

Advanced Skills Baccalaureate Wales: recording and measuring outcomes

Version 1

Published September 2025



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Audience

1. This publication is relevant to further education institutions, local authorities, regional consortia; schools with sixth forms.

Overview

2. This guidance sets out our proposed approach to measuring post-16 Welsh Baccalaureate outcomes, and the requirements for data recording to support this approach.

Background

3. The Welsh Baccalaureate was introduced in September 2015. It was reviewed in 2020 and after consultation, it was decided to discontinue the existing Welsh Baccalaureate to allow focus on a standalone skills-based qualification.
4. The Advanced Skills Challenge Certificate has been withdrawn, with the final award of the qualification in summer 2024. The new Advanced Skills Baccalaureate Wales qualification was introduced in September 2023, and awarded for the first time in summer 2025.
5. The new qualification is a standalone qualification that can be taken alongside other general and vocational qualifications as part of a diverse programme of learning and will be equivalent in size and demand to an A Level and will be graded A*-E. This will ensure that no changes occur to how the qualification attracts UCAS tariff points.
6. The Welsh Baccalaureate is not statutory at post-16 however Welsh Government policy encourages all sixth forms and further education colleges to offer it as part of their learning programmes.
7. As a result we are proposing to replace the existing performance measures for the Welsh Baccalaureate with overall achievement rates and grades for the Advanced Skills Baccalaureate Wales.
8. These measures require learning programmes, activities and outcomes to be recorded accurately and consistently across all post-16 providers, within the parameters of the separate data collection systems for schools and further education institutions. This document sets out our proposed approach to measuring the Advanced Skills Baccalaureate Wales outcomes, and the requirements for data recording to support this approach.

Qualification structure for the Advanced Skills Baccalaureate

9. The Advanced Skills Baccalaureate Wales programme is a two year qualification.
10. Further information can be found in the [specification](#) published by the WJEC.

Data recording requirements for the Advanced Skills Baccalaureate

11. Both schools and FE institutions record data on learners and what qualifications they are undertaking on their own management information systems (MIS). For schools this is uploaded to the Welsh Government via DEWi as part of the post-16 data collection once a year (in October). For FE institutions it is submitted to the Welsh Government via the Lifelong Learning Wales Record (LLWR) on a rolling basis throughout the year.
12. In order to monitor both participation rates and outcomes, it is vital that schools and further education institutions record Advanced Skills Baccalaureate Wales programmes and activities accurately. We will continue to measure achievement over two years, so we have an accurate picture of learners who dropped out after the first year (or at any point before completion).
13. The Qualification Wales Approval Designation (QWAD) number for the Advanced Skills Baccalaureate Wales is as follows:

Level	Description	QWAD
Level 3	WJEC Advanced Skills Baccalaureate Wales	C00/4571/8

14. Worked examples of how the Advanced Skills Baccalaureate Wales should be recorded by schools on the post-16 collection and FE institutions on LLWR can be found in the annexes:
 - **Annex A** shows examples for schools; and
 - **Annex B** shows examples for FE institutions.

Reporting on outcomes for the Advanced Skills Baccalaureate

15. The measures for the Advanced Skills Baccalaureate Wales form part of our [consistent performance measures](#) for post-16 learning.
16. Rather than being based purely on examination entry, the consistent measures are based on 'achievement', that is, they will reflect the entire cohort of learners, factoring in completion as well as attainment.
17. As the new Advanced Skills Baccalaureate Wales becomes established, we will build up baseline data in order to set benchmarks overall achievement rates and grades.

