

GCSE 2009 Health and Social Care
FAQs

Availability of Units & Cash-ins; and the Terminal Requirement

Q. When are the units available?

A. The first sitting of both Single Award units - Unit 1 and Unit 2 - is in June 2010. After this, Unit 1 is available every January and June; Unit 2 is available in June only.

The Double Award units, Units 3 and 4, are available for the first time in June 2011. After this, Unit 4 is available every January and June; Unit 3 is available in June only.

Q. When can students cash-in?

A. There is no cash-in available in June 2010. The first cash-in, both for the Single Award (2HS01) and the Double Award (2HS02), is in June 2011. After this, cash-in is available in both January and June.

Q. My students are doing the Single Award (2HS01) and they can do both units in one year. Can they cash-in in June 2010?

A. No: the first cash-in, even for the Single Award, is June 2011.

Q. So, can they sit both units in June 2010 and then cash-in in June 2011?

A. In theory, no: the terminal requirement means that they have to sit 40% of the assessment in the year in which they cash-in. However, we are making an exception in the first year of the qualification so that students who sit both units in June 2010 can cash-in in June 2011. In subsequent years, the Single Award can be completed in one year.

Don't forget that your candidates can sit the Unit 1 paper in June 2010 and do the Unit 2 assessment during the year. The Unit 2 work can be "banked" in your centre and only submitted to Edexcel in May 2011 and the cash-in requested in June 2011.

Q. What is the 'terminal requirement'?

A. The terminal requirement has been devised for QCDA / OfQual for all new GCSEs. Essentially, it says that 40% of the assessment must be submitted in the series in which the candidate cashes in.

Q. What does this mean for Single Award candidates?

A. The terminal requirement has no implication for Single Award candidates, as the two units are weighted at 40% and 60%. Therefore, candidates can submit (or resit) either unit in the series in which they cash-in.

Q. How about Double Award candidates?

A. This is more awkward, as the examination units are weighted at 20% and the internally-assessed ones are weighted at 30%. This means that candidates must submit at least two units in the series in which they cash-in.

Q. How does the terminal requirement work if a candidate wants to resit?

A. A Single Award candidate who wishes to resit can retake any one unit. A Double Award candidate who wishes to resit must satisfy the terminal requirement i.e. retake at least 2 units to reach 40% of the assessment.

Q. My candidates have sat Units 1 and 2 in Year 10; and then Unit 4 in the January of Year 11. Can they sit Unit 3 only in the June of Year 11?

A. No - Unit 3 is only 30% of the assessment, so will not satisfy the terminal requirement.

Q. How should these candidates proceed?

A. They must submit one of the other units along with Unit 3 in June of Year 11.

Q. OK, I'll enter these candidates again for Unit 1, along with Unit 3 in the June of Year 11. What happens in the Unit 1 score they get is lower than when they sat it in Year 10?

A. Usually, it is the higher mark which counts. However, in this case, because they are resitting Unit 1 in order to satisfy the terminal requirement, the result of this resit will count towards the final mark, even if it is lower than the initial mark.

Q. What's the best way to sit the units, therefore?

A. Note that these routes are only suggestions - and also note that, with your very first cohort, the January sitting may well not be available.

1. A linear route, but limited resit possibilities

Year 10 - January: Unit 1*; June: possible resit of Unit 1, and Unit 2

Year 11 - January: possible resit of Unit 1 in January; June: Units 3 & 4

*not available January 2010

2. A linear route with better resit possibilities

Year 10 - January: Unit 1*; June: possible resit of Unit 1. Unit 2 work completed but not submitted

Year 11 - January: possible resit of Unit 1, and Unit 4**; June: possible resits of Units 1 & 4 in June, and submission of Units 2 & 3

*not available January 2010

**not available January 2011

3. A route for schools with parallel Single / Double Award groups

Year 10 - January: Unit 1*; June: possible resit of Unit 1 in June. Unit 3 material taught but no assessment task completed. Unit 4 material begun

Year 11 - January: possible resit of Unit 1, and Unit 4**; June: possible resits of Units 1 & 4 in June, submission of Units 2, and completion and submission of assessment task for Unit 3

*not available January 2010

**not available January 2011

UNIT 2 and UNIT 3

Q. When will the Unit 2 case study be available?

A. The Unit 2 case study should be available in September. In the first year of the specification, it is possible that it will appear a little late, as the writing of the initial case study was delayed.

