

***School Based Assessment Policy for Junior Cycle Students 2021***

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Background

Further to the Department of Education’s decision that the Junior Certificate Examinations 2021 will not run this year in the context of Covid-19 and Public Health Advice:

* *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 Grange PPS will take in the assessment of Junior Cycle students, 2021. The DES Guidelines for Schools, *Assessment and Reporting on Students’ Learning- Junior Cycle, March 2021* has informed the recommended approach outlined.

Overarching principles

The guidelines provide for:

1. A balanced whole school approach to the assessment of Junior Cycle students, 2021.
2. Inclusivity and equity of access by all students.
3. Transparency.
4. Completion of the assessment process by May 21st.

**ASSESSMENT COMPONENTS**

Grange PPS assessment procedure for Junior Cycle students 2021 provide for the inclusion of the following components

* All learning achieved over 2nd and 3rd year of the Junior Cycle programme

Where students are engaged in a **Junior Cycle** Subject a Grade Descriptor will be awarded.

Where students are engaged in **Junior Cert** a traditional grade will be awarded.

All components to be completed and marked by May 21st*,* 2021. An assessment report will issue electronically via VSware the week beginning 7th of June 2021

**BREAKDOWN of ASSESSMENT COMPONENTS**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Recognition of Prior Learning Component:** | |
| *Total Weighting* | 100% |
| *Whole School Elements to be Recognised* | Description of Approach |
| * School based examinations | All subjects will include Second and third year Term exams. Weightings will vary depending on the nature of the subject accordingly (where they took place and were not replaced by CBA) |
| * CBA | All subjects will include the CBA 1 and 2 results. Weightings will vary depending on the nature of the subject accordingly. Where CBA’s tool place. |
| * Classwork/ On- line and Participation | This will be included to allow the teacher to apply Professional Judgment based on evidence over 2nd and 3rd year to recognise strong work ethics, commitment, innovation, positive engagement in learning, homework, assignments and tests, critical thinking and Junior Certificate Key Skills development and process in student learning within their subject over the second and third year of their Junior Cycle. |
| * Practical work / Performance elements | Including project work or performances in specific subjects forming significant parts of the subject area, including Music, Materials Technology Wood, Art, Home Economics and Metalwork. |

This decision was informed by the DES Guidelines (issued March 15th, 2021)

Where students have not been able to engage in all elements of on line learning and assignments for reasons beyond their control, this will be taken into account and they will not be disadvantaged by the inclusion of this component.

Please see Appendix 1 for a complete breakdown of each subject.

**WELL-BEING**

A report on the achievements and work undertaken by students as part of their well-being programme will be reported on the school report. It will include feedback from CSPE, SPHE, PE, Career Guidance and Humanities, in addition to specific modules and initiatives taken.

**SHORT COURSES**

Where students completed all elements of their short courses for Junior Certificate- these will be reported. Short courses could include Coding, History- Myths and Legends. Short Programme Junior Certificate Descriptors will be used.

**Appendix 1 –**

**SUBJECT SPECIFIC**

**BREAKDOWN OF ASSESSMENT**

**FOR**

**JUNIOR CERTIFICATE 2021**

**Subject: MT Wood**

**Elements included with weighting:**

* 2nd Year Term Exam:    9%
* Project:                          43%
* Portfolio:                    23%
* Online/Classwork:      25%

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**Total 100%**

**Overall Grade system being used:**

Old JC Grading System below

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **LEVEL** | **PERCENTAGE** | **GRADE** |
| Higher  Ordinary  Foundation | ≥ 85- 100 | A |
| ≥ 70 and < 85 | B |
| ≥ 55 and < 70 | C |
| ≥ 40 and < 55 | D |
| ≥ 25 and < 40 | E |
| ≥ 10 and < 25 | F |
| ≥ 0 and < 10 | N/G |

**Subject: Art**

**Elements included with weighting:**

CBA1  20%

CBA2  30%

Development of work & process

(work, engagement, homework, attitude) 25%

Finished piece of work

(Term work completed in school or online) 25%

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**Total 100%**

**Overall Grade system being used:** New JC Grading System below

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **LEVEL** | **PERCENTAGE** | **GRADE** |
| Higher  Ordinary  Common | ≥ 90 to 100 | Distinction |
| ≥ 75 and < 90 | Higher Merit |
| ≥ 55 and < 75 | Merit |
| ≥ 40 and < 55 | Achieved |
| ≥ 20 and < 40 | Partially Achieved |
| ≥ 0 and < 20 | Not Graded |

**Subject English**

**Elements included with weighting:**

* Average grades over 2 years, including:

Second year Christmas test- 20%

Third year Christmas test- 20%

Third year CBA- 20%

Third Year term test (after Easter)- 20%

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Total: 80%

* Classwork/Participation =

Second Year & Third Year 10%

* On–going Assignments/ Tasks 10%.

