



# Policy and Reform Developments

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## Qualifications Policy and Reform

- Ensure that the right range of qualifications is available to learners in Wales.
- Principal aims:
  - meeting reasonable needs of learners in Wales
  - promoting public confidence.
- Sector reviews.
- Stakeholder engagement.
- Policy alignment and development.



## Live Reforms



**Construction and the Built Environment**



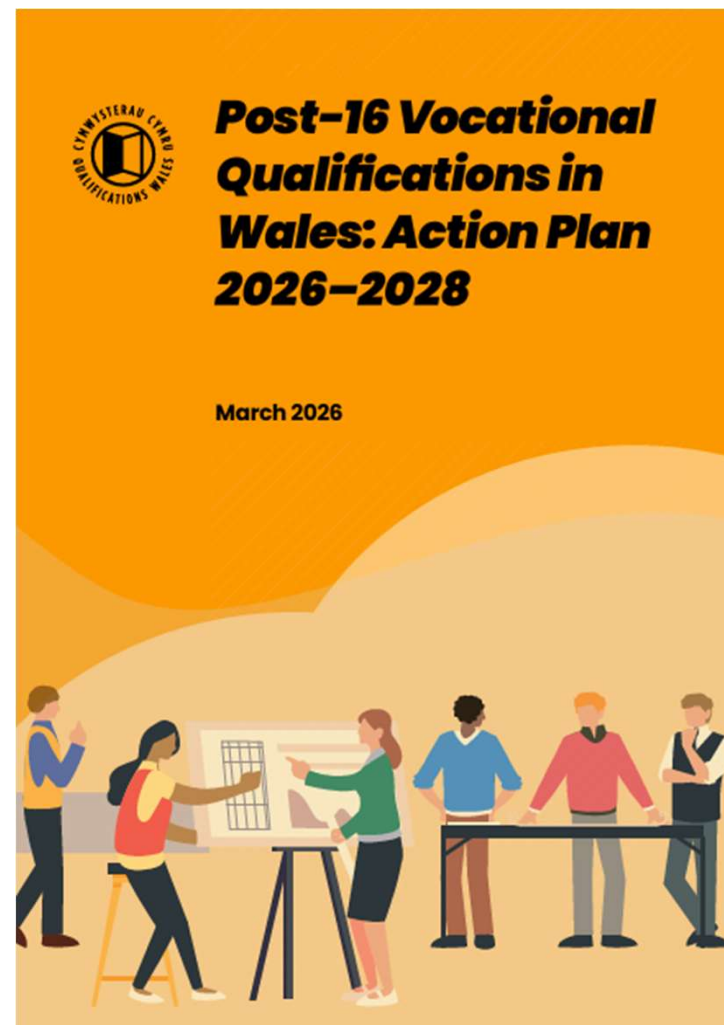
**Travel and Tourism, and Hospitality and Catering**



**Essential Skills Wales**

## Post-16 Vocational Qualifications Action Plan

1. To support Welsh Government in their development of policy by providing robust, evidence-based advice for the future of post-16 level 2 and level 3 qualifications for further education and work-based learning in Wales after 2027.
2. To secure the ongoing availability of post-16 vocational qualifications, for FE and WBL, through to at least 2029.
3. To scope availability of qualifications that could form a post-16 skills suite for Wales and consider next steps.
4. Review the availability and relevance of adult and community learning qualifications and consider next steps.



## Learner Journeys

- 21 one-page documents to:
  - support learners and parents to research and understand vocational routes
  - be accessible and engaging
  - provide a simple view of pathways and options.
- Reviewed annually, internally and with support from sector stakeholders.
- Construction and the built environment and preparation for life and work coming soon.*



# LEARNER JOURNEY BEAUTY

2025/2026

SCHOOL	Pre-16	Post-16	
<b>SCHOOL</b> Pre-16 Entry Level Introduction to the Hair & Beauty Sector Level 1 Introduction to the Hair & Beauty Sector Level 1 Hair & Beauty Level 1 Beauty Therapy Level 2 Hair & Beauty Level 2 Beauty Therapy Services	Post-16 Entry Level Introduction to the Hair & Beauty Sector Level 1 Hair & Beauty Level 2 Hair & Beauty Level 2 Beauty Therapy	Post-16 Entry Level Introduction to the Hair & Beauty Sector Level 1 Hair & Beauty Level 2 Hair & Beauty Level 2 Beauty Therapy	
FURTHER EDUCATION	Level 1 Introduction to the Hair & Beauty Sector Level 1 Beauty Therapy Level 1 Hair & Beauty Level 2 Beauty Therapy Level 2 Beauty Specialist Techniques Level 2 Hair & Beauty	Level 2 Nail Treatments Level 2 Hair & Media Make-Up Level 3 Beauty Therapy Level 3 Nail Services Level 3 Massage Therapy Level 3 Access to Aesthetic Therapies	
APPRENTICESHIPS	Level 2 Beauty Therapy Level 2 Nail Services Level 3 Beauty Therapy Level 3 Beauty Therapy - Makeup Level 3 Beauty Therapy - Massage Level 3 Nail Services	HIGHER EDUCATION	
<b>APPRENTICESHIPS</b> Level 2 Beauty Therapy Level 2 Nail Services Level 3 Beauty Therapy Level 3 Beauty Therapy - Makeup Level 3 Beauty Therapy - Massage Level 3 Nail Services	<b>HIGHER EDUCATION</b> Level 4 / Level 5 HNC, HND & Foundation Degree Degree & Masters Degree		
EMPLOYMENT		Beauty Therapist Nail Technician Spa Therapist Theatrical / Special Effects & Media Makeup	Salon Manager Makeup Artist Bridal Makeup Dermatologist
<b>VISIT THESE WEBSITES FOR MORE INFORMATION</b>			

