



SUMMER SERIES 2017



## Spotlight on Welsh

This summer sees the first award of the new GCSE Welsh Language and GCSE Welsh Literature qualifications. This is also the final resit opportunity for the old GCSE Welsh Language qualification.

### What's new?

While some features of the new GCSE Welsh Language have not changed, it is different to the old one in some important ways.

The overall structure of the qualifications remains the same. This includes two speaking and listening assessments, one group task and one individual task, that count 30% towards the overall grade. The remaining 70% of the grade is based on two exam papers that focus on reading and writing.

One of the exams still includes an editing task that focuses on candidates' ability to write accurately. The range of texts included in the exams has changed to include a mixture of different lengths and styles of writing.

A noticeable difference in the new GCSE Welsh Language qualification is that the assessments are no longer tiered. Previously candidates sat a foundation or higher tier paper, but in the new qualifications all candidates will sit the same exam paper, regardless of the grade they are aiming for.

The new qualification is linear, where the old one was unitised. This means that students must now sit all their exams at the end of the course, whereas before they could take units and resit units throughout the course.

The new GCSE Welsh Literature qualification is similar to the old one. It remains a unitised qualification which means that learners can take units and resit units during the course.



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## Who's taking these qualifications this summer?

For GCSE Welsh Language, the entry data for this summer is showing a 21% increase in students taking the qualification compared to summer 2016.

This increase is driven by 1,030 year 10 entries this summer compared with less than 5 students in year 10 who were entered in summer 2016. This is not something that we have typically seen for this subject in previous years.

For GCSE Welsh Literature, the entry data for this summer is showing an 11% decrease in students taking the qualification compared to summer 2016.

Part of this decrease is due to the reduction in year 10 entries this year (130 entries in summer 2016 compared to less than 5 entries this summer).

Schools can decide when to enter students for exams and there is no 'right' entry strategy for all students. However, it is important that students have covered the content of the qualification to give them the greatest chance of achieving their best possible grade.

## What does this mean for the results this summer?

The changing entry patterns are likely to impact on the results this summer.

For GCSE Welsh Language, there has been a significant increase in the number of year 10 students as a proportion of the overall summer entry. We expect that this will mean that the overall results this summer will be lower than in previous years.

Care will need to be taken in interpreting and comparing the overall summer results. Our comparisons will be based on the best results achieved by students who are finishing year 11 this summer.

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