

# WJEC GCE Health and Social Care, and Childcare

## Adult Health and Social Care Pathway

### Post-CPD FAQs – November 2021

#### 1. Why have NEAs replaced coursework in this qualification?

The NEA assessments were written for this new qualification in line with Qualification Wales' (QW) Approval Criteria. QW consulted on the draft criteria before they were finalised but, once finalised, they define what we must do in our specification. We also had input from representatives in Higher Education when writing the assessments and they were happy that they allow learners to show their knowledge and understanding of HSC and CC but also equip them with skills needed moving forward (*please see question 4 response below*).

#### 2. How many guided learning hours (GLH) are recommended for this qualification?

As this is a GCE AS and A level specification, it is designed to be delivered in 180 and 360 GLH respectively. On QiW, it notes that the total qualification time (TQT) is 250 and 500 hours for AS and A level qualifications.

#### 3. Does research need to be conducted in the classroom?

No, learners may complete research outside of lesson time. This will allow you to spend more time on other teaching and learning activities in the classroom.

#### 4. Why is the content so different from the WJEC legacy Health and Social Care qualification?

The content for the new qualification is completely new and meets the needs of the health and social care sectors, which we worked very closely with when developing this qualification. The legacy qualification was considered dated and the QW review highlighted that it was no longer fit for purpose. The review identified that the new GCE needs to prepare learners to progress within the sectors or onto higher education or employment. The content has been defined by the requirements of the approval criteria upon which QW consulted widely, including with teachers. One of the outcomes of the sector review was the lack of subject specialists teaching health and social care and childcare qualifications in centres, and this is something that QW was hoping centres could or would address. However, we have no jurisdiction over the qualifications teachers need to have to deliver our general qualifications; this is at each centre's discretion. We fully appreciate that many experienced teachers with different backgrounds taught the legacy qualifications successfully, and they may not have the same confidence in some of the new content, but this is where centres could utilise engagement with sector experts who may be keen to support delivery.

## **5. Why do the mark schemes for the NEA and examination SAMs seem very open ended?**

**NEA units** – the marking criteria for the NEAs are designed to apply to a broad range of learner work, so as not to restrict the nature of what learners are allowed to do within their NEA tasks, as, at GCE, we hope to see different approaches.

**Examination units** – as we go through a live series, we will be able to share more detailed mark schemes that have been through conferences for the examination units, and of course we will share live exemplars with a rationale on them as to why marks have been awarded, in addition to online exam review (OER) for the examination units.

## **6. The marks awarded for the NEA do not seem to correlate with the marks on the examination paper; for example, the amount of work required for 6 - 8 marks on the NEA seems high in comparison to the equivalent number of marks on an examination paper. 32 marks for NEA are allocated 10 hours of controlled time plus research time in advance, whereas 32 marks on the exam paper require the student to spend approximately 32 minutes responding. How is this comparable?**

Assessments by examination and NEA cannot be compared in this way, focusing on time. It is also important to consider what skills, knowledge and understanding are being assessed in each unit and the controls in place. Given the nature of health and social care and childcare, we do not believe 100% assessment by examination would be valid or engaging for learners. The assessments have been designed in response to the requirements of the approval criteria. Also, completing two NEA tasks gives learners a greater opportunity to achieve. For example, a low mark on task 1 can be balanced by a higher mark on task 2, and two tasks means that we do not need to tie in all assessment requirements to a single context, which would be more restrictive for the learner.

## **7. NEA – is referencing expected and will candidates be marked down if they do not include it?**

Yes, referencing is required to ensure that candidates are not identified as having plagiarised any materials that are not their own.

## **8. Will WJEC provide further exemplars for teachers to use?**

Marking assessment opportunities were provided for each unit at CPD and the resources are located on the secure website. We are currently working on additional exemplars and will send a circular out before the end of the autumn term to advise on release dates.

## **9. Are there any additional resources/professional learning available?**

We will provide free Q&A sessions in the new year.

There are numerous resources available for the AS units in our previous CPD folders on the secure website, in addition to the unit-specific A2 resources on the Health and Care Learning Wales (HCLW) website.

