120	(d)
Physics 2	72	/120	(c)
Practical Exam	49	/8o	(c)

Student A ended up with DE even though the marks in Year 11 were good enough for CC.

There was a chance to re-sit Year 10 exams but exam stress was a consideration.



# Another real example: current Year 11

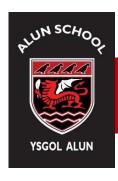


# Year 10 marks:

Student B sat 3 foundation tier exams in Year 10 and got the following results:

Biology 1	83/120	(c)
Chemistry 1	83/120	(c)
Physics 1	83/120	(c)

Student B has already 249 marks in the bag and is looking to sit higher tier papers in Year 11 and has a good chance of getting BB or better.



# How important is Year 10?



# VERY!!!

45% of the marks come from Year 10 exams.

They are **external exams**, marked by the WJEC exam board.

The success in Year 11 is set up by hard work and good results in Year 10.



# Exam dates



	Biology	08/06/2026	am
YR 10	Chemistry	12/06/2026	am
	Physics	15/06/2026	am

These exams start in the 2nd week after the May half term.

Revision in this time is paramount to achieve best grades in yr 10 to take the pressure off in yr 11.



# How much revision should I do?

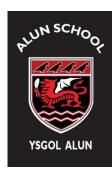


Months before – 1 hour per science per week

Month before – 2 hours per Science per week

Weeks before – 4 hours per science per week

Days before – as much as is necessary per week



### Resources



There is a wealth of resources for the Science exams.

Students will receive an e mail from myself for Biology, Mr Kelleher for Chemistry and Miss McLellan for Physics in April with links to the electronic resources.

Students will be able to attend after school and lunch revision sessions in the 6 weeks leading up to the exams.



## **BBC** bitesize



### GCSE Biology (Single Science)

GCSE Biology is the study of living organisms and their structure, life-cycles, adaptations and environment.

Part of Science



#### Choose your exam specification

AQA	CCEA	Edexcel	OCR 21st Century
OCR Gateway	WJEC		

All topics in 1 place

Must select WJEC

Test bites to check knowledge

#### Cells, organ systems and ecosystems



Cells and movement across membranes – WJEC

All living things are made of cells which are differentiated to perform different functions. Substances move into or out of the cell and enzymes are catalysts contributing to cell metabolism.



The respiratory system in humans – WJEC

Respiration is a chemical reaction which releases energy from food. The respiratory system exchanges the gases which are involved in respiration.



The digestive system in humans – WJEC

We should eat a balanced diet suitable for our age and lifestyle. Overeating can lead to obesity. Nutrients have to be digested before we can absorb and use them.



The circulatory system in humans – WJEC

The proper functioning of the circulatory system is essential for health. Blood transports substances around the body to every cell and removes toxic waste. It also defends against disease.



Structure of plants – WJEC

Plants adapt in order to efficiently collect raw materials required for photosynthesis. These raw materials must be transported



Photosynthesis – WJEC

Plants carry out photosynthesis to make food from the raw materials they gather from their environment. We can



