



Controlled Assessment Explained

To allow pupils to experience what a full investigation is like, within the limitations of a real school environment, the controlled assessments have been split into three parts:

- **Part A - Planning**
- **Part B - Observations**
- **Part C - Conclusions**

For each controlled assessment we intend to produce:

- The **controlled assessment task**, comprising of:
 - a student brief
 - technician notes.
- A **student checklist** (see pages 12-13)
- **Specific marking criteria**. There is also a set of **generic marking criteria**. All controlled assessments are written to this generic criteria regardless of subject. This means that you can apply generic criteria to award marks where a candidate gives an answer that you see is correct, but falls outside the specific marking guidance for that controlled assessment.

Controlled assessment task – Parts A, B and C

Remember:

- The plan in Part A **is** used in Parts B and C. This is a change requested by Ofqual. To ensure a poor plan will not negatively affect a candidate's entire controlled assessment, and that the method carried out is safe, a method will be provided by Edexcel for use in such circumstances. In this circumstance, the candidate loses marks in Part A but can still access all marks in Parts B and C.
- The results collected in Part B are needed for Part C.
- For Science, candidates do **not** have to formulate a hypothesis, however this will be required for Additional Science and Biology, Chemistry and Physics.
- The hypothesis stated in Part A (for Science) or written by the candidates (for Additional Science and the Separate Sciences) is required in Part C for candidates to access marks.
- As clarified by Ofqual, secondary evidence must now be collected by the candidate, e.g. from the internet or a range of text books. We have included this in Part B and are investigating ways to support you in ensuring candidates can find appropriate evidence. In Part C, marks are now awarded for processing the evidence that the candidate has managed to collect, rather than awarding separate marks for processing primary and secondary evidence.
- For Science and Additional Science, you can submit marks for the best of the candidate's work. For example, Part A from Biology, Part B from Chemistry and Part C from Physics (or any combination of subjects). For separate sciences, parts can be taken from practicals based on Units 2 or 3 or combination of both. All work for a task needs to be submitted, rather than just the Part for which the mark is being submitted. This enables moderators to evaluate all three Parts on the controlled assessment tasks within the correct context.
- Controlled assessments based on a practical from any Unit 2 can be used to count towards Additional Science or a separate science as long as they are from the correct subject area. For separate sciences, parts can be taken from practicals based on Units 2 or 3 or combination of both. For example, the controlled assessment for Unit B2 can be used by a candidate to cash-in for GCSE Additional Science or GCSE Biology. A candidate who has a mixture of marks from the controlled assessments for Units B2 and C2 can only use these marks for GCSE Additional Science and not for either separate science.
- Controlled assessments are valid for one year. We have two moderation windows – June and November. A controlled assessment can count towards the terminal requirement.