

# Annexe E: Internal Assessment of Principal Learning Units: Controls for Task Setting, Task Taking and Task Marking

This annexe should be read in association with the latest edition of the Joint Council for Qualifications document ‘GCSE, GCE, ELC, Functional Skills, Principal Learning in the Diploma and Project Qualifications – Instructions for conducting coursework’, available from the JCQ website, [www.jcq.org.uk](http://www.jcq.org.uk)

## Section 1: Introduction

It is a requirement of the *Criteria for accreditation of Diploma qualifications at levels 1, 2 and 3* that:

‘Internal assessment [of Principal Learning] must normally be supervised and conducted under controlled conditions to ensure reliability and fairness.’

Further guidance from the Qualifications and Curriculum Authority has identified three stages of assessment for which control must be specified:

- **Task setting**
- **Task taking** (controls on time, resources, supervision, and collaboration)
- **Task marking.**

Further to the areas specified above, this annexe in collaboration with the individual specifications also sets the parameters for:

- guidance and support;
- submission, revision, re-working;
- the involvement of parents/carers;
- malpractice; and the authentication of learners’ work.

This annexe details the controls that normally apply to all Edexcel Principal Learning internally assessed units. However tutors and assessors must also apply any specific controls or additional requirements that may be identified within the *Assessment information for assessors* section in individual units.

There are three levels of control that can apply to each stage.

<b>High control</b>	Where the assessment requirements are tightly prescribed.
<b>Medium control</b>	Where the assessment requirements are specified in terms of parameters that allow consortia some flexibility to suit local circumstances.
<b>Limited control</b>	Where the assessment requirements are specified in terms of broad parameters that allow consortia to determine the details of the assessment.

It is the responsibility of the consortium to ensure that internal controlled assessment for Principal Learning is conducted and marked in accordance with the requirements specified by Edexcel and conducted in line with the *JCQ Instructions for conducting coursework*.

## Section 2: Edexcel Controlled Assessment Profile

In Edexcel's internally-assessed Principal Learning units, some aspects are subject to medium control and others have limited control. The table below shows the standard profile for all Edexcel Principal Learning internally-assessed unit specifications. Individual unit specifications will indicate where a divergence has occurred from this profile.

Aspect	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3
Task setting	Limited	Limited	Limited
Time	Limited	Limited	Limited
Resources	Limited	Limited	Limited
Supervision	Medium	Medium	Medium
Collaboration	Limited	Limited	Limited
Marking	Medium	Medium	Medium

## Section 3: Assessment controls

### 3.1 Task setting

#### Limited control

Edexcel will publish, as part of its tutor support materials, at least one model assignment for each internally assessed unit. It is recommended that these model assignments are used in the assessment of each unit. However in order that these assignments can best meet learner interests and local needs they will include guidance for tutors and assessors to show the ways in which they may be adapted and contextualised. If the tutor decides to either adapt or write their own assignments then each assignment must meet the following conditions:

- each internally assessed unit must be assessed through a single coherent assignment which addresses the overall theme of the unit to emphasise how the different learning outcomes all relate to each other. Each assignment may be broken down into a series of related tasks
- assignments must have an applied work-related context
- across all tasks, assignments must address all learning outcomes and assessment criteria, and must give access to the full range of marks
- the evidence produced must conform to the requirements published in the 'How you will be Assessed' section of the relevant unit specification
- in some units the marking grid is divided into parts A and B. All tasks which will be marked against the A grid must generate learner evidence that can be re-assessed at a later stage during internal standardisation activity or external moderation
- where tutors decide to set their own assignments, another person, who understands the requirements of the specification, **must** check that each new assignment is appropriate for the line of learning and the level, and also that a new assignment will allow candidates full access to the marking criteria. This is especially important when a new tutor/assessor is required to produce assignments. Suitable people may include a Domain or Lead Assessor. This review process must be documented and the evidence of the review must be made available for the external moderator if requested

- if the assignment is to be produced outside the teaching institution, for example by a supervisor at the learner's work experience placement, then the tutor or assessor at the teaching institution responsible for that unit, must sign off the assignment for validity before the learner attempts the assignment.

In addition to these requirements, further guidance on writing assignments is provided in this specification, in the section 'Assessment and grading of the principal learning specifications'.

