

Circular S/IF/24/19

April 2019

To: The Principals of Post-primary Schools and Directors of Further and Higher Education Colleges

For circulation to: The Examinations Officer and Heads of Department, Agriculture and Land Use

Revised specification and availability of units for GCSE Agriculture and Land Use, Summer 2019 – Summer 2022

CCEA has revised its GCSE qualification in Agriculture and Land Use for first teaching from September 2019.

For the purposes of this circular, units GAR1, GAR2 and GAR3 within G0312 are referred to as ‘legacy’ and units GAU1, GAU2 and GAU3 within G0314 are referred to as ‘revised’.

Table 1 shows the availability of legacy and revised units for GCSE Agriculture and Land Use from Summer 2019 to summer 2022.

	Summer 19	Sept 19	Summer 20	Sept 20	Summer 21	Sept 21	Summer 22
GCSE Agriculture and Land Use (G0312) Legacy	All units (GAR1, GAR2, GAR3)		All units (GAR1, GAR2, GAR3)		Units 1 and 2 (GAR1, GAR2) Re-sit candidates only		No units offered
GCSE Agriculture and Land Use (G0314) Revised	No units offered		Units 1 and 2 (GAU1, GAU2)		All units (GAU1, GAU2, GAU3)		All units (GAU1, GAU2, GAU3)

Table 1

Please note that where a centre intends to offer a one year full GCSE course (all units) which starts in September 2019 and finishes in Summer 2020, candidates must be entered for the legacy units.

From September 2019, the weightings for the revised externally assessed units (GAU1 and GAU2), and controlled assessment unit (GAU3) will be as follows:

Unit 1 (GAU1) and Unit 2 (GAU2) - new weighting is 50% of the award (previously 40%)
[Unit 1 and Unit 2 are now each worth 25%]

Unit 3 (GAU3), the Controlled Assessment is now worth 50% (previously 60%)
 Task 1; **Practical Investigation** has a weighting of 20% (unchanged)
 Task 2; **Research Project** now has a weighting of 30% (previously 40%)

Assessment criteria and marks

Changes to the assessment criteria for **Task 1:**

Marks awarded to **some** assessment objectives have changed to reflect new assessment criteria. Mark bands have also therefore changed as shown in Table 2 below.

Title	Revised marks awarded	Previous marks awarded
Planning and risk assessment	24	16
Data collection	16	24
Analysis and conclusions	12	12
Evaluation	8	8
Total raw marks	60	60

Table 2

The assessment criteria for **Task 2** have **changed significantly**. The marks awarded have also changed as shown in Table 3 below.

Title	Revised marks awarded	Previous marks awarded
Planning	24	24
Data Collection and Presentation of Findings	24	Assessment criteria have been restructured and renamed to provide clarity and avoid overlap.
Conclusion: Analysis and Discussion	24	
Evaluation	16	24
Total raw marks	88	120

Table 3

The new GCSE Agriculture and Land Use specification will be available on the CCEA website on 30th April. Changes are highlighted in red.

Detailed guidance will be released in June 2019 and a webinar will be available in early June to explain the changes to the specification.

If you have any queries regarding the content of this circular please contact:

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