

GCSE Journalism in the Media and Communications Industry

Specification Addendum

Exceptional Assessment Adaptations (for 2020–2021)

This addendum should be used in conjunction with the current specification

The table below shows the units available for Summer 2021 cash in and details where applicable:

- the unit eligible for omission; and
- any temporary adaptations that have been made due to public health restrictions.

Please note: This applies only to candidates who started their GCSE course in September 2019 and are cashing-in at qualification level in Summer 2021.

| Content | Assessment | Weightings | Assessment Adaptations 2020–2021 |
|---|---|------------|---|
| <p>Unit 1: Cross Platform Research Portfolio</p> | <p>Controlled assessment</p> <p>Task 1: Students carry out research, compile a log book and write a local print news story, including an original photograph.</p> <p>Task 2: Students carry out research, compile a log book and write a regional or national online story, including vox pops and/or interview excerpts.</p> <p>Teachers mark the portfolio and we moderate the results.</p> | <p>25%</p> | <p>This unit will be eligible for omission for candidates cashing in for the qualification level grade in Summer 2021.</p> <p>This unit will still be available for any candidates wishing to be assessed in all units.</p> <p>Students should use the same themes and tasks as issued for Summer 2020 moderation.</p> |

| Content | Assessment | Weightings | Assessment Adaptations 2020–2021 |
|--|---|------------|--|
| <p>Unit 2: Radio and Review Portfolio</p> | <p>Controlled assessment</p> <p>Task 1: Students write a radio news script in response to stimulus we provide.</p> <p>Task 2: Students carry out research, compile a press pack and write a film review in response to stimulus we provide.</p> <p>Teachers mark the portfolio, and we moderate the results.</p> <p>Centres will receive a pre-release stimulus booklet in September for each of these tasks.</p> | <p>25%</p> | <p>Students should use the same themes and tasks as issued for Summer 2020 moderation.</p> |

| Content | Assessment | Weightings | Assessment Adaptations 2020–2021 |
|---|---|------------|----------------------------------|
| <p>Unit 3: Industry, Theory and Practice</p> | <p>External online examination</p> <p>2 hours (plus screen break: 15 mins)</p> <p>Students answer a combination of short structured questions and questions requiring extended writing. Students complete journalistic tasks in response to stimulus we provide.</p> <p>Part 1: (1 hour 30 mins)</p> <p>Section A: Law, Industry and Cross-Platform Conventions</p> <p>Section B: Sub-Editing, Editing and Public Relations</p> <p>Section C: Journalism Analysis</p> <p>(Screen break: 15 mins)</p> <p>Part 2: (30 mins)</p> <p>Section D: Newsroom Task</p> <p>Centres will receive a pre-release in February for this section.</p> | <p>50%</p> | <p>No changes</p> |

For those students who started their GCSE course in September 2019 and are due to cash in the full GCSE in Summer 2021 should they choose to sit all units of the GCSE, they will receive the higher of either:

- the grade awarded on the basis of the outcome of the required units specified by CCEA; or
- the grade awarded on the basis of the outcome of the full set of units for that qualification.

In both cases the full specification content should still be delivered.

For candidates commencing their GCSE course in September 2020, it is recommended that, as far as possible, the units are delivered in numerical order in case of any further disruption to the academic year.