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Education and Training
Boards Ireland
*Bord Oideachais agus
Oiliúna Éireann*

School Based Assessment Policy for Junior Cycle Students *2020*

Coláiste Pobail Acla



School Based Assessment Policy for Junior Cycle Students 2020

BACKGROUND

Further to the Minister for Education & Skills, Mr Joe McHugh TD's announcement on 10th April 2020 and subsequently on 29th April,

- *All third year Junior Cycle students to be awarded certificates for the completion of Junior Cycle by the Department of Education and Skills.*
- *Schools given autonomy to assess students and all students to receive a report on achievement.*

Schools are also being given autonomy to decide whether to run school-based assessments and what form they take. Options to consider include school-designed examinations, tasks, projects, assignments, essay style questions, presentations, or other tasks agreed at a local level. Guidance for schools on reporting to students and parents, developed with the advice of the advisory group of stakeholders, will be published by the Department.

INTRODUCTION

This document outlines the approach that Coláiste Pobail Acla will take in the assessment of Junior Cycle students, 2020. The DES Guidelines for Schools, *Assessment and Reporting on Students' Learning at Junior Cycle, May 2020* has informed the recommended approach outlined.

OVERARCHING PRINCIPLES

The guidelines provide for:

1. A whole school approach to the assessment of Junior Cycle students, 2020.
2. Inclusivity and equity of access by all students.
3. Transparency.
4. Completion of the assessment process by 29th May 2020.

ASSESSMENT COMPONENTS

Coláiste Pobail Acla assessment procedure for Junior Cycle students 2020 provide for the inclusion of the following components:

- Recognition of Prior Learning
- May 2020 Assessment (an element of which will include a reflection on subject learning)

Where students are engaged in a **Junior Cycle** Subject a Grade Descriptor will be awarded.

Where students are engaged in **Junior Cert** a traditional grade will be awarded.

All components to be completed and marked by 29th May 2020. An assessment report will be issued by post the week beginning Monday 1st June 2020.



BREAKDOWN of ASSESSMENT COMPONENTS

1. Recognition of Prior Learning

To ensure equity, greater weighting should be given to work that was completed by students in advance of the closure of schools on 12 March 2020.

Cognisance may be given to work completed after that date but teachers should have regard to the impact that school closure will have had on students' ability to engage with further learning after 12 March 2020 and their ability to complete any additional assessment tasks.

For example, some students may be unable to undertake any additional assessment tasks because of issues arising from the Covid-19 crisis. In such circumstances, the assessment of the students' learning, and the report of their achievement issued by the school, may be based solely on work completed prior to 12 March 2020.

Please see Appendix 1 for full details of assessment components of each subject.

2. May 2020 Assessment

Teachers from Coláiste Pobail Acla will issue assessment activities electronically to be completed and submitted by a given date (see Appendix 1).

Teachers will advise students of the format and duration of each subject assessment.



Appendix 1 – Breakdown of Assessment Components and Deadlines

Subject	Teacher	Breakdown of Marks	Final Assignment Duration	Deadline
Business Studies	Ms. Carolan	10% - CBA 2 40% - Mock Exam 50% - Final Assessment	1 hour	Monday 18 th May
Science	Ms. Lally	75% - Previous Results 25% - Final Assessment	1 hour	Tuesday 19 th May
Maths	Ms. Mellett Ms. Murtagh	50% - Previous Exam Results 25% - Engagement and Assignments since we have started Remote Learning. 25% - Final Assessment	2 hours	Wednesday 20 th May
English	Mr. Egan Ms. Lavelle	25% - CBA completed in March 2020 before the shutdown. 25% - on assignments and work completed up to March 2020. 50% - Final Assessment	2 hours	Thursday 21 st May
Irish	Ms. Conroy Mr. O'Raghallaigh	25% - CBA 1 25% - CBA 2 50% - Final Assignment (Teams)	2 hours	Friday 22 nd May
Geography	Ms. Scully Ms. Lavelle	50% - Work previously completed at school. 25% - Online assignments from home. 25% - Final Assessment	2 hours	Monday 25 th May
Home Economics	Ms. Patten	25% Practical Assessment 25% Project 50% Final Assessment	2 hours	Tuesday 26 th May
Music	Ms. Duffy	25% - Practical Assessment 50% - Work Previously Completed 25% - Final Summer Assessment	2 hours	
Materials Tech. Wood	Mr. Shannon	50% - Previous results 25% - Project portfolio 25% - Final Assessment	1 hour	
History	Ms. Ebbs	20% - Project submitted in video or audio form. 50% - Previous results 30% - Final assessment	2 hours	Wednesday 27 th May
Materials Tech. Metal	Mr. Ginty	50% - Project work to date 25% - Assignments completed over the last 6 weeks 25% - Final Assignment	1 hour	
Art	Ms. Callaghan	75% - Results from CBA 1 and CBA 2 25% - Final Assessment	2.5 hours	
French	Ms. O'Malley	50% - Previous Results 10% - Online Assignments from home 20% - Final Assessment (Aural) 20% - Final Assessment (Written)	1 hour	Thursday 28 th May
Technical Graphics	Mr. Lavelle Mr. Lally	50% - Work completed between Sept 2019 and March 2020 25% - Work completed from home in March, April and May 2020 25% - Final online assignment May 2020	1.5 hours	



