

GCSE Physical Education (4890)

Frequently Asked Questions



Administrative Questions

When do student entries need to be made and when will schools be informed of the name of their moderator?

Estimated entries should be made by 10 October and moderators will contact schools in November. If estimated entries are not made at this time, a moderator will be allocated as soon as AQA is aware that entries have been made.

The closing date for entries is 21 February of the year in which the units will be taken. Entries for certification are normally made at the same time.

Can students take the Full Course in one year?

Yes – Units 3 and 4 are available in the June series.

When do we need to decide whether to enter a student for the Full Course or the Double Award?

Entries for units need to be made by 21 February of the year in which the units will be taken. Entries for certification are normally made at the same time but can be made any time up until 20 September. However, if certification is requested after publication of results, there may be a delay in issuing grades. This may adversely affect students who need confirmation of these grades in order to qualify for further education or training.

When are the scenarios for Units 1 & 3 and Unit 5 released to schools?

The scenarios will be issued as preliminary material to schools on the second Monday of the Spring Term (January). They can be given to students and used in teaching ahead of the examinations in the summer term. They will appear on e-AQA at the same time.

How is the Double Award graded?

The Double Award grade is calculated by adding together the total UMS marks for all four units (Units 3, 4, 5 & 6). A student will receive a combined grade on a fifteen-grade scale: A*A*, A*A, AA, AB, BB, BC, CC, CD, DD, DE, EE, EF, FF, FG, GG, where, for example, AB corresponds to a total uniform mark of 450-479. It does not mean that the student obtained A on Units 3 and 4 and B on Units 5 and 6. Students who fail to reach the minimum standard for grade GG will be recorded as U (unclassified) and will not receive a qualification certificate.

If students do not do as well in the Double Award as they did in the Full Course can they decline their Double Award grade?

No, once grades have been issued they cannot be declined. If students have entered for both Full Course and Double Award certification then the grades for both will appear on the certificate.

Schools may delay entering students for certification (either for the Full Course or for the Double Award) until after publication of results, provided that entries are made by 20 September. However, there may be a delay in issuing grades, which may adversely affect students who need confirmation of these grades in order to qualify for further education or training.

Can students sit the Full Course and Double Award written papers in different years?

Yes, students are able to sit the Full Course paper (Unit 3) at the end of year 10 and the Double Award paper (Unit 5) at the end of year 11. Additionally, it is possible for students to re-sit the Full Course paper at the end of Year 11. It is essential though that at least 40% of the overall qualification is sat in the year of certification. *However, from summer 2014 the rules relating to GCSEs are changing (see below).*

Can students re-sit units?

Yes, students may re-sit a unit once only. The better result for each unit will count towards the final qualification provided that the 40% rule is satisfied. *However, from summer 2014 the rules relating to GCSEs are changing (see below).*

From summer 2014 GCSEs are changing. What are these changes and how will they affect my students?

All GCSEs taken after summer 2013 are to be made linear in structure; therefore students will be required to take all assessments at the end of the course. Students will no longer be able to enter the units which make up the GCSE PE qualification in different series. Students can however, carry forward their unit results from a GCSE to a Double Award in the same subject where units overlap.

How will the changes affect re-sit opportunities?

There will no longer be the opportunity to re-sit individual units. However, students who re-sit a whole GCSE may re-use their previous Controlled Assessment mark, as long as it has been moderated and aggregated, or may do the Controlled Assessment unit again.

How will the changes to performance tables from 2014 affect GCSE PE?

From 2014, no qualification can be counted as more than one qualification in the headline measures of performance. The GCSE PE Double Award (a single qualification which currently counts as two in the tables), will only count as one for the 2014 performance tables and onwards. The GCSE PE Short Course will not count in the performance tables from 2014.

Controlled Assessment

What does Controlled Assessment mean for GCSE PE?

Controlled Assessment regulations apply to all GCSE subjects that contain internal assessment. For GCSE PE task taking is medium control. Most PE practical assessments have always been assessed on the student's performance in the presence of the PE teacher carrying out the assessment. Therefore there are limited opportunities for a student to submit somebody else's work as their own, but it should be noted that performances must be unaided. The rules for Controlled Assessment have a greater impact on PE where the student produces something – such as Key Process C, a plan for organising a tournament or a choreography for a dance. This will have to be appropriately supervised for the teacher to ensure that it is the student's own work.

General guidance relating to Controlled Assessment can be found at:

<http://store.aqa.org.uk/support/pdf/AQA-CONTROLLED-ASSESSMENT-LEAFLET.PDF>

Guidance relating to controlled assessment in PE can be found at:

<http://store.aqa.org.uk/qual/newgcse/pdf/AQA-4890-W-CA.PDF>

Is there a time limit for the Controlled Assessment?

No, there is no time allowance for the Controlled Assessment for GCSE PE.

What if one of my students wants to do an activity that is not in the specification?

If an activity is not listed in the specification or published in the agreed list of additional activities for the current academic year, it cannot be offered for assessment.

Please note that we do not permit activities involving the use of firearms or motorised vehicles.

Do students have to be assessed in a role other than player/performer?

No, it is not a requirement for another role to be assessed. However, students must do at least 1 assessment as player/performer for the Short Course (Unit 2) and 2 assessments as player/performer for the Full Course (Unit 4). Students being assessed for the Double Award (Unit 6) can be assessed in any role for their 4 additional assessments.