### *Complexity*

If the level of complexity of the evidence required is not already identified within the specification, then an indication can be assumed from the amount of time set within the specification for the production of the assessment evidence, considering the level at which the specification is being taken. The expectations of what a Level 1 learner can accomplish in 10 hours are far different from that which can be expected from a Level 3 learner in the same time period.

Unless it is otherwise specified, learners should be set a task of equivalent complexity, whether they are expected to achieve marks at mark band 1 of the marking grid or mark band 3.

## **3.2 Task taking (controls on time, resources, supervision, and collaboration)**

If not specified within the unit, it is to be assumed that tasks or the whole assignment will normally be attempted at the end of the learning process.

### **Time – Limited control**

Each unit has a time for assessment allocated. This is defined as 'the time to be spent generating evidence for assessment', and covers all tasks and/or aspects of the assessment which carry marks in the unit marking grid. Activities to support the assessment such as setting up equipment or researching data are not included in the time allowance if they do not carry marks. While it is not a requirement that this time should be observed to the minute for internal assessments, it should be taken as strong guidance and variance should not normally be by more than plus or minus 10%. Learners given significantly less time may well be disadvantaged in relation to the quality and breadth of work they can produce, while those given significantly more may well be disadvantaged by an excess of time spent on assessment rather than learning.

### **Resources – Limited control**

Unless otherwise stated in the individual unit specification, learners are entitled to have full access to all resources seen fit for purpose by the centre tutor/assessor. Any specific resources (eg equipment, published material) required or prohibited for assessment will be detailed in the individual unit.

### **Supervision – Medium control**

Learners must normally be supervised by the centre tutor/assessor whilst producing evidence for the summative assessment activity, unless otherwise stated in the individual unit specification. Supervision is defined as normal classroom/workshop/studio working conditions, with the tutor/assessor being present in the same room whilst the summative assessment evidence is produced by the learner, but not requiring examination conditions.

Where supervision is relaxed:

- because it is not possible to directly supervise the activity that is required to produce summative assessment evidence, eg researching data, then the tutor/assessor must authenticate the learner work following the process identified in the section headed 'Authentication'; or
- because the most suitable environment for producing the evidence means the tutor/assessor cannot be present, eg work experience, the tutor/assessor must ensure an appropriate person supervises the evidence production. All such evidence must be authenticated (see *Authentication* below) and, where this covers performance evidence, a signed learner observation record must be completed with enough reliable information to allow the tutor to accurately assess the evidence (see *3.4 Task marking* below).

It is not permissible for summative assessment evidence to be produced in the learner's home environment, without the direct supervision of their assessor.

Due to the nature of producing an artefact, its production as part of the summative assessment will often be dictated by the availability of materials, equipment etc, therefore it may well be produced outside of the centre. However, the assessor must be confident that the work is that of the learner. In order to be confident, Edexcel requires one of the following situations to apply:

- the work is carried out under the direct supervision of the teaching centre assessor. This is the most desirable option
- the learner demonstrates to the teaching centre assessor equivalent levels of skill in each of the processes included in the production of the final artefact. Ideally this would be in the course of the regular teaching/learning programme, but exceptionally, if the assessor feels a skill has been assessed at a level beyond expectations, the assessor may require the learner to repeat that skill before authenticating the work.

If the artefact can only be produced remotely, for example during work experience, the assessor must have enough reliable information to allow them to both accurately assess the outcome and have a signed learner observation record from an appropriate person who directly observed the learner producing the artefact. An 'appropriate person' is defined as someone with a supervisory role within the workplace (or equivalent), and who has the required skills. This person must not be a family member, and must record and supply the required information for the assessor.

### **Collaboration (Group work) – Limited control**

Some units may require learners to work as part of a group. In other units, unless it is specifically forbidden, tutors may choose to have learners working collaboratively. When producing assignments which require or allow learners to work in groups, tasks must be written to allow each group member to fully meet the requirements of the assessment criteria.

Learners must not have their assessment opportunities reduced by the poor performance of other group members. Where this becomes apparent the tutor or assessor should intervene, or provide suitable alternative activities which do not greatly add to the learners' workloads.

Group tasks should not rely on the performance of individual members of the group to allow other group members to meet all of the assessment criteria.

It is important that each learner is assessed on their individual contribution to the achievements of the group. Where several individuals contribute to a single piece of work, individual contributions must be clearly shown on the work to enable external moderation to take place. This can be indicated by learners or through the tutor's annotations.