Q. How will I get hold of the Unit 2 case study?

A. The Unit 2 case study will be available to download from the Health & Social Care GCSE page of the Edexcel website:

<http://www.edexcel.com/quals/gcse/gcse09/hsc/Pages/default.aspx>

Q. Do I have to submit the Unit 2 work in the first year (Year 10)?

A. No. Indeed, because of the terminal requirement, some centres will wish to submit the Unit 2 work at the end of the second year (Year 11); although others may wish to submit at the end of the first year.

Q. Is the Unit 2 case study the same every year?

A. No, the case study will change from year to year.

Q. How will this work - a different case study each year, but the possibility of submitting it at the end of the first or second year of study?

A. Each case study will be dated to indicate the year in which it must be submitted.

Q. How will this work in practice?

A. This September, September 2009, the initial Unit 2 case study will be published. It will be valid for submission in May 2010 and, exceptionally, in May 2011. In September 2010, a new case study will be published and will be valid for submission in May 2012. Thereafter, a new case study will be released each September, for submission in the May series a year and a half later.

Date Unit 2 is submitted	Date case study is available
May 2010	September 2009
May 2011	September 2009
May 2012	September 2010
May 2013	September 2011
May 2014	September 2012

Q. So, there'll be a choice of case studies?

A. Yes and no. Although there will be two case studies available at any one time, you can only submit the work in the series for which that case study is valid. So, in September 2010, there will be two case studies on the website - one for submission in May 2011 (published in September 2009) and one for submission in May 2012 (published in September 2010).

Q. I want to submit work in May 2012, but I don't like the case study with that submission date. Can I use the one for submission in May 2011 which is on the website at the same time?

A. No - you must submit the work based on the correct case study in the series in which it is valid.

Q. I have a candidate who wishes to resit Unit 2. Can (s)he use the same case study?

A. No - as they are submitting in the following year, (s)he must submit the work using the new case study, valid in the year in which the work is submitted.

Q. When will the Unit 3 pre-release material be available?

A. The Unit 3 pre-release material should be available in January each year, starting in January 2011.

Q. How will I get hold of the Unit 3 pre-release material?

A. The Unit 3 pre-release material will be available to download from the Health & Social Care GCSE page of the Edexcel website:

<http://www.edexcel.com/quals/gcse/gcse09/hsc/Pages/default.aspx>

Q. Are the Unit 3 pre-release materials the same every year?

A. No, the materials will change from year to year.

Q. For how long are the pre-release materials valid?

A. Work based on the pre-release materials released in January must be submitted in May of that same year.

Q. I'm starting to teach the Unit 3 content in Year 10, but don't want to submit the work until the end of Year 11. Is it possible to work on the pre-release materials released in the January of Year 10 and then submit it at the end of Year 11?

A. No: the shelf life of the pre-release materials is only four months between the January in which they are released and the May in which they are submitted. You cannot do the work in Year 10 and then "bank" it for submission in Year 11.

Q. I have a candidate who wishes to resit Unit 3. Can (s)he use the same pre-release materials for the resit as for the first attempt?

A. No - as they are submitting Unit 3 in the following year, (s)he must submit the work using the new pre-release materials.

Q. Can my students complete their Unit 2 and Unit 3 work outside the classroom e.g. if they want to word process the work?

A. Please see p19 of the specification. All written work submitted for marking **must** be completed under controlled conditions. Students may do research outside the classroom and bring primary and secondary data into class. However, all written work submitted as part of the Unit must take place in class under the supervision of the teacher. Student work should be collected at the end of one lesson and handed back at the beginning of the next one.

Q. How can I guarantee that my students, who are using computers in the classroom to do their write-up, do not access the internet as they write-up; or have access to their work outside the lesson?

A. If you cannot guarantee that the conditions of controlled assessment are met by your students, then you should not allow them to write-up on a computer.

Q. How is the assessment work authenticated?

A. The work for both Unit 2 and Unit 3 must be accompanied by an Authentication sheet, signed by the student and by the teacher.