

# Circular S/IF/29/20

November 2020

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To: All English Heads of Department

For circulation to: All English Teachers

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## GCSE English Language Speaking and Listening Endorsement for summer 2021

Further to the communication issued to Centres on 2 November 2020, we wish to update you on how this will apply to GCSE English Language Speaking and Listening.

For Summer 2021 only, the Unit 2 Speaking and Listening will be omitted from GCSE English Language for all candidates hoping to achieve a qualification level grade in January or Summer 2021.

There will be no formal Speaking and Listening assessment and no option to complete a formal Speaking and Listening assessment. Instead centres are required to submit an endorsement to CCEA, which will be a statement to confirm that all candidates have been engaged with Speaking and Listening activities. The endorsement will not require centres to award a mark and CCEA does not require centres to submit a mark for the Speaking and Listening unit. There will be no indication of these exceptional assessment arrangements on candidates' GCSE certificates. The endorsements will be mandatory and the unit will not be available in January or Summer 2021. The process for centres to submit this information to CCEA will be confirmed in due course.

CCEA does not require centres to conduct a mock Speaking and Listening assessment or informal assessment in place of the formal Speaking and Listening assessment. However, if you feel you would like to conduct an informal Speaking and Listening assessment, that is entirely up to the centre.

Candidates who have prior attainment in Unit 2, for example those resitting, can use those marks to contribute to their final grade. Prior attainment is where a student has been moderated by a CCEA Visiting Moderator and their marks agreed prior to schools being asked to close in mid March 2020.

CCEA has also released a summer 2021 Technical Questions and Answers document that provides additional information on the use of endorsements in GCSE qualifications in Summer 2021.

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