



NCCA

An Chomhairle Náisiúnta
Curaclaim agus Measúnachta
National Council for
Curriculum and Assessment

Revised arrangements for the completion of Classroom Based Assessments for students in 2nd year in 2020/2021 (cohort of students 2019 – 2022)

April 2021

Students experienced disrupted periods of learning in 2020 and in 2021 because of school closures introduced to curtail the COVID-19 pandemic. Despite the best efforts of teachers and schools to mitigate the effects of disrupted schooling, the learning experience of students varied. In this context, for the cohort of students who are currently in second year, there is a change in the arrangements regarding the Classroom-Based Assessments they are required to complete. The following assessment arrangements for Classroom-Based Assessments and related Assessment Tasks will now apply:

- In the exceptional circumstances arising from school closures, and recourse as a consequence to remote teaching and learning, each student must complete a minimum of one CBA in each subject and one CBA in each short course. Students from this cohort will not be required to complete Assessment Tasks.
- School management, following consultation with relevant teachers (and where feasible, discussion with students), have autonomy to decide whether to complete one or two CBAs in each subject. These decisions will be taken in light of the factors arising from the COVID-19 pandemic and their impacts on students and schools, which vary from school to school and in respect of which schools themselves are best positioned to decide
- There will be some exceptions to the choices made by schools:
 - to ensure assessment of oral communications skills, students must complete **CBA 2: Communicative Task in Irish and CBA 1: Oral Communication in Modern Foreign Languages;**
 - as they are linked in each case with the final examination in the subject, students studying **Visual Art, Home Economics, Music, Applied Technology, Engineering, Graphics and Wood Technology must complete CBA 2.**

Whilst these arrangements for CBAs are a response to a specific challenge, they also aim to encourage school autonomy; acknowledge teaching and learning decisions made at school level during school closures and ensure, as far as possible, that CBAs completed by students in 2020/2021, including during the recent period of school closures, and 2021/2022 can be recognised and reported on.

Key dates for Classroom-Based Assessment 1

Students in 2nd year in 2020/2021 (student cohort 2019 – 2022)

The window within which schools can schedule Classroom-Based Assessments (CBAs) and Subject Learning and Assessment Review (SLAR) is provided below. Classroom-Based Assessments should be completed within the time period allocated (e.g. 3 weeks, 4 weeks) as specified in the Assessment Guidelines for each subject. The Subject Learning and Assessment Review should take place no more than a month after completion of the CBA. Where necessary, key dates for Classroom-Based Assessments and Subject Learning and Assessment Review may be amended in light of particular circumstances schools may encounter due to COVID-19.

Classroom-Based Assessment 1 in Visual Art, Applied Technology, Engineering, Graphics and Wood Technology (optional¹)

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|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Latest date for completion | Friday 14 th May 2021 |
| Latest date for award of provisional descriptors by the teacher | Wednesday 19 th May 2021 |
| Latest date for completion of Subject Learning and Assessment Review and for award of final descriptors by the teacher | Wednesday 26 th May 2021 |

Classroom-Based Assessment 1 in English, Science, Business Studies, Home Economics, Mathematics, History, Geography, Music, Religious Education, Jewish Studies, Classics (optional)

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|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Latest date for completion | Friday 1 st October 2021 |
| Latest date for award of provisional descriptors by the teacher | Friday 8 th October 2021 |
| Latest date for completion of Subject Learning and Assessment Review and for award of final descriptors by the teacher | Friday 22 nd October 2021 |

Classroom-Based Assessment 1 in Modern Foreign Languages (required)

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| Latest date for completion | Friday 3 rd December 2021 |
| Latest date for award of provisional descriptors by the teacher | Friday 10 th December 2021 |
| Latest date for completion of Subject Learning and Assessment Review and for award of final descriptors by the teacher | Friday 17 th December 2021 |

Classroom-Based Assessment 1 in Gaeilge (optional)

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|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Latest date for completion | Friday 3 rd December 2021 |
| Latest date for award of provisional descriptors by the teacher | Friday 10 th December 2021 |
| Latest date for completion of Subject Learning and Assessment Review and for award of final descriptors by the teacher | Friday 17 th December 2021 |

¹ Students complete a minimum of one Classroom-Based Assessment per subject. However, note above certain exceptions to the choices to be made by schools.