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**100%**

**Overall Grade system being used:** New JC Grading System below

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **LEVEL** | **PERCENTAGE** | **GRADE** |
| Higher  Ordinary  Common | ≥ 90 to 100 | Distinction |
| ≥ 75 and < 90 | Higher Merit |
| ≥ 55 and < 75 | Merit |
| ≥ 40 and < 55 | Achieved |
| ≥ 20 and < 40 | Partially Achieved |
| ≥ 0 and < 20 | Not Graded |

**Subject: Home Economics**

**Elements included with weighting:**

* Average grades over 2 years, including:

Second Year Term Exam- 20%

Third Year Term Exam- 20%

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Total: 40%

* CBA’s

CBA 1 20%

CBA 2 (Online) 10%

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Total: 30%

* Classwork/Participation (including online) 20%

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* On–going Assignments/ Tasks 10%.

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**Total 100%**

**Overall Grade system being used:** New JC Grading System below

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **LEVEL** | **PERCENTAGE** | **GRADE** |
| Higher  Ordinary  Common | ≥ 90 to 100 | Distinction |
| ≥ 75 and < 90 | Higher Merit |
| ≥ 55 and < 75 | Merit |
| ≥ 40 and < 55 | Achieved |
| ≥ 20 and < 40 | Partially Achieved |
| ≥ 0 and < 20 | Not Graded |

**Subject: Maths**

**Elements included with weighting:**

* CBA = 20%
* Subject Engagement (class and online) = 25%
* School based Assessment's 2nd/3rd year up to Christmas 2020 = 30%
* Two assessments in final term = 25%

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**Total 100%**

**Overall Grade system being used:** New JC Grading System below

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **LEVEL** | **PERCENTAGE** | **GRADE** |
| Higher  Ordinary  Common | ≥ 90 to 100 | Distinction |
| ≥ 75 and < 90 | Higher Merit |
| ≥ 55 and < 75 | Merit |
| ≥ 40 and < 55 | Achieved |
| ≥ 20 and < 40 | Partially Achieved |
| ≥ 0 and < 20 | Not Graded |

**Subject: Science and Business Studies**

**Elements included with weighting:**

* Average grades over 2 years, including:

Second Year Term Exam- 20%

Third Year Term Exam- 20%

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40%

* CBA 20%

* Classwork/ Participation (including online) 30%
* On–going Assignments/ Tasks 10%.

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**Total 100%**

**Overall Grade system being used:** New JC Grading System below

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **LEVEL** | **PERCENTAGE** | **GRADE** |
| Higher  Ordinary  Common | ≥ 90 to 100 | Distinction |
| ≥ 75 and < 90 | Higher Merit |
| ≥ 55 and < 75 | Merit |
| ≥ 40 and < 55 | Achieved |
| ≥ 20 and < 40 | Partially Achieved |
| ≥ 0 and < 20 | Not Graded |

**Subject: Irish, Spanish, French**

**Elements included with weighting:**

* 2nd Year Term Test = 20%
* 3rd Year Christmas Test = 20%
* 2 additional assessments after Easter = 20%
* CBA = 20%
* Classwork Participation (including on line) = 20%

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**Total 100%**

**Overall Grade system being used:** New JC Grading System below

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **LEVEL** | **PERCENTAGE** | **GRADE** |
| Higher  Ordinary  Common | ≥ 90 to 100 | Distinction |
| ≥ 75 and < 90 | Higher Merit |
| ≥ 55 and < 75 | Merit |
| ≥ 40 and < 55 | Achieved |
| ≥ 20 and < 40 | Partially Achieved |
| ≥ 0 and < 20 | Not Graded |

**Subject: Geography**

**Elements included with weighting:**

* CBA = 20%
* Subject Engagement [class & online] = 30%
* School based assessments 2nd / 3rd Year up to Christmas 2020 = 25%
* Two assessments in final term of 2020/21 = 25%.

