

# Circular S/IF/30/21

October 2021

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

For circulation to: All Heads of Department and Examination Officers

## Title: GCSE Government and Politics Revised Specification Addendum – further guidance for Summer 2022

On 9th October 2020 the Minister of Education set out the arrangements for the assessment of GCSE and GCE qualifications. In his instruction to CCEA the Minister requested that: *“In the small number of GCSE qualifications where omission of a unit would remove more than forty percent of the content from being assessed, CCEA will be looking at alternative ways to reduce the burden of assessment - these qualifications are GCSE Religious Studies, Health and Social Care, Food and Nutrition, **Government and Politics**, and Statistics”.*

On 5 November 2020 CCEA received approval from the Department of Education to reduce the assessment burden for GCSE Government and Politics as follows:

- For GCSE Government and Politics students have the option of completing a **controlled assessment task** for Unit 1 and entering for the Unit 2 examination unit **or** students can complete both examination units. They cannot do both examination units and the controlled assessment task.
- The controlled assessment task is equivalent to 10% of the original specification. Candidates who opt to complete the controlled assessment task and the Unit 2 examination will have completed assessments equivalent to 60% of the original specification. The controlled assessment task will be worth one-sixth of the uniform marks of the overall revised qualification. The weighting of the revised qualification will be five sixths exam and one sixth controlled assessment weighting.
- The tasks will be taken from the following themes of the specification for Unit 1:

### Decision Making in a Democracy Political Information in a Democracy Taking Action in a Democracy

- The internally assessed task will have questions with a similar format to those in the Unit 1 examination. The marks will be broken down as follows:
  - Question 1 - 6 marks, assessing (AO1)
  - Question 2 - 6 marks, assessing (AO2)
  - Question 3 - 8 marks, assessing (AO3)
- CCEA will provide a question and answer booklet for each candidate. This will be in the same format as the Examination booklet for Unit 1. The time allowed for this controlled assessment is one hour. The level of control of the task taking is medium. Direct supervision of candidates is not required at all times. The use of resources is not tightly prescribed. There must be sufficient supervision to ensure that individual work can



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be authenticated. An exception for 21/22 is that the teacher may wish to contact the candidate online if they are not completing the work in class.

- The controlled assessment tasks will be set by CCEA, internally marked by teachers, and externally moderated by CCEA. CCEA will provide a mark scheme for the controlled assessment task.
- There are Specimen Assessment materials and mark schemes which are available on the CCEA [website](#). There will also be a webinar to help support the marking of the controlled assessment task.
- The live tasks and mark schemes will be uploaded no later than **31 January 2022**. Teachers will be able to access the mark schemes via a secure password.

These arrangements apply only to candidates who began their GCSE qualification in September 2020 and wish to achieve a qualification-level grade in Summer 2022. This also includes candidates wishing to resit.

### Submission Date for Tasks

In line with submission dates for other controlled assessment tasks:

- 6 April 2022- CCEA will request samples of work from each centre for moderation.
- 3 May 2022 - eCRS marks submission and collection of controlled assessment samples.

Please be advised that the revised specification addendum can be accessed on the CCEA website along with the support webinar.

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

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