

## CYPE(6)-16-22 – Paper to note 4

**Y Pwyllgor Plant, Pobl Ifanc  
ac Addysg**

**Children, Young People  
and Education Committee**

Philip Blaker  
Qualifications Wales

06 July 2022

### Summer Exams

Dear Philip,

You will be aware of press reports during the recent examination period about some issues with certain exam papers. These include [missing parts of questions in an English language and literature exam](#); and [concerns about A and AS Level maths and chemistry papers and practical exams](#). In particular, these reports highlighted the impact this had on students taking these exams, particularly on their mental health and well-being.

We have also been contacted by a parent raising similar concerns about the maths and chemistry papers. This parent placed the issue in the broader context of the impact of Covid-19 on students over the past two years, and the fact that this examination period was the first time that many students had sat an external exam. They described the significant impact this has had on their child, even before the above concerns about issues with specific exam papers are taken into account.

During our recent briefing with you in May 2021, we discussed the broad issue of the transition from centre assessed grades to examinations, and the impact of the disruption of the pandemic on students and schools. We also raised the issue about questions in the Maths paper. In discussing this, you outlined that there were two ways to solve the question in the exam paper. Schools had been told that learners would not be tested on one of those ways. However, schools could have expected the other way to appear in the examination.

More generally, you provided us with broad reassurances that students would not be disadvantaged as they sat this first round of public examinations for two years and that grading would take account of the whole range of issues faced by those sitting these exams.

How do you respond to the above concerns raised in the media and by individual parents to us directly? In relation to the issues raised about specific exams, could you outline how you plan to

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mitigate for the potential impact that these issues will have had on students and to ensure that the grades awarded are fair? What discussions have you had with WJEC to ensure that such issues do not arise again? Why does there appear to have been some discrepancy between what schools were expecting to be covered in the examinations and what was tested in the papers?

We are also writing to WJEC on these issues (we will copy you into this correspondence.) We are copying in the Minister for Education and Welsh Language and WJEC into this letter.

We would appreciate a response by 7 September.

Yours sincerely,



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Jayne Bryant MS

Chair of the Children, Young People and Education Committee

Croesewir gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg neu Saesneg.

We welcome correspondence in Welsh or English.