Further information

18. Any queries or comments on this guidance should be directed to quality@medr.cymru.

Annexes

Annex	Title
Annex A	How to record the Advanced Skills Baccalaureate – schools
Annex B	How to record the Advanced Skills Baccalaureate – FE institutions

Annex A: How to record the Advanced Skills Baccalaureate - schools

General Education

In 2023/24 a learner is undertaking three AS-Levels (English Language, Geography and Psychology) with the Advanced Welsh Baccalaureate. They are also resitting GCSE Maths. The learner drops AS-Level Geography in December 2023:

Year	Programme	Learning Activity	Start Date	Expected End date	Completion status
1	Programme 1: 0014D03B (3 AS-levels plus Welsh Baccalaureate) Start date: 01-09-2023 Expected end date: 31-07-2024	Activity 1: English Language AS-Level – C00/0723/1	01-09-2023	31-07-2024	2 - completed the learning activity
		Activity 2: Geography AS-Level – C00/0791/8	01-09-2023	31-07-2024	3 - withdrawn from the learning activity
		Activity 3: Psychology AS-Level – C00/0723/7	01-09-2023	31-07-2024	2 - completed the learning activity
		Activity 4: GCSE Mathematics – C00/0720/4	01-09-2023	31-07-2024	2 - completed the learning activity
		Activity 5: Advanced Skills Baccalaureate Wales (Year 1) – C00/4571/8	01-09-2023	31-07-2025	1 - continuing the learning activity
2	Programme 2: 0023C03B (2 A-Levels plus Welsh Baccalaureate) Start date: 01-09-2024 Expected end date: 31-07-2025	Activity 7: English Language A-Level – C00/5346/5	01-09-2024	31-07-2025	2 - completed the learning activity
		Activity 8: Psychology A-Level – C00/5719/7	01-09-2024	31-07-2025	2 - completed the learning activity
		Activity 5: Advanced Skills Baccalaureate Wales (Year 2) – C00/4571/8	01-09-2023	31-07-2025	2 - completed the learning activity

NB all other learning activities delivered under the Advanced Skills Baccalaureate, including GCSE resits, Essential Skills etc should also be recorded.

Vocational

In 2023/24 a learner is undertaking a BTEC Level 3 Diploma in Business with the Advanced Welsh Baccalaureate. The learner continues on to do BTEC Level 3 Extended Diploma in Business in the second year:

Year	Programme	Learning Activity	Start Date	Expected End date	Completion status
1	Programme 1: 1502AE0B (Business Administration Level 3) Start date: 01-09-2023 Expected end date: 31-07-2024	Activity 1: BTEC Level 3 Diploma in Business - C00/0085/1	01-09-2023	31-07-2024	2 - completed the learning activity
		Activity 2: Advanced Skills Baccalaureate Wales (Year 1) - C00/4571/8	01-09-2023	31-07-2025	1 - continuing the learning activity
2	Programme 2: 1502AE0B (Business Administration Level 3) Start date: 01-09-2024 Expected end date: 31-07-2025	Activity 4: BTEC Level 3 Extended Diploma in Business – C00/0085/2	01-09-2024	31-07-2025	2 - completed the learning activity
		Activity 2: Advanced Skills Baccalaureate Wales (Year 2) - C00/4571/8	01-09-2023	31-07-2025	2 - completed the learning activity

NB all other learning activities delivered under the Advanced Skills Baccalaureate, including GCSE resits, Essential Skills etc should also be recorded.

In 2023/24 a learner is undertaking a BTEC Level 3 Diploma in Business with the Advanced Welsh Baccalaureate. The learner decides not to continue after the first year:

Year	Programme	Learning Activity	Start Date	Expected End date	Completion status
1	Programme 1: 1502AE0B (Business Administration Level 3) Start date: 01-09-2023 Expected end date: 31-07-2024	Activity 1: BTEC Level 3 Diploma in Business - C00/0085/1	01-09-2023	31-07-2024	2 - completed the learning activity
		Activity 2: Advanced Skills Baccalaureate Wales (Year 1) - C00/4571/8	01-09-2023	31-07-2025	2 - completed the learning activity

NB. all other learning activities delivered under the Advanced Skills Baccalaureate, including GCSE resits, Essential Skills etc. should also be recorded.