## National 14-16 Qualifications

**25\*** TGAU  
GCSEs

**15** TAAU  
VCSEs

**SGILIAU BYWYD A  
SGILIAU GWAITH**  
SKILLS FOR LIFE &  
SKILLS FOR WORK

**PROSIECT PERSONOL**  
PERSONAL PROJECT

**SYLFAEN**  
FOUNDATION

**9** CYFFREDINOL  
GENERAL

**15** CYSYLLTIEDIG Â GWAITH  
WORK-RELATED

\*And Level 2 Awards in Additional Mathematics and Additional Core Cymraeg

## Digital Assessment in National GCSEs

- Included in specified subjects to support the validity of assessment.
- Allows audio and visual stimuli to be included, supporting engagement and inclusivity.
- Reflecting teaching and learning approaches.
- Support Curriculum for Wales.
- Opportunities for using digital technology in the completion of non-examination assessments.



## Digital Assessment in National GCSEs

<b>2026</b>	COMPUTER SCIENCE				
<b>2027</b>	HISTORY	FOOD AND NUTRITION	MUSIC	DRAMA	COMPUTER SCIENCE (CODING)
<b>2028</b>	DANCE	DESIGN AND TECHNOLOGY	DIGITAL MEDIA AND FILM	DIGITAL TECHNOLOGY	PHYSICAL EDUCATION AND HEALTH
<b>BY 2031</b>	HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE, AND CHILDCARE				
<b>AFTER 2031</b>	RELIGIOUS STUDIES	GEOGRAPHY	SOCIAL STUDIES	BUSINESS	

## Digital Assessment – Supporting Schools

- Collaboration and partnership:
  - joint position statement on digital assessment
  - readiness guidance issued
  - co-presented webinar series.
- Chromebook compatibility.
- Ongoing visits to centres.
- Non-examination assessment file storage.
- Wave 3 qualifications change management planning.



## Digital Assessment Strategy Development Context

- Growth in digital assessment in national qualifications since 2015.
- Fostering a digital culture within delivery of Curriculum for Wales.
- *Digital 2030* Welsh Government framework for further education.
- Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015.
- Artificial intelligence models.



# VISION

## **Our vision is for assessments taken in qualifications to be modernised and enhanced by the use of technology**

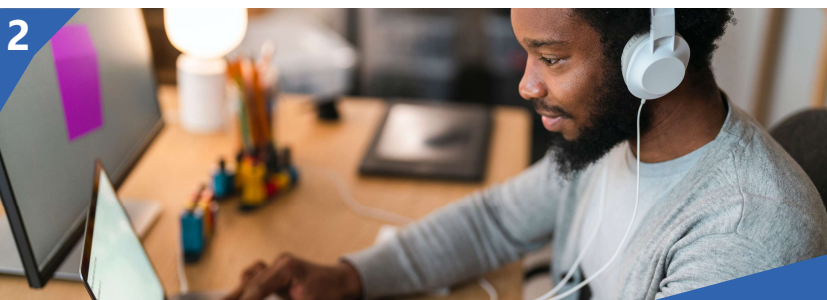
This means that we want:

- awarding bodies to innovate, responsibly, in the design of new assessments to enhance their validity
- awarding bodies and learners to make the best possible use of their digital resources in the creation, delivery and completion of assessments
- stakeholders to feel confident that changes are manageable and beneficial
- technology to make assessments more manageable, fair and secure, further enhancing confidence in the qualification system.



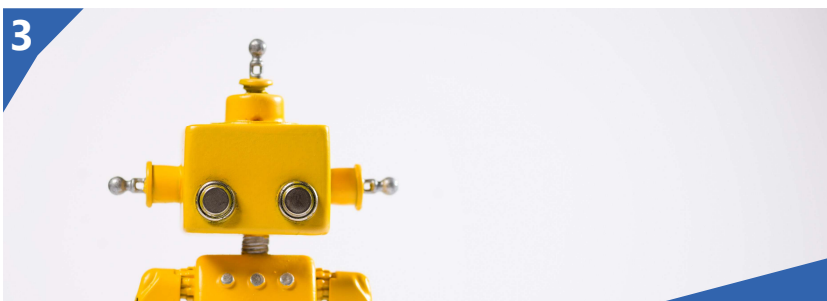
- Ongoing support for implementation of digital assessments.
- Learning from progress and learners' experiences of digital assessment.
- Post-2031 planning.

### Digital assessments in approved 14-16 qualifications



- Collaborate with learning providers and assessment technology providers to explore opportunities for innovation.
- Share findings and convene awarding bodies to identify barriers and enablers.

### Digital innovation in post-16 qualification assessments



- Gauge demand for qualifications which assess AI-related literacy and skills.
- With awarding bodies, identify problems in assessment and consider opportunities offered by AI for addressing them.

### Strengthen role of AI in the qualification system

***THANK  
YOU***

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