### Ecosystems – transferring

energy – WJEC

Food chains and webs show the transfer of energy between trophic levels. They



### Ecosystems – pollution and nutrient cycles – WJEC

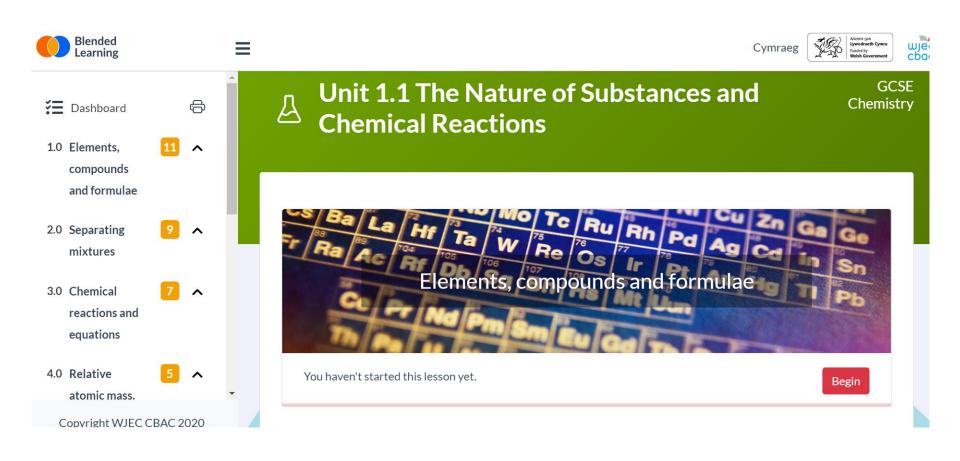
Pollution can have a significant effect on



# WJEC blended learning



Google – WJEC blended learning GCSE Chemistry/ biology/ physics





# WJEC knowledge organisers



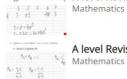
### Google – WJEC GCSE knowledge organisers



### **Information**

Published: 01 April 2020 Authors: - Lesley Evans

### % Related Resources



A level Revision Videos M1

A level Revision Videos C1 Mathematics Mathematics

A level Revision Videos C2 Mathematics



History Revision History

### GCSE Biology knowledge organisers

Biology KS4 >

A bank of sample knowledge organisers to support the learning of GCSE Biology and Double Award Science.

These could be used for revision or as a starting point for creating your own knowledge organisers.

- Student Student resource Revision Self-study Themes
- Files
- T Cells
- Enzymes
- Movement across Membranes
- 🔁 Respiration and the Respiratory System
- **Smoking**
- The Circulatory System



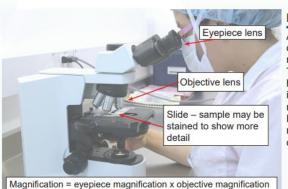
# WJEC knowledge organisers



Animal cells Plant cells

### GCSE Biology 1.1 Cells Knowledge organiser



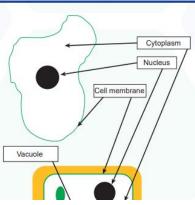


#### Magnification

A light microscope can only be used up to a magnification of x2000. To look at things at a higher magnification and in more detail an electron microscope can be used. However, an electron microscope can only view dead material.

Cell Structure	Function	contain:	contain:
Nucleus	Contains chromosomes which carry genetic information and controls actions of the cell.		
Cell membrane	Controls the entry and exit of substances		
Cytoplasm	Site of most cell reactions.		
Vacuole	Contains a watery sugar solution called sap. When full the vacuole pushes the cytoplasm against the cell wall.		
Chloroplasts	Site of photosynthesis.		
Cell wall	Contains cellulose and provides structural support for cells.		
Mitochondria	Site of aerobic respiration.		

#### Animal cells and plant cells



#### **Specialised Cells**

Cells can differentiate into specialised cells.

Specialised cells are **adapted** to specific functions and so are more **efficient** in carrying them out.



Red blood cells contain haemoglobin and are biconcave in shape to maximise efficiency in carrying oxygen.

#### Organisation

Level	Description
-------	-------------



### Past paper packs



## ALUN SCHOOL GCSE BIOLOGY



Past papers pack
2017-2023
DOUBLE SCIENCE
Unit 1
HIGHER

# ALUN SCHOOL GCSE BIOLOGY



Mark schemes
pack
2017-2023
DOUBLE SCIENCE
Unit 1
FOUNDATION
& HIGHER

ne ...... Class \_\_\_\_\_

Available to buy from April for £1 per pack, also available electronically on e mail