Annex B: How to record the Advanced Skills Baccalaureate – FE institution

General Education

In 2023/24 a learner is undertaking three AS-Levels (English Language, Geography and Psychology) with the Advanced Skills Baccalaureate Wales. They are also resitting GCSE Maths. The learner drops AS-Level Geography in December 2023:

Year	Programme (LP74)	Type of LP (LP17)	Learning Activity (LA06)	Start Date (LA09)	Expected End date (LA10)	Completion status (LA31)
1	Programme 1: 0041C03B12 (3 AS-Levels plus Welsh Baccalaureate) includes extension codes to identify year 1 of 2	80	Activity 1: English Language AS-Level – C00/0723/1	01-09-2023	31-07-2024	2 - completed the learning activity
			Activity 2: Geography AS-Level – C00/0791/8	01-09-2023	31-07-2024	3 - withdrawn from the learning activity
			Activity 3: Psychology AS-Level – C00/0723/7	01-09-2023	31-07-2024	2 - completed the learning activity
			Activity 4: Advanced Skills Baccalaureate Wales (Year 1) generic code – LDKKSKLC (non- assessable)	01-09-2023	31-07-2024	2 - completed the learning activity
			Activity 5: GCSE Mathematics - C00/0720/4	01-09-2023	31-07-2024	2 - completed the learning activity
2	Programme 2: 0023C03B22 (2 A-Levels plus Welsh Baccalaureate) includes extension codes to identify year 2 of 2	80	Activity 4: Advanced Skills Baccalaureate Wales (Year 2) – C00/4571/8	01-09-2024	31-07-2025	2 - completed the learning activity
			Activity 6: English Language A-Level – C00/0722/6	01-09-2024	31-07-2025	2 - completed the learning activity
			Activity 7: Psychology A-Level – C00/0723/6	01-09-2024	31-07-2025	2 - completed the learning activity

NB. all other learning activities delivered under the Advanced Skills Baccalaureate, including GCSE resits, Essential Skills etc. should also be recorded.

Vocational

In 2023/24 a learner is undertaking a BTEC Level 3 Diploma in Business with the Advanced Skills Baccalaureate Wales. The learner continues on to do BTEC Level 3 Extended Diploma in Business in the second year:

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			Activity 2: Advanced Skills Baccalaureate Wales (Year 1) generic code – LDKKSKLC (non- assessable)	01-09-2023	31-07-2024	2 - completed the learning activity
2	Programme 2: 1502A03B22 (Business Administration Level 3) includes extension codes to identify year 2 of 2	80	Activity 1: BTEC Level 3 Extended Diploma in Business - C00/0085/2	01-09-2024	31-07-2025	2 - completed the learning activity
			Activity 2: Advanced Skills Baccalaureate Wales (Year 2) – C00/4571/8	01-09-2024	31-07-2025	2 - completed the learning activity

NB. all other learning activities delivered under the post-16 Welsh Baccalaureate, including GCSE resits, Essential Skills etc. should also be recorded.

In 2023/24 a learner is undertaking a BTEC Level 3 Diploma in Business with the Advanced Welsh Baccalaureate. The learner decides not to continue after the first year:

Year	Programme (LP74)	Type of LP (LP17)	Learning Activity (LA06)	Start Date (LA09)	Expected End date (LA10)	Completion status (LA31)
1	Programme 1: 1502A03B12 (Business Administration Level 3) includes extension codes to identify year 1 of 2	80	Activity 1: BTEC Level 3 Diploma in Business - C00/0085/1	01-09-2023	31-07-2024	2 - completed the learning activity
			Activity 2: Advanced Skills Challenge Certificate (Year 1) – generic code LDKKSKLC (non-assessable)	01-09-2023	31-07-2024	2 - completed the learning activity

NB. all other learning activities delivered under the post-16 Welsh Baccalaureate, including GCSE resits, Essential Skills etc. should also be recorded

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