



Junior Cycle Assessment 2020
School Based Assessment for Junior Cycle Students 2020



etbi

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



School Based Assessment 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 Cois Siúire will take in the assessment and reporting of Junior Cycle students, 2020. The DES Guidelines for Schools, *Assessment and Reporting on Students' Learning at Junior Cycle* (May 2020) as well as the input from other key stakeholders, has informed the recommended approach outlined.

OVERARCHING PRINCIPLES

The guidelines provide for:

1. A whole-school approach, in so far as is possible, 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 with subsequent reporting thereafter by the school.

ASSESSMENT COMPONENTS

As per the Minister for Education's direction regarding Junior Cycle assessment 2020, in conjunction with other key stakeholders, individual subject departments/teachers are deemed to be best placed to balance a variety of factors in arriving at the most suitable form of assessment to put in place for their cohort of students.

Assessment procedure for Junior Cycle students 2020 provides for the inclusion of the following components:

- To utilise 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
- School-designed examination
- School-designed task/project/assignment
- School-designed essay-style question
- Student Presentation
- A combination of the above



Students in each subject area will be made aware by their subject teacher (via Teams) what form of assessment, if applicable, will be taking place. Subject teachers, in designing and delivering this assessment, are best placed to provide clarity around this.

BREAKDOWN of ASSESSMENT COMPONENTS

The whole-school marking criteria approach adopted by Coláiste Cois Siúire is set out below. Percentage grades where applicable will be calculated by subject teachers using the following metrics. Please note that in Junior Cycle English, a *Grade Descriptor* is the sole requirement for Junior Cycle reporting. Please note that in some practical-based subjects it may be necessary for teachers to adjust the weighting of the initial 90% to reflect practical exams that have been completed, or could not be completed, due to COVID-19.

GRADING	BREAKDOWN OF GRADING	DATA SOURCE
90%	20%	2 nd Year Summer Exam Results
	20%	3 rd Year November 'Pre-Mock' Assessments Results
	20%	CBAs/Practical/Course Work
	30%	Pre-Examination Results
10%*	10%	Post COVID-19 school closure engagement/effort and summer assignment/examination results

(*Post COVID-19 school closures from 12th March 2020 to end of term equate to 10% of total Junior Cycle course time.)

REPORTING CRITERIA

The following criteria will appear on the school-based reporting:

- Where students are engaged in a **Junior Cycle** Subject a percentage grade and a *Grade Descriptor* will be awarded (except in the case of English where a Grade Descriptor only is awarded at Junior Cycle).
- Where students are engaged in **Junior Certificate subjects** a traditional percentage grade will be awarded.
- Where students are engaged in a programme of curricular and extra-curricular **wellbeing** components, a statement of wellbeing will be provided capturing this engagement over the course of three years of study.

TIMELINE OF ASSESSMENT/REPORTING

- Junior Cycle Assessments 2020 will be convened in the week beginning 18th May 2020
- All above components to be completed and graded by May 29th 2020
- An assessment report will be generated, electronically initially, via VSWare in June 2020



- A printed school report will be issued in a timely fashion thereafter, taking into account the ability of school administrators to produce this document given the COVID-19 restrictions and the general health and safety of school staff

EQUITY IN ASSESSMENT AND REPORTING

In the instance where a student is unable to engage in the final assessment, equity in reporting will be observed by the subject teacher who will utilise previous data gathered from a range of sources including but not limited to those above to generate a formative assessment grade for a candidate.

This Positioning Statement approved by the Board of Management of Coláiste Cois Siúire for publication to parents and students:

Principal:	Date:
Chair (BOM):	Date:



Appendix 1



GUIDELINES FOR PARENTS/GUARDIANS

- Your son/daughter needs your support during this challenging time, particularly in terms of engaging with assessment.
- Your son/daughter'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 son/daughter that assessments are an opportunity to celebrate their learning.
- Be familiar with each subject department's plan for assessment. Teachers will provide this information via Teams. A timetable of assessments will be provided separately on the school website.
- Check in regularly to see if your son/daughter is reaching his/her revision plan, assignment hand-ins and assessment dates/times (if applicable).
- Ensure your son/daughter has the time, space and materials they require for engaging in assessments.
- Display relevant information somewhere prominently to help your son/daughter remain focused for the remainder of the term.
- If your son/daughter misses a deadline for the key assignments for a genuine reason (illness, broadband issues, etc.) please email the school on info@colaistecoissiuire.ie. Contacting the school 'via the school office' is normal procedure.
- It is important for parents/guardians to communicate with the school in the event you're your son/daughter does not engage with an assessment: email info@colaistecoissiuire.ie
- 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, everyone wants your son/daughter to do their best.
- If you have any questions or concerns about your son/daughter's engagement or progress, please contact the school on info@colaistecoissiuire.ie

Coláiste Cois Siúire values your support to date and requests your assistance in maintaining the integrity of the May 2020 Assessment, by ensuring that the instructions



Appendix 2



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 (manage distractions, 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’