Appendix 2 – Policy Communication to Parents

Junior Cycle Assessment Policy 2020

INTRODUCTION

This document outlines the approach that (School Name/Centre) will take in the assessment of Junior Cycle students, 2020. The DES Guidelines for Schools, *Assessment and Reporting on Students' Learning at Junior Cycle, May 2020* has informed the recommended approach outlined.

OVERARCHING PRINCIPLES

The guidelines provide for:

1. A whole school approach to the assessment of Junior Cycle students, 2020.
2. Inclusivity and equity of access by all students.
3. Transparency.
4. Completion of the assessment process by May 29th. An assessment report will be issued by post the week beginning 1st June 2020.

- A final grade/grade descriptor will be awarded for each subject based on the Recognition of Prior Learning (and the May 2020 Assessment)
- The final assessment grade will be assigned based on the outcome of the results achieved through the following area(s)

Junior Cycle School Report 2020

Recognition of Prior Learning Component	May 2020 Assessment
<p><i>Any one or combination of the evidence as listed below will be used, depending on the subject.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Evidence available from assignments, tests, tasks journals, projects, practical and other work completed over the course of second year and third year • Classroom-Based Assessments completed in second year and third year 	<p><i>Any one or combination of the assessment tools listed below will be used, depending on the subject.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • School-designed examinations, tasks, reflective task, projects, assignments, essay style questions, presentations or other tasks chosen by the teacher from the range of approaches agreed at school level.
<i>Total Weighting: as per appendix 1</i>	<i>Total May 2020 Assessment Weighting: as per appendix 1</i>

- Where students are engaged in a **Junior Cycle** Subject a Grade Descriptor will be awarded.
- Where students are engaged in **Junior Cert** a traditional grade will be awarded.

Principal:	Date:
Chair (BOM):	Date:



Appendix 3 – Guidelines for Parents/Guardians

GUIDELINES FOR PARENTS/GUARDIANS

- Your young person needs your support during this challenging time, particularly in terms of engaging with assessment.
- Your young person's wellbeing is paramount at this time. Ensure he/she is eating healthily, taking time for exercise/activities and striking a balance between schoolwork and downtime.
- Assure your young person that assessments are an opportunity to celebrate their learning.
- Be familiar with each subject department's plan for assessment.
- Check in regularly to see if your young person is reaching his/her targets.
- Ensure your young person has the materials they require for engaging in assessments.
- Display relevant information somewhere prominent to help your young person remain focused for the remainder of the term
- If your young person misses a deadline for the key assignments for a genuine reason (illness, broadband issues, etc.) please contact the subject teacher who will endeavour to ensure every student has a fair chance to complete the work.
- It is important for parents/guardians to communicate with the school in the event your young person does not engage with an assessment. Measures can be taken to encourage engagement.
- Highlight the importance of engaging with assessment at this point in their education. While it may not take the form they had originally anticipated, it is a milestone in their education, and they will want to do their best.
- If you have any questions or concerns about your young person's engagement or progress, please contact the subject teacher who will be delighted to advise and support you.

Coláiste Pobail Acla values your support to date and requests your assistance in maintaining the integrity of the May 2020 Assessment, by ensuring that the instructions issued with each assessment are followed.



Appendix 4 – Guidelines for Students

ASSESSMENT GUIDELINES FOR STUDENTS

- Assessments are an opportunity to celebrate your learning.
- Engage with your teachers and your classes for the remainder of the term.
- Organise a workspace that will help you to concentrate on the task in hand.
- Be aware of your assessment timetable. Know exactly when you have assessments, project deadlines etc.
- Communicate with your teachers if you are unclear about arrangements.
- While the format of the assessment may differ from what you expected, it is still important, and you should give it your very best shot.
- Organise the materials/books/technology you need for your assessments in advance. Do not leave it until the last minute.
- Approach your assessments as you would in school
 - ~ Follow school rules (social media, eating, chatting etc.)
 - ~ Stick to allocated timeframes

Respect the assessment process – it is ‘your own’ work that is being assessed, not ‘work belonging to somebody else’