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sent via e-mail

Buffy Williams MS
Chair of Children, Young People and Education Committee
Welsh Parliament
Cardiff Bay
Cardiff
CF99 1SN

28 November 2025

Dear Buffy

Made for Wales GCSE Music – on-screen assessment

Thank you for your letter dated 20th October 2025 about on-screen assessments in the Made for Wales GCSE Music.

You noted that you had heard concerns that learners accessing on-screen examinations in June 2027 would be using software and hardware that they have never used before during the exam as papers would only be available in paper format.

The Specimen Assessment Material for the new GCSE Music Unit 3 are currently available in an on-screen format for schools to use/sit with their candidates at any time. All our on-screen exams run through our Surpass software which staff at schools will need to have accounts created by WJEC staff to access the platform. Schools are also welcome to contact e-Assessment@wjec.co.uk for further guidance regarding the setting up of on-screen exams.

You also noted that learners who currently use Chromebooks will also be using an unknown operating system on a laptop, potentially for the first time, and you queried who will be providing the equipment for the exam, with concerns around inconsistencies in the quality of the equipment.

Although the software used for completing on-screen exams is Windows-based only, our software providers are in the process of developing a Chromebook application. This is currently in a pilot phase of testing with a release date yet to be confirmed but we are confident that it will be available to schools by the end of this academic year. The experience for the candidate for the live exam will be the same whether a candidate uses a Chromebook or a Windows-based machine and a candidate will answer the questions in the same way regardless of the device being used.

Finally, you queried who will be providing the equipment for the exam, with concerns around inconsistencies in the quality of the equipment.



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The equipment a candidate will use for the exam will need to be provided by the school and we produce guidance detailing the minimum specification of the devices needed to be used during the on-screen exam. We are aware through our membership of joint change management groups with Welsh Government and Qualifications Wales that Welsh Government is working with Local Authorities to ensure schools are prepared for on-screen assessments.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Ian Morgan'.

Ian Morgan
Chief Executive

cc Lynne Neagle, MS, Cabinet Secretary for Education
Philip Blaker, Chief Executive, Qualifications Wales