



*School Based Assessment Policy for Junior Cycle Students
2020*

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BACKGROUND

Further to the Minister for Education & Skills, Mr Joe McHugh TD's announcement on 10th April 2020 and subsequently on 29th April,

- All third year Junior Cycle students to be awarded certificates for the completion of Junior Cycle by the Department of Education and Skills.
- Schools given autonomy to assess students and all students to receive a report on achievement.

Schools are also being given autonomy to decide whether to run school-based assessments and what form they take. Options to consider include school-designed examinations, tasks, projects, assignments, essay style questions, presentations, or other tasks agreed at a local level. Guidance for schools on reporting to students and parents, developed with the advice of the advisory group of stakeholders, will be published by the Department.

INTRODUCTION

This document outlines the approach that Mulroy College will take in the assessment of Junior Cycle students, 2020. The DES Guidelines for Schools, *Assessment and Reporting on Students' Learning at Junior Cycle, May 2020* has informed the recommended approach outlined.

OVERARCHING PRINCIPLES

The guidelines provide for:

1. A whole school approach to the assessment of Junior Cycle students, 2020.
2. Inclusivity and equity of access by all students.
3. Transparency.
4. Completion of the assessment process by May 29th.

ASSESSMENT COMPONENTS

Mulroy College assessment procedure for Junior Cycle students 2020 provide for the inclusion of the following components

- Recognition of Prior Learning
- May 2020 Assessment (an element of which will include a reflection on subject learning)

Junior Cycle School Report 2020	
Recognition of Prior Learning Component The combination of the evidence listed below will be used, depending on the subject and will be reflective of individuals work in its entirety over the three years: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Evidence available from class performance, homework, assessments, Mock Examinations.• Assignments, tests, tasks journals, projects, practical and other work completed over the course of second year and third year.• Classroom-Based Assessments completed in second and third year where appropriate.	May 2020 Assessment Any one or combination of the assessment tools listed below will be used, depending on the subject. <ul style="list-style-type: none">• School-designed examinations, tasks, reflective tasks, projects, assignments, essay style questions, presentations or other tasks chosen by the teacher from the range of approaches agreed at school level.

All students will be awarded with a Grade Descriptor in each subject.

All components to be completed and marked by May 29th, 2020. An assessment report will issue electronically the week beginning 8th June 2020.

BREAKDOWN of ASSESSMENT COMPONENTS

1. Recognition of Prior Learning

The recognition of Prior Learning is an important part of our assessment process. In line with the overarching principle of flexibility, the following approach will apply:

The final Grade Descriptor will be awarded for:

Learning from September 2018 – March 12th, 2020 (2nd year and 3rd year)

EXAMPLE: Recognition of Prior Learning Component:	
Total Weighting	Grade Descriptor
Elements of Prior Learning Recognised	Listed in each subject as detailed at the end of the policy document

This decision was informed by the DES Guidelines (issued April 29th, 2020)

To ensure equity, greater weighting should be given to work that was completed by students in advance of the closure of schools on 12 March 2020.

Cognisance may be given to work completed after that date but teachers should have regard to the impact that school closure will have had on students' ability to engage with further learning after 12 March 2020 and their ability to complete any additional assessment tasks.

For example, some students may be unable to undertake any additional assessment tasks because of issues arising from the Covid-19 crisis. In such circumstances, the assessment of the students' learning, and the report of their achievement issued by the school, may be based solely on work completed prior to 12 March 2020.

2. May 2020 Assessment

Mulroy College will issue an assessment activity electronically to be completed on/by 29th May 2020 and returned electronically by week beginning 8th June 2020.

Student will be advised of the format and duration of each subject assessment.

1. RECOGNITION OF PRIOR LEARNING OPTIONS
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Evidence available from assignments, tests, tasks journals, projects, practical and other work completed over the course of second year and third year• Classroom-Based Assessments completed in second year and third year

Any one or combination of the above could be utilised. This list is not exhaustive.

2. MAY 2020 ASSESSMENT OPTIONS

- School-designed examinations
- Tasks
- Projects
- Assignments
- Essay style questions
- Presentations
- Other tasks chosen by the teacher from the range of approaches agreed at school level.

Any one or combination of the above could be utilised. This list is not exhaustive.

