

CBAs will be undertaken during a defined time period within normal class contact time and to a national timetable. Students will complete one CBA in second year and one in third year in most subjects.



CBAs will be reported on in the JCPA using the following descriptors:-

- Exceptional
- Above Expectations
- In Line with Expectations
- Yet to Meet Expectations

Once the second Classroom-Based Assessment (CBA) is completed, students in third year will complete a written Assessment Task on what they have learned and the skills and competences that they have developed in that assessment. This task, set by the National Council for Curriculum and Assessment (NCCA), is undertaken during normal class time and will be sent to the State Examinations Commission (SEC) for marking. This Assessment Task will account for 10% of the overall mark for the final examination. Specific arrangements are made for Visual Art, Music, Home Economics and the Technology subjects. At the end of third year, students will sit the final SEC examination in June, which will account for 90% of the SEC grade.

Short Courses

Schools may offer short courses on their junior cycle programme. A short course is designed for approximately 100 hours of student engagement across two or three years of the junior cycle. Short courses have been made available by the NCCA in Coding, Chinese Language and Culture, Digital Media Literacy, Artistic Performance, Philosophy, Civic, Social and Political Education, Physical Education and Social Personal and Health Education. Schools may also develop their own short courses to meet their students' needs.

Other Learning Experiences

Students will have the opportunity to engage with a range of other learning experiences as part of their junior cycle programme and these can be recorded on the JCPA. Other learning experiences play a critical role in ensuring that students are provided with a broad and balanced educational experience. These learning experiences could include student engagement in a science fair, a musical performance or a debating competition.

They could also include extracurricular activities, such as:

- membership of the school student council or school clubs and societies
- participation in school sporting activities

Reporting in Junior Cycle

A new reporting structure at junior cycle will contribute to the personal and educational development of students. It will support and underpin ongoing learning and assessment.

Schools will regularly:

- Provide information to parents about their child's achievement and progress
- Support students in their learning by suggesting next steps and providing feedback to help students' self-evaluation

The reporting process at junior cycle will culminate in the award of the JCPA to students. The JCPA will be awarded for the first time in Autumn 2017.

Student Wellbeing

Your child's wellbeing is of central importance to his/her educational success and overall happiness. Wellbeing will become a core part of your child's junior cycle experience. This area of learning includes, amongst others, Physical Education (PE), Civic, Social and Political Education (CSPE), Social, Personal and Health Education (SPHE) [including Relationship and Sexuality Education (RSE)] and Guidance.

Level 2 Learning Programmes

There is a new junior cycle pathway for students with particular special educational needs called Level 2 Learning Programmes (L2LPs).

These are being successfully implemented in special schools and are available for some students in mainstream post-primary schools also. Students completing this programme will have their results reported on the JCPA.

For further information on the new Junior Cycle visit:-

www.curriculumonline.ie for subject and short course specifications and information regarding assessment

www.jct.ie for teacher CPD information and general information regarding the new junior cycle



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Junior Cycle Information for Parents of Post-Primary Students

An tSeirbhís Stiúisearach do Mhúinteoirí
Junior Cycle
for teachers

