

Circular S/IF/30/22

June 2022

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

For circulation to: All Heads of Department for English

GCSE English Language

Notification of amended GCSE English Language Competence Level Strands for GEN11 and GEN41, and amended Competence Level Strands for GEN31 The Study of Spoken Language and The Study of Written Language

As part of CCEA's ongoing commitment to engage with stakeholder feedback, enhancements have been made to the Competence Level Strands for GEN11, GEN31 and GEN41.

GEN11 and GEN41

Please be advised that the Competence Level Strands have been amended in response to examiner and teacher feedback. The changes are primarily to the descriptors used in each Competence Level to assist the Examining Team in the award of marks for candidates' achievements. Teachers may also find these useful when assessing their pupils in preparation for upcoming assessments. From the January 2023 series, mark schemes for GEN11 and GEN41 published on the website, will include these amended Competence Level Strands.

The revised Competence Level Strands will be used by the Examining Team, beginning in the next examination series. The marks available for each Task has not changed and the total marks available for each Unit remains at 150. Please note that the assessment of 'vocabulary' for Section A (the Writing Task), will be rewarded as part of Task 1 (i and ii), under the strand 'Purpose and Audience'. The 30 marks available in Task 1 (iii) for a range of sentence structures and accuracy in spelling, punctuation and grammar will exclusively assess these elements.

There is no change to the content and learning outcomes of the specification or to the demand and style of examination questions and there will be no change to the instructions provided to the candidate in the question paper.

The updated Sample Assessment Materials can be accessed at <https://ceea.org.uk/key-stage-4/gcse/subjects/gcse-english-language-2017>

GEN31

Please be advised that the Competence Level Strands have been amended in response to moderator and teach-



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er feedback. The changes are primarily to the descriptors used in each Competence Level to assist teachers and the Moderating Team in the award of marks for candidates' achievements.

The revised Competence Level Strands will be used by the Moderating Team, beginning in the next examination series. The marks available for each Task has not changed and the total marks available for this Unit remains at 60.

There is no change to the content, learning outcomes or rubric of the Unit, or to the demand and annotation style of this Controlled Assessment Unit.

Unit 3 responses which have already been completed by candidates for submission in the Winter or Summer 2023 series will not require additional centre assessment.

The updated Specification, which includes the Unit 3 Assessment Criteria (Appendix 5) can be accessed at <https://ccea.org.uk/key-stage-4/gcse/subjects/gcse-english-language-2017>

Supporting documents

In addition to the updated Specification and Sample Assessment Materials, the following resources have also been amended to reflect these enhancements:

- Controlled Assessment (Unit 3) Clarification Document
- GCSE English Language: Unit 1 response (Band 3)
- GCSE English Language: Unit 1 response (Band 5)
- GCSE English Language: Unit 4 response (Band 3)
- GCSE English Language: Unit 4 response (Band 5)

A new resource to assist teachers with Unit 3 has also been produced:

- Teacher Guidance for Controlled Assessment (GEN31)

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

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