

## **Assessment and Reporting on Junior Cycle 2020**

The Department of Education and Skills has decided that due to the ongoing disruption to schools and teaching and learning caused by the Covid-19 health emergency that it will not be possible for Third Year students to undertake the Junior Cycle final examinations normally organised by the State Examinations Commission. Consequently, DES has deemed that the use of the Junior Cycle of Achievement (JCPA) is not appropriate as a reporting and certification mechanism in 2020. Plans to hold school-based JC exams in September have now also been shelved. Questions and Answers document on Junior Cycle assessment as well as guidelines to schools on assessment and reporting can be accessed on the Department of Education and Skills website [education.gov.ie](http://education.gov.ie). There are also links to these documents on our social media.

### **Certification for JC students 2020**

Certification will involve two elements:

- A State Certificate of completion of Junior Cycle from the Department of Education and Skills, to be issued early in the school year 2020/21
- A School Report from the school, to be issued as soon as feasible following the completion of the school year 2019/20. The school year will end on Friday 29<sup>th</sup> May 2020.

### **JC School Report 2020**

The assessment of students' learning achievements in each subject will take place at school level. Teachers will be drawing on a range of evidence to inform their assessment of students' achievements.

Teachers will award grades in keeping with JCPA practice. The grades will be informed from evidence gleaned where applicable and available from such sources as Mock exam results, CBA(s), project work, Christmas 2018 results, Summer 2019 results, Christmas 2019 results and performance in the Summer 2020 assessments.

Each subject department will decide on the weightings in their subject areas. The descriptors awarded to classroom-based assessments (CBAs) and other aspects of achievement completed by the students in areas such as Wellbeing (P.E., C.S.P.E. and S.P.H.E.), Religion and Computer Studies will form part of the final JC School Report 2020.

## JC REPORT ASSESSMENT GUIDELINES

<b>Subject</b>	<b>Grade or Descriptor</b>	<b>Make up of Mark</b>
Irish	Descriptor	2 <sup>nd</sup> Year Christmas Exam-20% 2 <sup>nd</sup> Year Summer Exam-20% 3 <sup>rd</sup> Year Christmas Exam-20% 3 <sup>rd</sup> Year Summer Exam-20% Mock Exam-20%
History	Grade	House Exams average – 50% Mocks – 20% 3 <sup>rd</sup> Year work – 30%
Business Studies	Descriptor	2 <sup>nd</sup> Year Christmas and Summer Exams-40% 3 <sup>rd</sup> Year Christmas and Summer Exams-30% Mocks – 30%
Materials Technology (Wood)	Grade	Project Project artefact Christmas 3 <sup>rd</sup> Year Summer 3 <sup>rd</sup> Year Mocks
Geography	Grade	House Exams average from 2 <sup>nd</sup> Year up to Christmas 3 <sup>rd</sup> Year - 50% Mocks -20% 3 <sup>rd</sup> Year Work – 15% 3 <sup>rd</sup> Year Summer – 15%
Technical Graphics	Grade	2 <sup>nd</sup> Year Summer 3 <sup>rd</sup> Year Christmas/Summer/Mocks
English	Descriptor	2 <sup>nd</sup> Year Christmas - 10% 2 <sup>nd</sup> Year Summer - 20% 3 <sup>rd</sup> Year Christmas - 20% Mocks Exams - 30% 3 <sup>rd</sup> Year Summer - 20%
Science	Descriptor	2 <sup>nd</sup> Year Summer Test-20% 3 <sup>rd</sup> Year Christmas Test -20% Mocks-30% Assessment Test based on descriptors for CBA 2-10% Student engagement for Distance Learning-10% 3 <sup>rd</sup> Year Summer Test-10%
Art	Descriptor	3 <sup>rd</sup> Year Christmas - 10% 3 <sup>rd</sup> Year Summer - 10% CBA 1- 40% CBA 2 -40%

German	Descriptor	House Exams average up to 3 <sup>rd</sup> year including Mocks- 50% Effort and engagement over 3 Years Work – 30% 3 <sup>rd</sup> Year Summer – 10% CBA 1-10%
Music	Grade	Average of house exam results (Christmas and Summer test results for 2 <sup>nd</sup> Year and Christmas result of 3 <sup>rd</sup> Year)-30% Practical Performance (full marks automatically awarded, as specified by the S.E.C.)-25% Mock Exam result for Written Paper-20% Work presented from distance learning/Online engagement-15% Summer Assessment in Third year-10%
Classics	Grade	2 <sup>nd</sup> Year Summer - 20% 3 <sup>rd</sup> Year Christmas - 20% Mocks Exams - 40% 3 <sup>rd</sup> Year classwork, essays, class tests – 20%
Maths	Grade	Summer Exam 2019 – 20% Christmas Exam 2019 – 20% Mock Exam – 30% Continual assessment (record of all class tests, HW etc) – 20% On-line engagement and end of year on-line exam – 10%.
French	Descriptor	2 <sup>nd</sup> Year Summer and Christmas tests/3 <sup>rd</sup> Year Christmas test – 40% CBA 1 in 2 <sup>nd</sup> Year – 10% Mock Result – 30% Engagement in distance learning and Summer test – 20%.

## 2020 JC REPORT-EXPLANATORY NOTE

The JC REPORT WILL FOLLOW THE FOLLOWING METHODOLOGY IN TERMS OF GRADING AND LEVELS.

There will be a mixture of the new and old grading systems on the JC Report.

### NEW GRADING SYSTEM

English/Science/Business Studies/French/German/Visual Art/Gaeilge

GRADE DESCRIPTOR	RANGE (%)
Distinction	≥90 TO 100
Higher Merit	≥75 AND <90
Merit	≥55 AND <75
Achieved	≥40 AND <55
Partially Achieved	≥20 AND < 40
Not Graded	≥0 AND <20

Higher (H)and Ordinary (O) levels in English and Gaeilge

Common (C) level in Science, Business Studies, French, German and Visual Art.

### OLD GRADING SYSTEM

GRADE	RANGE (%)
A	≥85 TO 100
B	≥70 AND <85
C	≥55 AND <70
D	≥40 AND <55
E	≥25 AND <40
F	≥10 AND <25
NG	≥0 AND 10

Maths, Music, History, Geography, T.G., Classical Studies, Materials Technology (Wood)

Higher (H)and Ordinary (O) levels in ALL these subjects

Higher (H), Ordinary (O) and Foundation (F) levels in Maths.

### CLASSROOM BASED ASSESSMENTS

Your son will have completed a number of Classroom Based Assessments over the last two years.

His performance in these will be reported in the final JC Report. Teachers may also take this into account in their deliberations on what Grades to award him in particular subjects.

COMPLETED CBAs

CBAs	English	Science	Business Studies	French	German	Gaeilge	Visual Art
2018-19	CBA 1	CBA 1	CBA 1	CBA 1	CBA 1		CBA 1
2019-20	CBA 2	CBA 2	CBA 2		CBA 2	CBA 1 CBA 2	CBA 2

<b>Classroom Based Assessment Descriptors</b>
Exceptional
Above Expectations
In line with Expectations
Yet to Meet Expectations