



Debenham High School

A Guide to Controlled Assessment

2015-17

What is controlled assessment and why was it introduced?

Over the last few years controlled assessment has been gradually introduced into GCSE qualifications in place of the traditional coursework element.

Following a report produced by the Qualifications and Curriculum Authority in 2007 it became clear that there were concerns surrounding the levels of guidance being given to pupils completing coursework. Controlled assessment has now been introduced in nearly all GCSE subjects as a means of reducing plagiarism and ensuring that all pupils have a fair chance of success.

What is the difference between coursework and controlled assessment?

The most significant difference between coursework and controlled assessment is that the completion of the final task now has to take place under controlled conditions in lessons under the supervision of the class teacher. There are 3 levels of control depending upon the subject, the task and the stage of task being completed. Individual subject specifications prescribe the level for each task.

- **Limited or Low Control** – may be completed without direct supervision, at home (this generally applies to preparatory work).
- **Informal or Medium Control** – limited guidance from the teacher; group work; questions/tasks outlined. Safeguards in place against plagiarism.
- **Formal or High Control** – in direct sight of the supervisor (teacher), tightly prescribed resources and interaction with other pupils, no Internet, email or memory stick access.

What proportion of the final marks do controlled assessments account for?

This depends upon the subject; further information can be found in the subject summaries in this booklet. Controlled Assessment can contribute anything from 0% to 60% of the final GCSE mark. The rest of the GCSE certification is assessed through external examinations.

How is Controlled Assessment marked?

Controlled Assessment is marked by teaching staff according to a mark scheme provided by the exam boards. The marks are sent off to the exam boards who then request a sample of the work for moderation. At this point exam boards may change the marks awarded by teaching staff if they judge that the mark scheme has been incorrectly applied. The grade boundaries for the piece of work are determined by the exam boards after all marks have been submitted. Exam boards have the right to change the grade boundaries from year to year. **Teachers base any indication of potential grades on previous years' grade boundaries; they cannot give any better-informed predictions.**

How long should pupils spend preparing for the tasks?

Limits are set on preparation time allowed in school and pupils will be guided by their subject teachers as to how long they should be spending on research and preparation at home. Preparation will be important, of course, but it would be a mistake to over-prepare at the expense of other aspects of the course or other subjects.

When will they take place?

Controlled assessment tasks will take place throughout Years 10 and 11. Pages 5-12 of this booklet show when pupils can expect to be completing controlled tasks in each subject.

In some subjects, such as Art, Textiles and Graphics, controlled assessment takes place over a significant proportion of the year as it makes such a large contribution to the final mark. Other subjects, such as English and Languages, show a much smaller window in which pupils will be writing up a task under high levels of control.

Absence and controlled assessment

Controlled assessment tasks do take place throughout the whole two year GCSE course. We fully appreciate that pupils are, at times, unwell and unable to make it into school. In these cases we will endeavour to provide opportunities for pupils to catch up work missed and to complete their controlled assessment. Due to the level of supervision needed these sessions may take place after school.

To give pupils the best possible chance of achieving their best we would advise parents/carers that all other absence must be kept to an absolute minimum. If you are aware of an occasion where your child may have to be absent from school please let us know as soon as possible so that we can ensure that alternative arrangements are put in place.

Stay in touch

Controlled assessment can be daunting and at times can cause increased levels of anxiety and stress for pupils. We want to reduce this as far as we possibly can by keeping you informed about what pupils can expect over the next two years. If you have any concerns at all regarding controlled assessment, or indeed any other aspect of GCSE study, please do not hesitate to contact us.

For specific subject concerns please contact your child's subject teacher or the Head of Department. If you have more general concerns please contact your child's Form Tutor in the first instance. If you feel it is appropriate you are also welcome to contact a member of the Senior Leadership Team. A full list of contacts can be found on page 4.

Contacts

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Form Tutors and Head of Year

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Head of Year	Mr Yaroslawy	dyaroslaw@debenhamhigh.co.uk

Subject Contacts

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Resistant Materials	Miss J. Newman	jnewman@debenhamhigh.co.uk
Science	Mr S. Rockett	srockett@debenhamhigh.co.uk
Textiles	Mrs P. Cubitt	pcubitt@debenhamhigh.co.uk

NB There is no Controlled Assessment for GCSEs in English,History, Maths or RE at this school

Senior Leadership Team

Miss J. Upton	Headteacher	jupton@debenhamhigh.co.uk
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Exams office

Mrs N. Parent	Exams Officer	nparent@debenhamhigh.co.uk
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Controlled Assessment – Subject Summaries