Key dates for Classroom-Based Assessment 2

Students in 3rd year in 2021/2022 (student cohort 2019 – 2022)

Classroom-Based Assessment 2 in Applied Technology, Engineering, Graphics and Wood Technology (required)

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| Latest date for completion | Friday 8 th October 2021 |
| Latest date for award of provisional descriptors by the teacher | Friday 15 th October 2021 |
| Latest date for completion of Subject Learning and Assessment Review and for award of final descriptors by the teacher | Friday 22 nd October 2021 |

Classroom-Based Assessment 2 in Visual Art (required)

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|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Latest date for completion | Friday 19 th November 2021 |
| Latest date for award of provisional descriptors by the teacher | Friday 26 th November 2021 |
| Latest date for completion of Subject Learning and Assessment Review and for award of final descriptors by the teacher | Friday 3 rd December 2021 |

Classroom-Based Assessment 2 in Gaeilge, Home Economics, Music (required)

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| Latest date for completion | Friday 11 th March 2022 |
| Latest date for award of provisional descriptors by the teacher | Friday 18 th March 2022 |
| Latest date for completion of Subject Learning and Assessment Review and for award of final descriptors by the teacher | Friday 25 th March 2022 |

Classroom-Based Assessment 2 in English, Science, Business Studies, Modern Foreign Languages, Mathematics, History, Geography, Religious Education, Jewish Studies, Classics (optional²)

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|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Latest date for completion | Friday 25 th March 2022 |
| Latest date for award of provisional descriptors by the teacher | Friday 1 st April 2022 |
| Latest date for completion of Subject Learning and Assessment Review and for award of final descriptors by the teacher | Friday 8 th April 2022 |

² Students complete a minimum of one Classroom-Based Assessment per subject. However, note above certain exceptions to the choices to be made by schools.

Notes re: Classroom-Based Assessments in school year 2020/2021 and 2021/2022

Students complete Classroom-Based Assessments with support and guidance from their teachers. Detailed information about the formats, topics and timeframe for completion of CBAs in each subject and short course is included in the relevant Guidelines for the Classroom-Based Assessments, which are available on www.curriculumonline.ie/Junior-cycle. Whilst Classroom-Based Assessments are designed to take place under the guidance of the teacher in a classroom context, schools have flexibility in the school year 2020 – 2021 and 2021 – 2022, in light of changing circumstances which may arise due to COVID-19, to support students to complete CBAs in school and/or remotely.

Particular attention is drawn to the following:

- Key dates for CBA2s linked to final examination components (Visual Art, Home Economics, Music, Applied Technology, Engineering, Graphics and Wood Technology) **are provisional** until dates for project, performance and practical components for school year 2021/2022 are confirmed. In the interim, teachers should work to the dates provided in this guidance.
- With the exception of circumstances which may arise due to COVID-19, students complete CBAs primarily during class time, with support and guidance from the teacher.
- The selection of activities and topics for CBAs should be guided by what is practical and safe at the time in line with public health advice.
- Students who cannot attend school due to circumstances arising from COVID-19 can be facilitated to research, create and complete their CBA remotely, with support and guidance from the teacher.
- Adjustments to how schools conduct CBAs and/or deploy the support of digital technologies - in line with schools' child protection, acceptable use and GDPR policies - may be necessary.
- As teacher/student interaction, including conversation and responses to unscripted questions, is integral to the communicative task in **Gaeilge** (CBA2) and oral communication in **Modern Foreign Languages** (CBA1), students should interact with the teacher when completing this CBA. Digital tools may be used to support this interaction.
- In **Visual Art**, one CBA must usually be presented in 3D. This requirement is waived for students in third year in 2021/22.
- In **Physical Education** short course, students in third year in 2021/22 are required to complete a minimum of one Classroom-Based Assessment.
- In **Business Studies**, for students in second year in 2020/2021, CBA1 in Business Studies is an individual report. For more information see <https://www.curriculumonline.ie/Junior-cycle/Junior-Cycle-Subjects/Business-Studies/>