



2nd Year Parents Evening – New Junior Cycle

Questions & Answers Session



How many CBAs are there for each subject?

There are two Classroom Based Assessments for each subject in the New Junior Cycle. One CBA (CBA1) takes place in 2nd Year and the second CBA (CBA2) takes place in 3rd Year. The only exception to this is Gaeilge where both CBAs take place in 3rd Year.

How are the CBAs graded?

Classroom Based Assessments (CBAs) are graded using the **Features of Quality** specific to each subject. It is worthwhile to look these up on our website as they outline clearly what is required to achieve each grade in the CBA. These Features of Quality are available on our website under **JCT**. Please choose the subject under this heading and then choose either CBA1 (for 2nd Year) or CBA2 (for 3rd Year).

How are the CBAs reported?

CBAs are reported on the JCPA (Junior Cycle Profile of Achievement). The grades from both CBA1 (2nd Year) & CBA2 (3rd Year) will be reported on this certificate along with students Junior Cycle results and 'Other Areas of Learning'.

Who sets the criteria for CBAs?

The NCCA (The National Council for Curriculum & Assessment) sets the criteria for each CBA. The criteria are outlined in the subject specifications. These documents are available on our website under **JCT -> Junior Cycle Info -> Choose Subject -> Scroll to Assessment & Reporting**.

Is there an Irish Oral Exam in the New Junior Cycle?

In the Traditional Junior Cert there was an **optional** Oral exam worth 40% but this Oral exam was only taken up by about 50% of schools. In the New Junior Cycle, the Oral component is **compulsory** and takes place during both CBA1 and CBA2 (both completed in 3rd Year). Following CBA2 an Assessment Task takes place which is worth 10% of the final grade and is based on work completed during CBA2. The Aural component is part of the final exam in June.

How will the subjects be graded?

All subjects in the New Junior Cycle, except for **Music, Visual Art, MTW and TG**, will have an Assessment Task worth 10% of the final grade plus a 90% written exam in June.

For the practical subjects **Music, Visual Art, MTW, TG** the following grading system applies:

Music	Practical examination will be allocated 30% of the marks available. The written examination will be allocated 70% of the marks available
Visual Art	The project (2 pieces of work) is worth 100% of marks available and will be submitted for SEC assessment in May. There is no final written exam in this practical subject.
MTW	The project is worth 70%. The final written examination is worth 30%.
TG	The project is worth 30%. The final written examination is worth 70%.

For our current 2nd Year cohort (2019 – 2020) MTW & TG will be graded using the traditional system.

How is the Assessment Task graded?

The Assessment Task is a written exam which is completed over two class periods under supervision of the subject teacher. This exam is a reflective exercise based on work completed in CBA2. The Assessment Tasks are then collected and sent to the SEC (State Examinations Commission) for grading. The Assessment Task accounts for 10% of the final exam (the percentage is different for the practical subjects – Music, Art, MTW & TG).

Are there still two exam papers for every subject?

No, all Junior Cycle subjects now have one two-hour exam paper.

Are all subjects still at either a Higher or Ordinary level?

No, only English, Gaeilge and Maths have the option of Higher or Ordinary level in the new Junior Cycle. All other subjects are Common level.

Will the New Junior Cycle have an impact on Summer and Christmas Exams?

The Department of Education has emphasised the need to not ‘over-assess’ students during the New Junior Cycle process. The scheduling of the CBA assessments will determine whether or not there is a formal exam in each subject. This will vary from subject to subject and may change as the New Junior Cycle rolls through. We also value the formality of both our Summer and Christmas exams, therefore we will continue to meet with subject departments to discuss and plan for exams which best meet the needs of the students.

How can I support my son throughout the Junior Cycle process?

It is important that students learn to be independent and resilient throughout the Junior Cycle process. Parents can support their sons by keeping an eye on the CBA schedule and encouraging good attendance.

How can I find out more information about the new Junior Cycle?

Further information about the new Junior Cycle can be found on our school website www.naascbs.ie under the ‘JCT’ tab. Within this section on our website is a document defining the new Junior Cycle language, a schedule of CBA’s, a link to the JCT website, information about reporting and the features of quality for each subject CBA.

**If there are any further questions please do not hesitate to contact us.
We will continue to inform you of any further news through our school app.**