### Bangor revision guide



#### GCSE Science: Unit 1 Revision Book - Double Award / Biology

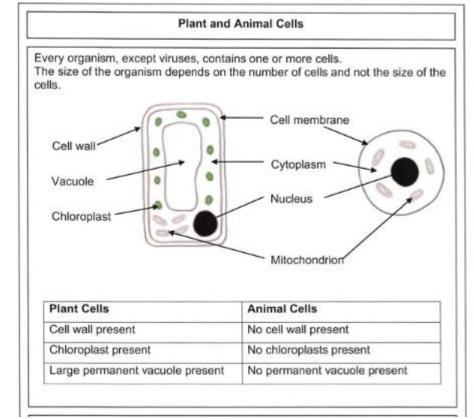
#### Contents

Plant and Animal Cells	2	Blood Vessels
Microscopy	3	Cardiovascular disease (CVD)
Examination of Animal and Plant Cells Using a Light Microscope	4	Advantages and Disadvantages of Treatments for Cardiovascular Disease
	2.22	

Clear diagrams and notes for all content in 1 place

On an e mail sent in March/ April 26

### Cells and Movement Across Cell Membranes





### Helpful online resources for science



https://senecalearning.com/en-GB/: Seneca provides information then asks you questions about each topic, students find this to be a great way to revise. <a href="https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/">https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/</a>: This has all the topic notes as well as revision videos and multiple choice tests, all sorted out for the WJEC exams. <a href="https://www.physicsandmathstutor.com/">https://www.physicsandmathstutor.com/</a>. This is great for past paper questions. There are also topic notes and flashcards to revise from too.

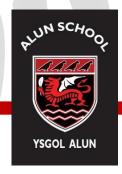
https://www.freesciencelessons.co.uk/. There are lots of revision videos for GCSE sciences, if you want to look over something that you have missed in class or not understood, this is great place to go for help.

https://www.wjec.co.uk/home/student-support/revision-resources/exam-walk-throughs/. Aimed at learners, these exam walkthrough resources offer practical hints and tips on how to effectively approach questions in examination papers. <a href="http://www.tanio.cymru/">http://www.tanio.cymru/</a>. This is a fantastic revision website designed for the WJEC science course with notes and knowledge organiser sheets.

https://www.bangor.ac.uk/get-ready-for-university/revision-guides/gcserevision.

Bangor University have produced free revision guides for biology and physics

# GCSE Cymraeg Core



### Cymraeg Core

### What's included in the course?

Students will study three broad themes of *cynefin*, identity and culture, and within these themes you will learn:

- about the value of the Welsh language socially and in the world of work
- about its use in Wales and around the world
- how to understand and use Cymraeg with others in a spontaneous and confident way
- how to develop skills for work and life
- how to respond creatively to literature





### Careers

Jobs advertised in Wales often require the ability to speak Welsh as essential or desirable.

The ability to speak Welsh is important and advantageous in all areas including:

- Education
- Health and care
- Government
- Media and entertainment
- Sport
- Law
- Marketing







### GCSE Cymraeg



GCSE Welsh is assessed through a total of 4 examinations - 2 speaking exams and 2 reading and writing exams. Each unit is worth 25% each.

There are no controlled assessments or coursework tasks.

### **Year 11**

Students will complete all units in year 11.

- Unit 1 Speaking exam 25% October 2026 watching a visual stimuli
- Unit 2 Speaking exam 25% March 2026 responding to various sources e.g., graph/chart, facts and/or statistics and images
- Unit 3 Reading & Writing exam 25% May 2026 1 hour 30 minutes;
- Unit 4 Reading & Writing exam 25% June 2026 1 hour 30 minutes;

# Unit 1 – Speaking Exam (Year 11)

A task for a pair/ group of three based on visual stimuli provided by WJEC to stimulate discussion. The assessment will consist of two parts conducted in the following order:

- watch a visual clip (approximately 2 minutes) twice and fill in a related sheet
- discussion between the pair/group of three on what was watched.
- The assessment will be led and assessed by your Welsh teacer.

