



Unitisation and Controlled Assessment

**Our revised and new GCSE specifications:
the two big changes** and what they mean for
you and your learners

Unitisation

Most of our revised and new GCSE specifications have a unitised element.

This means that you will be able to enter your candidates for elements of the assessment before the terminal examination.

This increases flexibility and choice for teachers and candidates. It also lays foundations for the assessment structure which is available post-16.

Candidates are required to complete at least 40% of the overall assessment requirements as terminal assessment.

In the table on pages 8 - 13 we have stated the availability of units that can be taken before the end of the two years of study. All other units are available as terminal assessment.

If a specification is linear, all assessment will be terminal.

Controlled Assessment

The concept of controlled assessment has been developed by the regulators to preserve the positive aspects of internal assessment while addressing the concerns of teachers with regard to authenticity and validity of coursework.

This new approach allows greater reliability and credibility of internal assessment.

The three key processes involved in controlled assessment are:

Task setting
ensuring that tasks are reliable and valid;

Task taking
the conditions under which candidates take the tasks; and

Task marking
ensuring high quality judgements in assessment.

Each of our revised and new GCSE specifications (except Religious Studies and Economics) has an element of controlled assessment which is either 60% or 25% of the overall assessment.

See Section 6 of the specifications for further detail; see also the Appendices to the specifications for a full glossary of terms relating to controlled assessment.