## Guidance and support

At the start of the assignment learners will often be required to plan out their programme of work. The tutor/assessors should agree these plans and where appropriate agree milestones where they can monitor learners' responses. Appropriate intervention is to be encouraged to ensure learners have every opportunity of success. However, if the planning process forms part of the assessment criteria, care must be taken to ensure that the plan remains the learner's own work.

Within some unit specifications, the level of assistance given to a learner is a discriminating factor used to decide a learner's positioning within the marking bands. To aid the assessor in selecting the appropriate level of assistance given to the learner a glossary of descriptors is included in the units and should be used for guidance when marking the learners work. In some cases, where a glossary doesn't exist, the following definitions should be used:

- *Assistance* – The learner has to be guided and advised to make progress, and responds to ideas suggested. The tutor/assessor needs to direct significant aspects of the work.
- *Limited assistance* – The learner suggests ideas for themselves, but makes use of guidance and advice from the tutor/assessor to make progress. The tutor/assessor assists in some aspects of the work, but generally does not direct it.
- *Independently* – The learner develops ideas themselves, using the tutor/assessor as an advisor rather than as a director. The tutor/assessor facilitates the work but does not need to direct its progress.

It is expected that all learners should develop as independent learners, but this does not mean that they should not be given any support in order to be able to research, write up and complete their reports. The hallmark of the independent learner, whatever the level, is knowing when and whom to ask for support in helping to carry the work forward.

All learners must be fully and equally briefed at the start of any task or assignment about the requirements of that task, including how they will be marked. They should be given the opportunity to ask any questions in order to clarify the requirements.

Once the assignment is under way, the tutor should respond to questions and requests for advice, but should normally refrain from intervening unasked. Responses can advise the learner on such matters as further sources of information, and can point out where further work is needed, but must always stop short of actually stating what to write.

In some units the amount of support and guidance a learner may receive in the course of carrying out the task or assignment is specified. This occurs, for example, when differentiation between mark bands is achieved in part by the support the learner needs to complete a practical task safely.

Tutors or assessors must always intervene where matters of health and safety are concerned. When this happens, the assessor should make a judgement about the appropriate marks that can be applied to the learner's work in the light of the intervention, and attach to the work a record of the intervention and justification for the marks awarded.

### 3.3 Feedback, re-working and submission

*All Principal Learning awarding bodies are required to follow the instructions for feedback, re-working and submission specified by the JCQ*

Candidates are free to **revise and redraft** a piece of coursework without teacher involvement before submitting the final piece. Candidates should be advised to spend an appropriate amount of time on the work commensurate with the marks available.

Teachers may review coursework before it is handed in for final assessment. Provided that advice remains at the general level, enabling the candidate to take the initiative in making amendments, there is no need to record this advice as assistance or to deduct marks. Generally one review should be sufficient to enable candidates to understand the demands of the assessment criteria. Advice may be given in either oral or written form.

Having reviewed the candidate's coursework **it is not acceptable** for teachers to give, either to individual candidates or to groups, detailed advice and suggestions as to how the work may be improved in order to meet the assessment criteria. Examples of unacceptable assistance include:

- detailed indication of errors or omissions
- advice on specific improvements needed to meet the criteria
- the provision of outlines, paragraph or section headings, or writing frames specific to the coursework task(s)
- personal intervention to improve the presentation or content of the coursework.

As indicated above, a clear distinction must be drawn between any interim review of coursework and final assessment for the intended examination series. Once work is submitted for final assessment it may not be revised: in no circumstances are 'fair copies' of marked work allowed. **Adding or removing any material to or from coursework after it has been presented by a candidate for final assessment will constitute malpractice.**

Where coursework is submitted in digital format there may be instances where the construction of the e-coursework does not attract any marks, in which case this construction may be done by the teacher instead of the candidate.

If a candidate requires additional assistance in order to demonstrate aspects of the assessment, the teacher should award a mark which represents the candidate's unaided achievement. The authentication statement should be signed and information given on the Candidate Record Sheet.

Teachers must keep live coursework secure and confidential at all times whilst in their possession. It is not acceptable for teaching staff to share coursework with other candidates.