Enw'r Ymgeisydd			Rhif y Ganolfan	Rhif yr Ymgeisydd		
						0
		AFLEN BARA	TOI / PREPARA	TION SHEET		
	Defnyddiwch y daflen hon i'd (Ni fydd y da	ch helpu i sgwrs flen hon yn cae	io am y clip / Us I ei marcio / This	e this sheet to help you sheet will not be mark	u talk about the clip red)	
		Tom	Ria	Leusa	Nodiadau Yo	nwanegol
				3		
Sylv	vadau am ffonau symudol		0.0			
	Ar goll heb y ffôn symudol					
•	Mam wedi dweud dim ffonau symudol wrth y bwrdd bwyd					
٠	Yn defnyddio ffôn symudol drwy'r dydd					
	Y chwaer yn tecstio Mam i ofyn am baned					
Barr	am chwaraeon?					
٠	Nofio bob dydd					
٠	Yn gwneud chwaraeon yn yr ysgol					
•	Mae gymnasteg i ferched yn unig					
٠	Mae'n ffordd o wneud ffrindiau newydd					
٠	Mae chwaraeon yn helpu cadw'n ffit					
Barr	am ddigwyddiadau'r ardal?					
•	Does dim byd i wneud					
٠	Mae clybiau a chwaraeon					
٠	Mae'r cyngor yn gofyn am help i lanhau'r traethau					
Pwy	ntiau pwysig am y traeth?					
٠	Mae helpu yn bwysig					
٠	Mae casglu sbwriel yn ofnadwy					
	Mae cyfrifoldeb ar bawb i helpu					







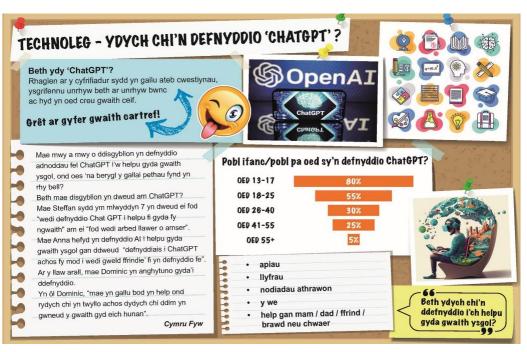






# Unit 2 – Speaking Exam (Year 11)

A discussion in pairs/groups of three based on triggers such as a combination of graphs, pictures and short reading texts provided by WJEC.



- Responding to pictures, diagrams, graphs and texts.
- Expressing opinion is key.
- interacting with a partner (6-8 minutes) or in a group of 3 (8-10 minutes). Candidates are expected to express and support opinions
- Assessed by classroom teachers.

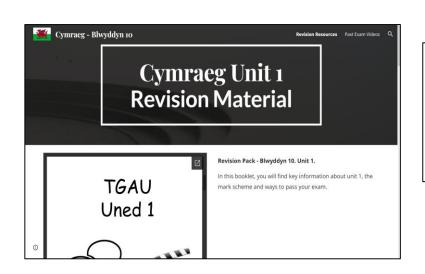








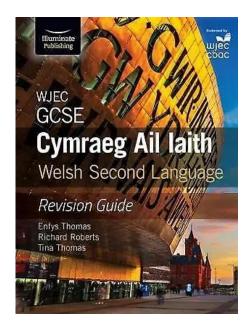
### Adnoddau / Resources



### **Revision Website**

The department has a revision website for GCSE students. The website is filled with past paper exams, old unit 1 videos and useful booklets and language mats. This is a key tool for any upcoming exams or assessments.

