



POLICY TEMPLATE

School Based Assessment Policy for Junior Cycle Students 2020



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 Inver College 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. Recognition of the many talents of the students.
5. Fairness.
6. Completion of the assessment process by May 29th

ASSESSMENT COMPONENTS

Inver College's 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)

Junior Cycle School Report 2020	
Recognition of Prior Learning Component	May 2020 Assessment
Total Weighting: 34% - 50%	Total May 2020 Assessment Weighting: 50% -66%



All components to be completed and marked by May 29th, 2020. An assessment report will issue electronically the week beginning 1/06/2020 and later by post.

BREAKDOWN OF ASSESSMENT COMPONENTS

1. Recognition of Prior Learning

The recognition of Prior Learning is an important part of our assessment process. In line with the overarching principle of flexibility, the following approach will apply:

Students will be assessed under the following criteria and each subject departments will select one of the following options:

Assessment Form	Option A	Option B	Option C	Option D	Option E
CBA's (or equivalent)	20%			25%	25%
Set Assignment(s)	20%	33%	25%	25%	25%
Creative Element	20%	33%	25%		25%
Online Element	20%		25%	25%	
Past Record	20%	34%	25%	25%	25%

2. May 2020 Assessment

Inver College teachers will issue an assessment activities to students electronically to be completed by dates set out in the table below.

	Week 1 11th-17th of May	Week 2 18th -22nd of May	Week 3 25th-29th of May
Third Years	Irish English Maths Enterprise	<u>3 of the following:</u> Home Ec, TG, Metal Work, Woodwork, History, Geography, Art, Music, Business	PE DML French Science



Examples of Assessment Components

1. RECOGNITION OF PRIOR LEARNING OPTIONS

- 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

Any one or combination of the above could be utilised. This list is not exhaustive.

2. MAY 2020 ASSESSMENT OPTIONS

- School-designed examinations
- Tasks
- Projects
- Assignments
- Essay style questions
- Presentations
- Videos
- Powerpoints
- Other tasks chosen by the teacher from the range of approaches agreed at school level.

Any one or combination of the above could be utilised. This list is not exhaustive.



Template for the Policy Communication to Parents

Junior Cycle Assessment Policy 2020



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OVERARCHING PRINCIPLES

The guidelines provide for:

1. A whole school approach to the assessment of Junior Cycle students, 2020.
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- A final grade 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 for the period of 2018 - 2020 & May 2020

Assessments

Any one or combination of the evidence as listed below will be used, depending on the subject.

- 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.
Any one or combination of the assessment tools listed below will be used, depending on the subject.
- 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.

Total Weighting: 34% - 50%

Total May 2020 Assessment Weighting: 50% - 66%



Principal: Cormac Flynn	Date: 6/05/20
Chair (BOM): Colm Carthy	Date: 6/05/20

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 you're 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.

Inver College 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.



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’