SUBJECT: Art & Design	Head of Subject: Mrs L. Carr
<p>Unit 1 Portfolio: 60% of final marks</p> <p>The Portfolio is made up of TWO major projects that are set by the Art Department plus one to two satellite projects. The two major projects will take one and a half terms each to complete. By Easter in Year 11, candidates select and present AT LEAST TWO complete projects which may include one satellite project for their Portfolio of Work. It is recommended that this Portfolio work should show about 45 hours of work. Once the Portfolio has been submitted for final assessment it cannot be revised. The level of control is Low for independent research, including gathering materials and information outside of the classroom, and Medium for the work developed from this research. Candidates are required to have drawing and colouring materials, an A4 sketchbook, A2 folder and A2 flip file for their Portfolio of Work. These items are available from the School shop.</p>	
Level of control: Low/Medium	Date of completion: Easter Y11

SUBJECT: Business Studies	Head of Subject: Mrs J. Wilson
<p>Unit 2: Investigating Small Business: 25% of the final mark</p> <p>Students complete one exam board set task with a total of 40 marks.</p> <p>Research/Investigation is a maximum of six hours, under a low level of control. Analysis/Evaluation of task and final write up is a maximum of 3 hours under high level controlled conditions. The mark breakdown is research 12 marks, data presentation 8 marks, analysis 12 marks and evaluation 8 marks.</p>	
Level of control: Low/High	Date of completion: Summer Term Y10

SUBJECT: Computing	Head of Department: Mr E. Geronimo
<p>Unit A452 Practical Investigation and Unit A453 Programming Project: 60% of the final mark</p> <p>There are two parts to the controlled assessment that students have to complete as part of the course: Units A452 and A453. Each unit is 30% of the final mark, one taken in Year 10 and one in Year 11. Each assignment has a maximum time of 20 hours, plus time for research and students will also be expected to do research for the task as homework.</p> <p>Unit A452 is a practical unit which requires the students to do some background research and provide solutions to specified problems, together with an investigation of how the scenario affects real-life or computing developments. Unit A453 requires students to create solutions to programming tasks. The tasks are set by OCR and are taken under a Medium/High Level of control, which means all timed work must be undertaken in lessons and students are expected to do their own work, independent of the teacher.</p>	
Level of control: Medium/High	Date of completion: Unit A452 -July Y10, Unit A453 -March Y11

SUBJECT: Drama	Head of Subject: Mr M Hardcastle
Unit 1 Exploration and Unit 2 Exploring Texts: 60% of final marks	
Unit 1: 30% of final mark will be completed in Y10:	
1) Pupils participate in a 3-week practical exploration of drama and are assessed on their involvement and contribution during this period. Pupils will prepare for this assessment period before formal assessment begins by doing exploratory work on dramatic forms and styles. This will be undertaken in the second half of the spring term (March 2016). The level of control is Low.	
2) Pupils complete a documentary response (max 2000 words) under Medium level controlled conditions, analysing and evaluating their own and others' work during the practical process. This is completed in the summer term of 2016.	
Unit 2: 30% of final mark will be completed in Y11:	
1) Pupils participate in a 3-week practical exploration of a play text and are assessed on their involvement and contribution during this period. Pupils will prepare for this assessment period before formal assessment begins by doing exploratory work on the text. This is completed in the first half of the autumn term. The level of control is Low.	
2) Pupils complete a documentary response (max 100 words) under Medium level controlled conditions analysing and evaluating their own and others' work during the practical process. This is completed in the second half of the autumn term (November – December).	
Pupils complete a theatre review based on a production they have seen (max 2000 words). This will be completed at some point during the GCSE course. It is not possible to specify a definite time for this as it is dependent on what productions are being staged and when. Parents will be notified in plenty of time when a suitable production has been found.	
Level of control: Low/Medium	Date of completion: Summer Term Y10 and December Y11

SUBJECT: DT Food Technology	Head of Subject: Mrs J. Turner
There are two controlled assessments each consisting of 20 hours work which contributes towards 60% of their final GCSE.	
Unit 1- Introduction to Designing and Making - delivered in year 10- (30%) - 5 practical assignments are produced.	
Unit 2- Making High quality Products - delivered in year 11-(30%) - 7 practical assignments are produced.	
Level of control: Low/Medium	Date of completion: March Y11

SUBJECT: DT Graphic Products	Head of Department: Miss J. Newman
Unit 2 Design and Making Practice: 60% of the final mark	
Students will engrave a drinking glass using the laser cutter and make packaging for it. The product will be based on a major sporting event of student's choice. A 20 page A3 folder will be produced alongside the glass and packaging. Students must complete controlled assessment in approximately 45 hours.	
This controlled assessment is undertaken in Y10.	
Level of control: Medium	Date of completion: October Y11

SUBJECT: DT Resistant Materials	Head of Department: Miss J. Newman
<p>Unit 2 Design and Making Practice: 60% of the final mark</p> <p>Students will design and make a lamp based on the work of Norman Foster, or Alessi designers. A 20 page A3 folder will be produced alongside practical work. Students must complete controlled assessment in approximately 45 hours.</p>	
Level of control: Medium	Date of completion: October Y11