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**Total 100%**

**Overall Grade system being used:** New JC Grading System below

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **LEVEL** | **PERCENTAGE** | **GRADE** |
| Higher  Ordinary  Common | ≥ 90 to 100 | Distinction |
| ≥ 75 and < 90 | Higher Merit |
| ≥ 55 and < 75 | Merit |
| ≥ 40 and < 55 | Achieved |
| ≥ 20 and < 40 | Partially Achieved |
| ≥ 0 and < 20 | Not Graded |

**Subject: Technical Graphics**

**Elements included with weighting:**

* Average grades over 2 years, including:

Second Year Term Exam- 25%

Third Year Term Exam- 25%

Third Year Christmas Exam- 25%

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Total: 75%

* Classwork/Participation =

Second Year & Third Year 10%

* On–going Assignments/ Tasks 15%.

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**Total 100%**

**Overall Grade system being used:** Old JC Grading System below

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **LEVEL** | **PERCENTAGE** | **GRADE** |
| Higher  Ordinary | ≥ 85- 100 | A |
| ≥ 70 and < 85 | B |
| ≥ 55 and < 70 | C |
| ≥ 40 and < 55 | D |
| ≥ 25 and < 40 | E |
| ≥ 10 and < 25 | F |
| ≥ 0 and < 10 | N/G |

**Subject: Metalwork**

**Elements included with weighting:**

* Average grades over 2 years, including: **HL OL**

Second Year Term Exam- 5% 5%

Second Year Summer Exam- 5% 5%

Third Year Christmas Exam- 5% 5%

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Total: 15% 15%

* Project Item\* 75% 75%

* Class tasks/ engagement (including on line) 10%. 10%

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**Total 100% 100%**

**Overall Grade system being used:** Old JC Grading System below

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **LEVEL** | **PERCENTAGE** | **GRADE** |
| Higher  Ordinary  Foundation | ≥ 85- 100 | A |
| ≥ 70 and < 85 | B |
| ≥ 55 and < 70 | C |
| ≥ 40 and < 55 | D |
| ≥ 25 and < 40 | E |
| ≥ 10 and < 25 | F |
| ≥ 0 and < 10 | N/G |

**\*Project Item-** After Easter return students will fully complete the project. If students do not return, marks will be awarded on the work they have completed on the project so far.

**Appendix 2 –**

**Policy Communication to**

**Parents**

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| **Junior Cycle Assessment Policy 2021** | |  |
| Introduction  This document outlines the approach that Grange PPS will take in the assessment of Junior Cycle students, 2021. The DES Guidelines for Schools, *Assessment and Reporting on Students’ Learning at Junior Cycle, March 2021* has informed the recommended approach outlined.  Overarching principles  The guidelines provide for:   1. A whole school approach to the assessment of Junior Cycle students, 2021. 2. Inclusivity and equity of access by all students. 3. Transparency. 4. Completion of the assessment process by May 28th. An assessment report will issue via VSware the week beginning 14th of June 2021 | | |
| * A final grade/grade descriptor will be awarded for each subject * The final assessment grade will be assigned based on the outcome of the results achieved through the following area(s):  |  | | --- | | **Junior Cycle School Report 2021** | | **2nd and 3rd year assessable elements** | | *Any one or combination of the evidence as listed below will be used, depending on the subject.*   * Classroom-Based Assessments completed in second year and third year * School based assessments completed in 2nd and 3rd year i.e. term tests * Classwork and participation (including on line) –evidenced from a range of class assignments, class tests and teacher observation of class activities from the second half of first year through to third year. * Practical work/ Performance completed over the course of the second year and third year | | ***Total Weighting:* 100%** |  * Where students are engaged in a **Junior Cycle** Subject a Grade Descriptor will be awarded. * Where students are engaged in **Junior Cert** a traditional grade will be awarded. | | |
|  | | |
| **Principal:** | **Date:** | |
| **Chair (BOM):** | **Date:** | |

**Appendix 3Appendix 4**



**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.

**Grange PPS values your support to date and requests your assistance in maintaining the integrity of the May 2021 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’**