English

90% awarded to previous assessments including mock result, Summer and Christmas exams

10% awarded to 3rd year class engagement up to May 25th

Maths

90% awarded to previous assessments including mock result, Summer and Christmas exams and classroom assignments

10% awarded to 3rd year class engagement up to May 25th

Gaeilge

90% awarded to previous assessments including mock result, Summer and Christmas exams

10% awarded to 3rd year class engagement up to May 25th

Business Studies

80% awarded to previous assessments including mock result, Summer and Christmas exams

20% awarded to End of year assessment made up of 4 components at 5% each

CSPE

CSPE is a short course and the students completed a project and CBA. It will form the 100% assessment for our 3rd year students.

French

80% awarded to previous assessments including mock result, Summer and Christmas exams

20% of marks to an end of term assessment, comprising of comprehension and written work, examining reading, writing, grammar and vocabulary.

Geography

90% awarded to previous assessments including mock result, Summer and Christmas exams

10% awarded to 3rd year class engagement up to May 25th

German

85% awarded to previous assessments including mock result, Summer and Christmas exams

15% for classwork up to May 25th

History

90% awarded to previous assessments including mock result, Summer and Christmas exams

10% awarded to 3rd year class engagement up to May 25th

Home Economics

Practical work completed for the JC - cookery and option work - 50%

Past assessments (average of) - 2nd year Christmas and summer exam, mock - 40%

Online assignment - 10%

Metalwork

75%-for project work completed up to the 12th March 2020

15%- towards mark achieved in Theory Mock exam 2020

10% awarded to 3rd year class engagement up to May 25th

PE

Physical Education is a short course. The 3rd year students completed a CBA in 2nd and 3rd Year. The PE department will award students a descriptor

Science

90% awarded to previous assessments including mock result, Summer and Christmas exams

10% awarded to 3rd year class engagement up to May 25th

Technical Graphics

75% awarded to Coursework

15% awarded to Mock exam result

10% awarded to Classroom engagement up to May 25th

Technology

75% awarded to Project and Portfolio

15% awarded to the theory Mock result

10% awarded for Classroom and Google classroom engagement up to May 25th

Principal: Fiona Temple

Date: 11/5/2020

Chair (BOM): Nicola Shields

Date: 11/5/2020

GUIDELINES FOR PARENTS/GUARDIANS

- Your young person needs your support during this challenging time, particularly in terms of engaging with assessment.
- Your young person's wellbeing is paramount at this time. Ensure he/she is eating healthily, taking time for exercise/activities and striking a balance between schoolwork and downtime.
- Assure your young person that assessments are an opportunity to celebrate their learning.
- Be familiar with each subject department's plan for assessment.
- Check in regularly to see if your young person is reaching his/her targets.
- Ensure your young person has the materials they require for engaging in assessments.
- Display relevant information somewhere prominent to help your young person remain focused for the remainder of the term
- If your young person misses a deadline for the key assignments for a genuine reason (illness, broadband issues, etc.) please contact the subject teacher who will endeavour to ensure every student has a fair chance to complete the work.
- It is important for parents/guardians to communicate with the school in the event you're your young person does not engage with an assessment. Measures can be taken to encourage engagement.
- Highlight the importance of engaging with assessment at this point in their education. While it may not take the form they had originally anticipated, it is a milestone in their education, and they will want to do their best.
- If you have any questions or concerns about your young person's engagement or progress, please contact the subject teacher who will be delighted to advise and support you.

Mulroy College values your support to date and requests your assistance in maintaining the integrity of the May 2020 Assessment, by ensuring that the instructions issued with each assessment are followed.

ASSESSMENT GUIDELINES FOR STUDENTS

- Assessments are an opportunity to celebrate your learning.
- Engage with your teachers and your classes for the remainder of the term.
- Organise a workspace that will help you to concentrate on the task in hand.
- Be aware of your assessment timetable. Know exactly when you have assessments, project deadlines etc.
- Communicate with your teachers if you are unclear about arrangements.
- While the format of the assessment may differ from what you expected, it is still important, and you should give it your very best shot.
- Organise the materials/books/technology you need for your assessments in advance. Do not leave it until the last minute.
- Approach your assessments as you would in school
 - ~ Follow school rules (social media, eating, chatting etc.)
 - ~ Stick to allocated timeframes

Respect the assessment process – it is ‘your own’ work that is being assessed, not ‘work belonging to somebody else’