Can students be assessed in exactly the same activities and roles for Unit 4 and Unit 6?

No, students cannot be assessed twice for exactly the same skills within Units 4 and 6, ie in the same role and in the same activity. Students can use the same role but it must be in a different activity, and likewise can do the same activity (eg netball) more than once as long as it is in a different role. Therefore, for the overall Double Award students must do a total of 8 different activity/role combinations.

How many assessments for Key Process C must each student submit?

Short Course (Unit 2) – Key Process C must be completed for one of the 2 practical assessments being submitted in Unit 2. This should be marked out of 10 (in line with the Full Course) but then divided by two to give a mark out of 5.

Full Course (Unit 4) – Key Process C must be completed for one of the 4 practical assessments being submitted in Unit 4. This should be marked out of 10.

Double Award (Unit 6) – Key Process C must be completed for one of the additional 4 practical assessments being submitted in Unit 6. This should also be marked out of 10. Therefore, to meet the requirements for the Double Award, the final mark for each student will include two Key Process C marks, one completed in Unit 4 and one in Unit 6.

Does Key Process C for roles other than player/performer mean that students must analyse someone else as player/performer in that activity?

No. The analysis must be of the student themselves or someone else in that role and activity.

For example, if a student is assessed for Key Process C for the role of coach in football then the analysis should be of themselves or someone else coaching football.

What are 'activities undertaken outside a school's direct supervision' (sometimes referred to as 'off-site activities')?

These are activities that are not available to all students at a school and are undertaken as 'out of school activities' that are not subject to teacher supervision. However, the teacher at the school is still responsible for awarding the marks for these activities.

How many activities of this nature can a student undertake?

One activity can be undertaken outside the school's direct supervision for the Short Course, two activities for the Full Course and three activities for the Double Award.

When and how will the Controlled Assessment units be moderated?

Key Processes A and B are moderated at a visit. Moderation visits can take place from after February half-term until 31 May.

Key Process C is moderated by post following the final submission of marks (31 May).

Do I need to keep DVD evidence of my students?

DVD evidence should be available to your moderator for all assessments undertaken outside of your school's direct supervision and also for activities that the moderator may not be able to see at a moderation visit. For example, for those activities that cannot be recreated at the site where the moderation will take place. If it is not possible to provide evidence for all students for an 'off-site' activity then a range of students at different marks should be filmed.

AQA reserves the right to request a greater volume of evidence in a subsequent year.

For students performing above and beyond the maximum mark for each assessment, you can gather DVD evidence to protect their maximum marks in the event of an adjustment.

If students are not submitting Key Process C as a written piece of work then DVD/audio evidence will also need to be provided for this as a postal sample. Once again, if it is not possible to provide evidence for all students then a range of students at different marks should be filmed.

Does the requirement for activities to be from different groups/ways of thinking refer to the different roles?

No, groups/ways of thinking refer to the type of activity ie Group 1 – Outwitting opponents as in game activities, Group 2 – Accurate replication of actions, phrases and sequences as in gymnastic activities, Group 3 – Exploring and communicating ideas, concepts and emotions as in dance activities etc. For example, for Unit 4, if a student submitted marks for 4 assessments from the same group but in two different roles (player/performer and one other), they would **not** fulfil the requirements for the unit.

Activity-specific Questions

Do external awards/courses, such as Duke of Edinburgh or Level 1 FA Coaching, equate to a particular mark?

No, these awards/courses do not automatically gain students a particular mark; attention must be paid to the specific criteria needed for assessing the GCSE.

What types of dance fall into each of the areas of dance listed in the specification?

In the Teacher Resource Bank there is a list detailing which types of dance fall into each of the areas. See link below:

http://web.aqa.org.uk/qual/newgcse/science/new/phy_edu_materials.php?id=03&prev=03

Are the dance sequences done as isolated sequences or part of larger dances?

The sequences are in isolation but may also be chosen as part of the main dance. They are used to verify the student's ability to show a full range of movement/stillness, gesture, travel etc.

Can athletics be assessed practically twice?

Yes, students can do athletics twice *but* the athletic activities must come from different groups for each assessment.

What do students need to do for the role of the Official?

Students cannot access the full range of marks in the assessment criteria by doing certain areas in isolation within the official role. For example, although known as the Basketball Table Official, the role is that of a recorder as the individual is not identifying and enforcing the rules or controlling the game.

When officiating athletics and swimming, a student would need to offer three parts to the assessment. For example, for swimming a student could be a starter, turn judge and timekeeper.

For athletics, they could be a starter, place judge and time keeper or for field events they could check for no jumps in long jump, measure the long jump and check for no throws in javelin.

For circuit training, can students perform a 'set circuit' for their Key Process B assessment?

No, the criteria for Key Process B clearly state that students should demonstrate their ability to *select* and *apply* exercises/skills to develop and improve their own fitness and health. Therefore, students should select each station, decide on the order in which they will be performed, decide how long each should be performed for, as well as how each will be adapted in subsequent sessions.

Are any examples of personal survival routines available?

Yes, in the Teacher Resource Bank there is a document detailing examples of routines for both KPA and KPB. See link below:

http://web.aqa.org.uk/qual/newgcse/science/new/phy_edu_materials.php?id=03&prev=03

For compositional gymnastics, what apparatus can be used for the KPB apparatus work sequence?

The apparatus used will vary according to the equipment available at each school, but could include a bar box, a layered box, wall bars, benches, a pommel horse and mats.