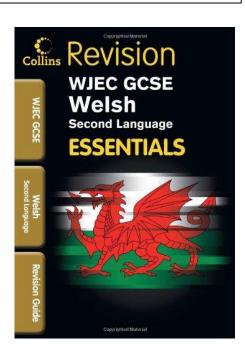
https://sites.google.com/view/cymraeg-blwyddyn-10?usp=sharing



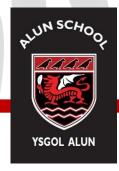
### **Revision Books**

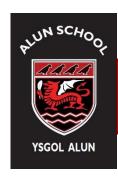
https://www.amazon.co.uk/Cymra eg-laith-Welsh-Second-Language/dp/1911208470

Fantastic books filled with resources, knowledge organisers and exam practice questions.



# GCSE options





### Key Stage 4: Options Subjects



All students are studying **3 subjects** from the options menu.

Some of these are **BTEC** or vocational courses and are assessed mainly through coursework assignments with some examinations.

**Most GCSE courses** are assessed through examinations and non-examination assessments.



### Non-examination Assessments



**NEA** is undertaken by students in lessons under controlled conditions.

They are assessed by teachers but moderated by external examiners.

Students will be asked to prepare work for controlled assessments at home but all assessed work must be completed in lesson under supervised conditions.

Students will record controlled assessment dates and results in their diary.



### Coursework



Coursework is completed during lesson times and some elements of this this will be expected to be completed at home. This will not be under supervised conditions. Students will be expected to declare that the work being submitted is their own.

For some subjects this can be worth a considerable proportion of the overall grade and qualification. Some examples are:

Art & Design - 60% Music –65%

P.E - 50%



### Practical Examination



**Practical examinations** In some subjects' examinations will be scheduled during the Spring term of Year 11. These will often take place in teaching classrooms under exam conditions and supervised by subject teachers and invigilators.

Dates of these assessments will be shared with pupils later in the course

Examples of these are:

Art & Design - 10- hour practical exam- Conducted over two days (2 x 5-hour sessions)

Music- Performance practical exam – includes solo and ensemble playing on set days throughout the year.

Performing Arts-

Component 2 (Developing Skills and Techniques in the Performing Arts) 15 hours

Component 3 (Responding to a Brief) 11 hours

# Attendance



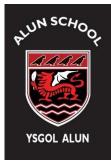


### Attendance



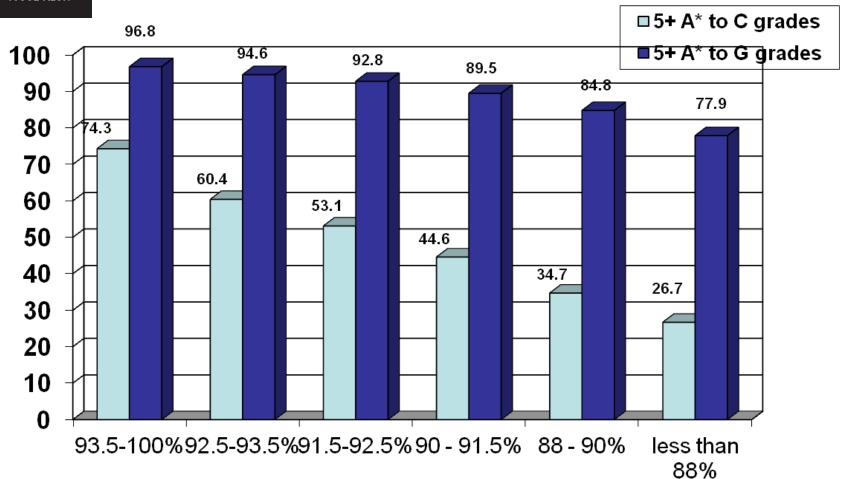
**90%** attendance rate means that a pupil has missed the equivalent of **four whole weeks** of lessons in the school year.





### Link between Attendance and Attainment





The more a pupil is missing from school, the fewer A\*- C or A\*- G grades they will achieve.

