



NCCA

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

Revised arrangements for the completion of Classroom Based Assessments (CBAs) for
the cohort of students 2018 – 2021 (students in 3rd Year in 2020/2021)
September 2020

Students experienced a disrupted period of learning in 2019/20 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, schools and this year's third year students could experience an unfair and disproportionate challenge in having Classroom-Based Assessments (CBAs) from the academic year 2019/20 along with the CBAs from the academic year 2020/21 to complete in this school year. The following assessment arrangements for CBAs will now apply:

- the requirement related to CBA completion for this cohort of students (third years) has been changed. In the exceptional circumstances arising from school closures, each student must complete only one CBA in each subject rather than the usual two in each subject and one CBA in each short course. This cohort of students will not be required to complete Assessment Tasks.
- the school management and its teachers, in discussion where feasible with students, will choose which CBA to complete for each subject. However, there will be some exceptions to this choice:
 - 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, and Music must complete CBA 2**
- the design of the Junior Cycle Profile of Achievement (JCPA) for 2021 will be adjusted to take account of the revised arrangements for CBAs.

Whilst these specific arrangements for CBAs are a response to a specific challenge, they also aim to: encourage school autonomy and acknowledge teaching and learning decisions that were made at school level during school closures; reduce the number of CBAs schools need to schedule and complete in this school year; ensure, as far as possible, that CBAs completed by students in the

academic year 2019/20 can be recognised and reported on in the students JCPA; and reduce the overall number of CBAs to be completed thus mitigating over-assessment of third year students.

Key dates for Classroom-Based Assessments 2020/2021

The window within which schools can complete Classroom-Based Assessments and SLAR meetings 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 SLAR meeting should take place no more than a month after completion of the CBA, with the exception of SLARs of student work from CBAs completed during school closures which may not yet have taken place. Where necessary, key dates for classroom-based assessments may be amended in light of particular circumstances schools may encounter due to Covid19.

Student Cohort 2018 – 2021 (3rd years)

Classroom-Based Assessment 2 in Visual Art (required)

Latest date for completion	Friday 20 th November 2020
Latest date for award of provisional descriptors by the teacher	Friday 27 th November 2020
Latest date for completion of Subject Learning and Assessment Review and for award of final descriptors by the teacher	Friday 4 th December 2020

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

Latest date for completion	Friday 4 th December 2020
Latest date for award of provisional descriptors by the teacher	Friday 11 th December 2020
Latest date for completion of Subject Learning and Assessment Review and for award of final descriptors by the teacher	Friday 18 th December 2020

Either Classroom-Based Assessment 1 or 2 in English, Science, Business Studies, Mathematics, History, Geography

Latest date for completion	Friday 12 th March 2021
Latest date for award of provisional descriptors by the teacher	Friday 19 th March 2021
Latest date for completion of Subject Learning and Assessment Review and for award of final descriptors by the teacher	Friday 26 th March 2021

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

Latest date for completion	Friday 12 th March 2021
Latest date for award of provisional descriptors by the teacher	Friday 19 th March 2021
Latest date for completion of Subject Learning and Assessment Review and for award of final descriptors by the teacher	Friday 26 th March 2021

Student Cohort 2019 – 2022 (2nd years)

Classroom-Based Assessment 1 in English, Science, Business Studies, Modern Foreign Languages, Visual Art, Maths, History, Geography, Music, Home Economics

Window for completion	Monday 2 nd November 2020 – 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 Applied Technology, Engineering, Graphics, Wood Technology, Religious Education, Jewish Studies, Classics

Window for completion	Wednesday 6 th January – 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

Notes re: Classroom-Based Assessments in school year 2020 – 2021

Students in second and third-year 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, in light of changing circumstances which may arise due to Covid19, to support students to complete CBAs in school and/or remotely.

Particular attention is drawn to the following:

- in the context of a full return to school, as previously, 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 Covid19 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 the support of digital technologies, in line with schools' child protection, acceptable use and GDPR policies, may be necessary
- NCCA will work with teachers and JCT on an ongoing basis to provide advice and support and to collate advice from teachers, in adapting CBAs to current circumstances

- as teacher/student interaction 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 2020/21
- in **Physical Education** short course, students in third year in 2020/21 are required to complete one Classroom-Based Assessment rather than the usual two
- in **Business Studies**, CBA1 remains a group project for students in third year in 2020/2021. For students in second year in 2020/2021, CBA1 in Business Studies will be an individual report. See <https://www.curriculumonline.ie/Junior-cycle/Junior-Cycle-Subjects/Business-Studies/> for more information.