

Key Messages

- Third-year Junior Cycle students.
- Each school should adopt a whole-school approach to assessment and reporting of student achievement.
- Assessment of student's learning achievements will take place at school level.
- No SEC exams.
- Schools have the autonomy to use the most appropriate method of assessment for the third-year group and relevant subjects (based on teacher's professional judgement).
- Greater weighting should be given to work completed before 12th March.
- All assessments should be completed and marked before 29th May 2020. **
- No Junior Cycle Profile of Achievement (JCPA) instead:

- School Report

This should be provided to students and their parents/guardians as soon as is feasible following the completion of the school year 2019/2020.

- State Certificate



An Roinn Oideachais
agus Scileanna
Department of
Education and Skills

<https://www.education.ie/en/Schools-Colleges/Information/Curriculum-and-Syllabus/Junior-Cycle-/assessment-and-reporting-on-students-learning-at-junior-cycle-may-2020.pdf>

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND SKILLS

ASSESSMENT AND REPORTING ON STUDENTS' LEARNING AT JUNIOR CYCLE MAY 2020

GUIDELINES FOR SCHOOLS

Context

- Students in Irish schools completing their third year of Junior Cycle in 2020 have experienced a very disrupted period of learning in 2019/20 because of the unprecedented nature of the Covid-19 crisis.
- Teachers and schools have used a wide range of approaches to mitigate the effects of this disrupted schooling but the learning experience of students has varied across schools and students for a range of reasons over which these schools and students have had no control.
- In these circumstances, it is not possible for students to undertake the Junior Cycle final examinations normally organised by the State Examinations Commission.
- In addition, while many students have completed most of their classroom-based assessments (CBAs), short courses and/or priority learning units (PLUs), the normal range of assessment activities cannot be concluded consistently for all students.
- In this context, the use of the Junior Cycle Profile of Achievement (JCPA) is not appropriate as a reporting and certification mechanism in 2020.
- These guidelines set out alternative arrangements for the assessment and reporting on the learning achievements of students who are concluding Junior Cycle in May 2020.

** Clarification on these issues and other questions from a Special School context will be provided in a webinar on 13th May at 6.45pm – 7.45pm.

[A Conversation with Special Schools on Junior Cycle Assessment and Reporting Guidelines 2020](#)

The data for the State Certificate will be drawn from the Department's Post-primary Online Database (PPOD). We do not use PPOD. Will our students receive a State Certificate?

Yes, all students will receive a State Certificate and the DES will gather data from special schools. Details to follow.

Will examination materials be sent out to schools?

No. There are no SEC exams for Junior Cycle this year.

Does the May deadline apply to us given that we teach until the end of June?

Clarification has been sought from the DES.

Can I use the school report to focus on what the students have achieved over the three years of JC?

Yes. The school can design their own report template and add as much detail as they would like.

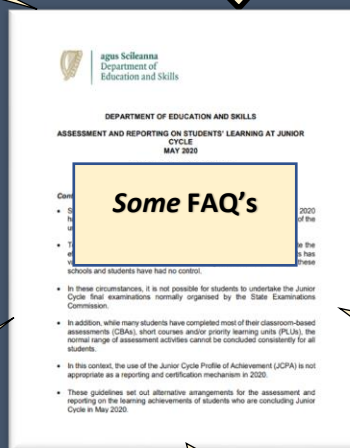
What might my approach to assessment be?

Each school should adopt a whole-school approach to the assessment and reporting on student achievement following consultation with the teachers of third-year students to determine the most appropriate method of assessment for the third-year group and relevant subjects. Lots of factors to consider. Please see webinar link below...

Can evidence of learning be collected by parents/guardians at home and sent to the student's teachers?

Yes, parents may do this, if possible. Take into account that some parents may not be able to do so in the current circumstances.

Remember, greater weighting should be given to work completed before 12th March.



What should our next steps be?

1. Read the document, identify steps for yourself.
2. Watch the first Leadership webinar here: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=b6YITScfM&feature=emb_logo
3. Register for the next Leadership webinar here: <http://www.jct.ie/home/webinars.php>
4. Contact info@jct.ie with any other specific questions

Do students have to complete the majority of Learning Outcomes for each Priority Learning Unit now?

Prior to the pandemic there was a necessity for students to demonstrate that they have achieved the majority of learning outcomes in each element, of each priority learning unit. This does not necessarily apply anymore, due to the changed circumstance. Schools have the autonomy to decide on next steps for assessing and reporting on the L2LPS