There may be occasions when a learner needs to retake a task or assignment. This is acceptable at the discretion of the tutor, but the assignment should normally be set in a different context so that the learner is not repeating exactly the same tasks which they have had the chance to practise beforehand. Individual units will have further guidance where appropriate.

### **Authentication**

All candidates must confirm that any work they submit for assessment is their own.

Where learners are required to gather information and resources, tutors or assessors should take the opportunity to discuss authentication and plagiarism at the outset.

Where learner observation records and practical activity logs are required Edexcel will provide exemplar pro formas. Centres may choose to develop their own documentation, but they must record at least the information contained within the exemplar pro formas.

Once the assignment has been completed the assessor may need to interview or test the learner on their understanding of the information and/or the resources that they have identified and used. This may be necessary if, for example:

- the assessor needs to confirm the authenticity of the work
- the unit marking grid carries marks for information and/or resource gathering.

It will be up to the centre assessor to decide on the appropriate format, although the activity should be of a 'closed book' nature.

If the assessor decides to interview the learner, the assessor is required to question the learner regarding their information or resources until the assessor is sufficiently satisfied with the authentication. Whilst the interview is in progress the learner should not have access to the information or resources unless the individual unit specifies otherwise. It can be either a group or individual interview.

If the assessor decides to test the learner, the assessor is required to follow the usual testing format, with learners working in silence, and placed in a manner so that they do not see other learners' responses. The questions are at the discretion of the assessor, as is the length and timing of the test. Learners are not permitted to view the questions prior to the test and should not have access to their work during the test unless the individual unit specifies otherwise.

The documented outcome could be either notes following an interview with one or a group of learners and signed by the assessor, or marked test papers.

Each candidate is required to sign a declaration before submitting their coursework to their subject tutors/assessors for final assessment, to confirm that the work is their own and that any assistance given and/or sources used have been acknowledged. Ensuring that they do so is the responsibility of the candidate's centre.

It is also a requirement that tutors/assessors confirm to the awarding body that all of the work submitted for assessment was completed under the required conditions and that they are satisfied that the work is solely that of the individual candidate concerned. Where assessment is supervised by someone other than the tutor, additional confirmation is required from the person who has supervised the assessment.

All tutors/assessors who have assessed the work of any candidate entered for each component must sign the declaration of authentication.

### **3.4 Task marking (standardisation and marking) - Medium control**

#### **Marking**

Edexcel requires all consortium assessors to use only Edexcel authorized documentation in the assessment of its Principal Learning internal assessed units. All Edexcel Principal Learning internal assessed unit specifications have mark descriptors, and these must be used when assessing learner work. Consortium assessors must not try to re-interpret the mark descriptors, or use any other unauthorised publication which aims to do so.

If written evidence and artefacts are completed under the supervision of someone else (see *Supervision* above), this person may comment upon what is produced, but only the tutor can allocate marks.

Where performance evidence is observed by someone other than the tutor, this person must record their comments on the learner observation record. It is then the responsibility of the tutor to judge this evidence and allocate marks.

#### **Standardisation**

*All Principal Learning awarding bodies are required to follow the instructions for standardisation specified by the JCQ.*

Centres should use reference and archive materials (such as exemplar material provided by the awarding body or, where available, work in the centre from the previous year) to help set the standard of marking within the centre.

Prior to marking, a trial marking exercise should be undertaken. Teachers mark the same relatively small sample of work to allow for the comparison of marking standards. The exercise can take place at appropriate stages during the course and has three beneficial effects: it helps to bring about greater comparability in the marking standards; it may identify at an early stage any teachers whose standards are out of line with that of their colleagues; and it alleviates a heavy marking load at the end of the course.

Where the work for a unit has been marked by more than one teacher in a consortium, standardisation of marking should normally be carried out according to one of the following procedures:

**Either** a sample of work which has been marked by each teacher is re-marked by the teacher who is in charge of internal standardisation – normally the Domain Assessor;

**Or** all the teachers responsible for marking a component exchange some marked work (preferably at a meeting led by the Domain Assessor) and compare their marking standards.

Where standards are found to be inconsistent, the discrepant teacher(s) should make adjustments to their marks or re-consider the marks of all candidates for whom they were responsible. The new marks should be checked by the teacher in charge of internal standardisation.

Following completion of the marking and of internal standardisation, the coursework must be retained within the consortium and not returned to the candidates.

Consortia should retain evidence that internal standardisation has been carried out.