This list has been produced to assist centres in navigating the current resources available:  
<https://www.healthandcarelearning.wales/resources/resource-list-a-level-hsccc-l3-hsc-principles-and-contexts/>

These Q&A events are now available for booking:  
<https://www.healthandcarelearning.wales/training-and-events/>

## **Q&A capture from live CPD event 16/11/21**

### **1. Can I ask why an integrated approach is best?**

It is usually better for staffing, and the assessments then take place when learners are more mature and have had adequate time to gain appropriate level of knowledge and understanding.

**2. Many of our candidates are studying GCE Health and Social Care and Childcare alongside Level 3 Health and Social Care: Principles and Contexts. Many of the theorists taught in Unit 5 (a) are the same as the theorists taught in Unit 2 of the Principles and Contexts syllabus. I have had clarification that you will not negatively mark and, should a student answer with a theorist that is not on the syllabus but is correct and they know this as they have learnt it from the other syllabus, that each case will be looked at independently. Could I please ask that this is highlighted/ flagged with examiners as I don't want students to be at a disadvantage?**

Yes, of course, this is something that would be discussed at the marking conference. We can confirm that our examination teams would always consider responses that are accurate, regardless of whether or not the content is given in the specification. This is something we make clear in conferences. A candidate would not be marked down for making reference to a theorist that is not mentioned in Unit 5. The policy is for positive marking and giving credit for any appropriate response.

### **3. Where can I find the legacy unit to support this unit?**

The legacy information is still available on the open website – if you haven't already got this:  
[https://www.wjec.co.uk/qualifications/health-and-social-care-as-a-level/#tab\\_overview](https://www.wjec.co.uk/qualifications/health-and-social-care-as-a-level/#tab_overview)

There will be questions on legacy examination papers that can be used without adaptations.

**4. It would be very useful if legacy questions could be adapted for us with new mark schemes by WJEC. I found, with the extra responsibility of non-paid marking last year, that time spent trying to source relevant questions and adapt mark schemes alongside creating new resources is far too time consuming.**

- **Where will I find legacy questions, please? Also, will any of this be linked to the resources section? It would be helpful if we could have some specifics from these that will cross over to save having to trawl through to find those relevant.**
- **I asked a question about a bank of legacy adapted questions with adapted mark schemes for Unit 5 earlier but haven't had a response. Is this possible? It would be very useful for us.**

There is only one SAM per unit, which is common practice with all new specifications. A request for releasing additional papers has been discussed with members of our senior management team and, unfortunately, we will not be releasing any further papers that were written for live examination series for any qualifications within our remit. The support materials produced for summer 2021 are available on the secure website to support you through the assessment of Unit 1, and there is also a huge bank of past papers and relevant questions for the legacy qualification that could be utilised for assessment purposes. This is something that will need to be facilitated within centre.

#### **5. When will the book be ready for this? When will the textbook for A2 be ready?**

The textbook for the adult health and social care pathway is due to be published by the end of the November. As this has been delayed, our resources team is offering a discount to all orders placed within the first month of publication, in addition to draft chapters being published on the website as they are completed in the meantime.

#### **6. When can we place our order?**

A pre-order form for the textbook is available in the Key Documents section of the GCE HSCCC subject page of the Health and Care Learning Wales (HCLW) website:

<https://www.healthandcarelearning.wales/qualifications/advanced-gce-and-advanced-subsiidiary-gce-in-health-and-social-care-and-childcare/>.

#### **7. Where are the SAMs, please?**

The SAMs are available from the Key Documents section of the GCE HSCCC subject page of the (HCLW) website: <https://www.healthandcarelearning.wales/qualifications/advanced-gce-and-advanced-subsiidiary-gce-in-health-and-social-care-and-childcare/>.

#### **8. Does this mean that the SAMs are able to be accessed by students too?**

The SAMs can be used by students as "mock" assessments. Any exemplar NEAs that are released are not to be shared in their entirety with the learners. They are to support teachers with preparing learners for the assessments and for marking prior to moderation.

#### **9. Have you got anymore slides to help with Unit 6?**

The A2 support materials are available on the HCLW website, under 'Resources', and further exemplar work will be available shortly.

**10. Is there exemplar work to support our delivery?**

Exemplar work for each unit across both pathways is in the final stages of production and will be released very shortly when we have it available in both English and Welsh – thanks for your patience.

**11. Do we have access to the slideshow after this session?**

All materials used in this session, including the main PowerPoint presentation, will be uploaded to the WJEC secure website shortly after this event.