SUBJECT: DT Textiles	Head of Subject: Mrs P. Cubitt
<p>Unit 2 Design and Making Practice: 60% of the final mark</p> <p>Students must complete controlled assessment in 45 hrs. Students design and make a textile product based on a brief set by the AQA Exam Board accompanied by a supporting A3 folder of approximately 20 pages. All practical work to be done in class and all written/ folder work (all analysis, conclusions and evaluations) under Medium controlled conditions.</p>	
Level of control: Medium	Date of completion: 1 st March 2017

SUBJECT: Engineering	Head of Department: Miss J. Newman
<p>Controlled assessment: 60% of the GCSE.</p> <p>Controlled assessment part 1:- To study bikes and consider how they were made, the use of modern technology in manufacturing them, materials, and bike design of the future. This section will be done in Year 10.</p> <p>Controlled assessment part 2:- To design and make a product such as a radio. The design work for this will be done in year 10 and the making of the product will be done in Year 11.</p>	
Level of control: Medium	Date of completion: December Y11

Subject: English	Head of Department: Mrs J Farrow
<p>As students are undertaking the new GCSE there is no longer any controlled assessment in English.</p>	

SUBJECT: French	Head of Department: Mrs S.Halford-Thompson
<p>Unit 3 Speaking and Unit 4 Writing: 60% of the final mark</p> <p><u>Year 10</u> Writing: 'Family relationships and leisure activities': 15% of final mark. One task set by MFL Faculty. Whole of autumn term and part of winter term used in preparation for this, under the Medium Level of control. Controlled assessment is taken under the High level of control as soon as is deemed appropriate but before February half-term.</p> <p>Speaking: 'Home, Environment and town life' 15% of final mark. One task set by MFL Faculty. The remainder of the last half of winter term and the first half of summer term is spent in preparation for this, under the Medium level of control. The speaking controlled assessment is taken under the High level of control.</p> <p><u>Year 11</u> Speaking: Education and Work - 15% of final mark. One task set by MFL Faculty. Whole of autumn term will be used in preparation for this task, under the Medium level of control. Pupils' revision over Christmas holidays will be crucial. The speaking test is taken under the High level of control.</p> <p>Writing: Holidays -15% of final mark. One task set by MFL Faculty. Most of spring term used in preparation, under the Medium level of control. Revision over Easter holidays will be crucial in preparation for this task, which is taken under the High level of control.</p>	
Level of control: Medium/High	Date of completion: Easter Y11

SUBJECT: Geography	Head of Department: Mrs L. Farrell and Mrs J. Wilson
<p>Unit 3 Local Fieldwork Investigation: 25% of the final mark</p> <p>25% of final mark. Time limit of 20 hours plus unlimited data collection time. Task is chosen by teachers with an element of data collection chosen by pupils, all completed in class time. Under Low level of control: Candidate research and preparation - 4 hours; Write up of introduction, methodology, data handling and data presentation - 10 hours (some ICT must be used in last section to gain highest marks). Under High level of control: Analysis, conclusion and evaluation - 6 hours non-ICT.</p>	
Level of control: Low/High	Date of completion: Spring Term Y11

SUBJECT: Health and Social Care	Head of Subject: Mrs V. Hyland
<p>Health and Social Care is a BTEC qualification which means there is no controlled assessment. 75% of the course is assessed through production of a portfolio. Pupils will undertake a number of assignments over the two year course.</p>	
	Date of completion: Easter Y11

SUBJECT: History	Head of Department: Mr A. Dubberley
There is NO controlled assessment or coursework for the iGCSE which pupils take at this school.	

SUBJECT: ICT	Head of Department: Mr E. Geronimo
<p>Unit 2 Solving Problems with ICT and Unit 4 Developing Multimedia ICT Solutions: 60% of the final mark</p> <p>Two coursework assignments, each 30% of final mark, one taken in Year 10 and one in Year 11. Each assignment has a maximum time of 22.5 hours, plus time for research and students will also be expected to do research for the task as homework.</p> <p>Unit 2 consists of a portfolio of work which shows students' attainment in obtaining and interpreting different types of information; using, developing and communicating information to meet the purpose of their studies and presenting results of their work. The assignment will assess the practical aspects of the functional elements of ICT.</p> <p>Unit 4 will give students the opportunity to develop a piece of work using multimedia software following a single task brief issued by WJEC.</p> <p>All tasks are set by WJEC and are taken under a Medium Level of control, which means all timed work must be undertaken in lessons and students are expected to do their own work, independent of the teacher. Due to the size of the tasks, they are interspersed with teaching and sample tasks, so as to best prepare the students for the various sections. In practice, for both Year 10 and Year 11, after an introductory few weeks, students will be working on the task throughout the year.</p>	
Level of control: Medium	Date of completion: Unit 2 -July Y10, Unit 4 -March Y11

SUBJECT: Maths	Head of Department: Mrs N. Coe
There is NO controlled assessment or coursework for the AQA Maths GCSE which pupils take at this school.	

