



# A guide to Controlled Assessment for Parents.

For many years most GCSE subjects have included a percentage of Coursework.

The coursework included research into a topic which was then written up as an extended essay or more practical tasks, depending on the subject.

Until recently these Coursework tasks had no set time limit and pupils would often rework their Coursework task in order to maximise their marks. The term coursework has now been phased out at GCSE level.

**New regulations have brought changes.**

**The main changes are as follows:-**

## 1 A New name.

What was previously called Coursework is now called **Controlled Assessment.**

## 2 Time Limits

Controlled Assessment is time bound. All subjects are given a set number of hours in which to complete their Controlled Assessment task or Tasks.

The number of hours allotted to Controlled Assessment depends upon the nature of the task, i.e. practical or written AND the weighting given to Controlled Assessment by different subjects. The time duration of Controlled Assessment varies widely from subject to subject.

The table below shows the weighting given to Controlled Assessment in subjects offered in the GCSE subjects taught in Dalriada.

Subjects with Controlled Assessment worth 60% of the final grade	Subjects with Controlled Assessment worth 25% of the final grade	NO controlled Assessment	Subjects with Controlled Assessment worth 100% of final grade
Art and Design	Biology	Further Maths	Agriculture
Engineering	Business Studies	Mathematics	Performing Arts
English Language	Chemistry	Religious Studies	
French	English Literature		
German	Geography		
Spanish	History		
Home Economics	Physics		
Computing			
ICT (Full Course)			
Moving Image Arts			
Music			
Physical Education			
Technology and Design			

### **3 Levels of Supervision**

Some Controlled Assessment tasks must be carried out under “**High Control**”, this means that the tasks must be undertaken under “examination conditions” in the classroom.

Other tasks may be carried out under “**Medium Control**” - candidates can work on their own with some guidance by the teacher.

Other tasks may be carried out under “**Low Control**” - part of the task can be carried out without teacher supervision.

In some subjects, different aspects of the **Controlled Assessment** may be carried out under different levels of supervision.

### **4 Year 11 pupils are well prepared for Controlled Assessment**

The present Year 11 has experienced the Revised Northern Ireland Curriculum since Year 8.

These pupils are perhaps better prepared for GCSE than any other Year 11, because of the wide variety of learning strategies they have experienced.

The very good grounding in ICT skills in Key Stage 3 will be of great benefit in many of the Controlled Assessment tasks they will carry out this year and next.

### **5 The role of the pupil**

To carefully file all guidance booklets provided by his or her teacher.

To ask for clarification if s/he is not sure what has to be done.

To arrive promptly to class on the days on which Controlled Assessment is being carried with the appropriate materials needed for the Controlled Assessment Task.

### **6 The role of the teacher.**

Teachers have a responsibility to ensure that pupils know....

The dates on which the Controlled Assessment will take place

The nature of the task which they will undertake during the Controlled Assessment

The level of supervision under which the Controlled Assessment will be carried out.

Date for the completion of the task (or tasks).

Letters have already been sent home by post for English Language. Pupils were given letters in French last week and Spanish this week

MIA letter before half term

Geography late November/ Early December

### **7 The role of the parent or guardian.**

To as far as is possible avoid absence from school during days in which your son or daughter is doing Controlled Assessment.

At peak times some pupils will find that they are involved in Controlled Assessment more than once per day every day of the week.

### **Short Term Absence**

If a pupil is unavoidably absent from school during a day or days in which Controlled Assessment is being carried out, teachers will do their best to provide a time and place where absentees can catch up.

### **Long Term Absence**

In the case of long term absence, which results in the Controlled Assessment not being completed a special circumstances form will need to be completed.

### **Unitised Assessment**

Last year all pupils in Year 11 were entered for ONE Unit of Mathematics. Those taking Further Maths were entered for two units.

This allows pupils to be examined in the work they had done in Year 11, rather waiting to the end of Year 12.

At present we do NOT intend to allow resits for these examinations; however this will be subject to review annually.

NB The results of Unitised Examinations will be available on the same day as the Year 12 GCSE results.