# Edulink







# Achievement

Type & Date ♥	Comment & Teacher ♦	Activity & Info ♦
06/09/2024 Achievement in Lessons	Miss G. Rose Good start in chemistry!	Science -
05/09/2024 Achievement in Lessons	Miss G. Rose Great start to the year in chemistry.	Science Science -
04/09/2024 Achievement in Lessons	Miss K. Rogers Excellent listening and engagement in the lesson.	Humanities

# Behaviour

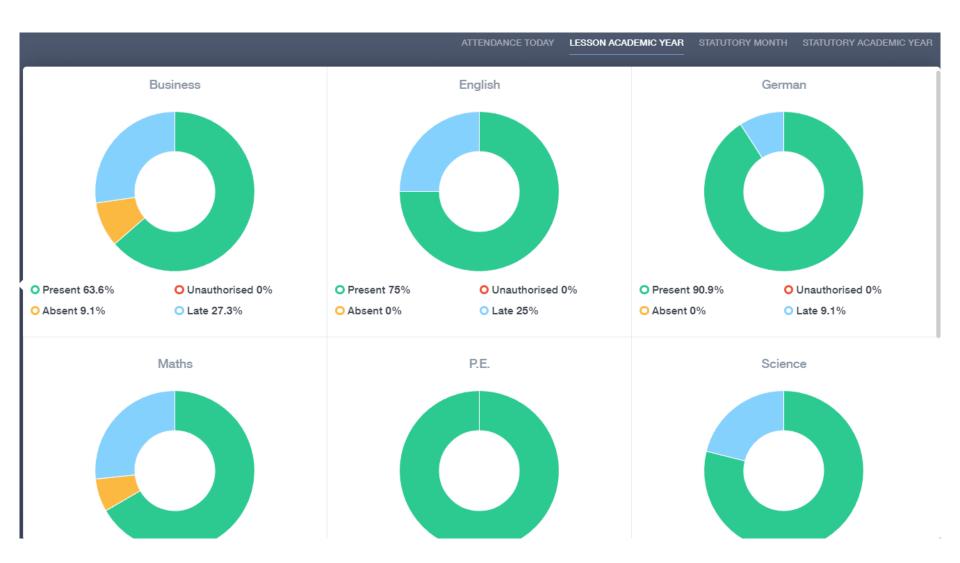
Type & Date ♣	Comment & Teacher *	Action & Info ♦	Location & Status \$	Points \$
06/09/2024 Toilet Visit	Mr D. Wheel	N/A - Toilet Computer Science -	- -	0
06/09/2024 Not Showing Positive Attitude	Mr D. Wheel	Discussed with Pupil Computer Science -	-	1
05/09/2024  Not Focussing on own work/Disrupting Others Learning	Mrs A. Hughes	Alun Code C1 Maths -	- -	1

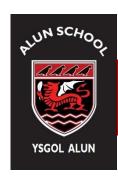
## Attendance

	ATTENDANCE TODAY ———	LESSON ACADEMIC YEAR	STATUTORY MONTH	STATUTORY A
Statutory				
Session	Mark		Preser	nt
AM	L Late (before registers closed)		~	
PM	- All should attend/no mark recorded		•••	

#### Lessons

Period	Lesson	Mark	Present
Wed:1	Maths (11G1A/Ma24)	L	✓
9:15 - 10:15	Mrs S. Roberts	Late (before registers closed)	
Wed:2	Engineering PL (11EG3/Eg24)	/	✓
10:15 - 11:15	Miss J. Connah	Present (AM)	
Wed:3	Science (11A1/Sc24)	/	✓
11:30 - 12:30	Mr S. Kelleher	Present (AM)	
Wed:4	P.E. (11PFD/Pe24)	-	
13:15 - 14:15	Mr A. Goundrey	All should attend/no mark recorded	
Wed:5	English (11G2A/En24)	-	
14:15 - 15:15	Mr M. Newland	All should attend/no mark recorded	





### Dates for your Diary



### **Year 10 Trial Examinations:**

8th January to 16th January 2026

### Year 10 Parents' Evening:

3rd March 2026