SUBJECT: Media Studies	Head of Subject: Mr S. Trevorrow
<p>Individual Portfolio and Production Portfolio: 60% of the final mark</p> <p>Individual Media Portfolio (30%) A close study of the various techniques used to create meaning in moving image and how these are used to represent class and status in music videos. The brief is set by OCR; videos to analyse are selected by the teacher with an option to negotiate an individual choice by the students.</p> <p><i>Assessment:</i> coursework essay, practical print production and evaluation</p> <p>Group Media Portfolio (30%) Research, plan, shoot, edit and evaluate the opening scenes of a new film in the horror genre. A lot of commitment out of school is necessary for the successful completion of this task.</p>	
Level of control: Medium	Date of completion: Autumn and Summer Term Y10

SUBJECT: Music	Head of Department: Mrs J. Da Costa
<p>Unit 1 Performing and Unit 2 Composing: 60% of the final mark</p> <p>Unit 1: Two compositions are to be completed for the course. The specification allows 10 hours write up per composition at the High level of control. Unit 2: Two performances are to be recorded. One solo performance, one ensemble. Regular practice at home and attendance at instrumental or singing lessons is crucial.</p>	
Level of control: High	Date of completion: February Y11

SUBJECT: PE	Head of Department: Mr N. Mitchell
<p>Unit 2 Performance: 60% of the final mark</p> <p>Unit 2.1 Controlled assessment Practical activities. Four to be offered. May select as a player, leader or official. (48%) This will take place during March – May 2017.</p> <p>Unit 2.2 Controlled assessment Analysis of Performance (12%). Pupils select one sport and produce a personal exercise programme - written evidence submitted. Draft copies completed by Summer Term 2016. Final performance completed by early part of Autumn term.</p>	
Level of control: Medium	Date of completion: Spring Term Y11

SUBJECT: RE	Head of Subject: Mr D Yaroslaw
<p>There is NO controlled assessment or coursework for the AQA Full or Short RE GCSE which pupils take at this school.</p>	

Controlled Assessment: 25% of the final markCore Science

Case Study: A discursive essay based on topics set by OCR. Pupils will have to use research skills to evaluate the quality and reliability of scientific evidence in order to form a conclusion for their essay. The case study is marked out of 32 and carries 12.5% of the final mark for GCSE.

Data Analysis: A practical task, set by OCR. Pupils have to plan to collect evidence and then analyse the data and evaluate the process. The data analysis is marked out of 24. This carries 12.5% of the final GCSE mark.

OCR provide 3 tasks for each part of the controlled assessment and pupils MUST complete one of each, though they can complete all and the best mark will be submitted to the exam board.

Each task is under the High level of control for the written element, but the research part of the case study and practical part of the data analysis are under the Medium level of control.

Additional Science

Investigation: A practical Investigation from a choice set by OCR. Pupils write up a plan, record results, analyse their findings and evaluate the experiment, under Medium control. This is marked out of 64 and makes up 25% of the Additional Science GCSE.

Triple Award Science

Those pupils studying triple award science complete an investigation for each of the 3 science disciplines.

Level of control: High/Medium

Date of completion: Spring Y11

SUBJECT: Spanish

Head of Department: Mrs S.Halford-Thompson

Unit 3 Speaking and Unit 4 Writing: 60% of the final mark

Year 10

As the first two terms of the Year 10 Spanish teaching focuses on fast tracking the KS3 topics and grammar, controlled assessment preparation will therefore not take place until the second half of Year 10 or the beginning of Year 11 at the teacher's discretion.

Year 11

Speaking: 'Family relationships and leisure activities' - 15% of final mark. One task set by MFL Faculty. Part of autumn term will be used in preparation for this task, under the Medium level of control. Pupils' revision over October half term will be crucial in preparation for this task which is taken under the High level of control after half term.

Writing: 'Home, Environment and town life'. 15% of final mark. One task set by MFL Faculty. The second part of autumn term will be used in preparation for this, under the Medium Level of control. Controlled assessment is taken under the High level of control as soon as is deemed appropriate but before Christmas.

Speaking: 'Education and Work'. 15% of final mark. One task set by MFL Faculty. Part of the end of the autumn term will be used in preparation for this task, under the Medium level of control. This task will be taken under the High level of control before February half term.

Writing: Holidays -15% of final mark. One task set by MFL Faculty. Most of spring term will be used in preparation, under the Medium level of control. Revision over Easter holidays will be crucial in preparation for this task, which is taken under the High level of control.

Level of control: Medium/High

Date of completion: Easter Y11