Guidance on the calculation of the Capped 9 Points Score (interim)

Introduction

The Capped Points Score is a performance measure calculating the average of the score for each individual learner in the cohort, capped at a specified volume of GCSEs or equivalent qualifications.

In 2019, the Capped 9 Points Score (interim) for learners in year 11 includes all qualifications up to and including Level 3 that are approved or designated for pre-16 use in Wales by the regulatory body in Wales, Qualifications Wales. It is made up of nine slots each worth a GCSE in volume. There are three subject-specific slots for each learner's best results in: English or Welsh language or literature GCSE, mathematics or mathematics – numeracy GCSE, and Science GCSE. The six remaining slots capture each learner's best remaining qualifications to make a total of nine GCSEs or equivalent volume of qualifications. Learners who do not achieve a pass in the specified subjects receive a score of zero for slot in the measure.

Composition of the Capped 9 Points Score (interim)

<table>
<tr><th>No*</th><th>Slot</th><th colspan="2">Requirement</th></tr>
<tr><td>1</td><td>Literacy slot</td><td rowspan="3">Subject specific requirements** (GCSEs only)</td><td><u>Best result of first awarding</u> of: Welsh first language or English language or Welsh literature or English literature</td></tr>
<tr><td>2</td><td>Numeracy slot</td><td><u>Best result of first awarding</u> of: Mathematics – numeracy or Mathematics</td></tr>
<tr><td>3</td><td>Science slot</td><td><u>Best result of first awarding</u> of (currently limited to awards in the WJEC suite of science GCSE qualifications available to learners): biology, chemistry, physics, science (double award) applied science (double award) and applied science (single award)</td></tr>
<tr><td>4
5
6
7
8
9</td><td>'Other six' (GCSEs or equivalent volume of qualifications)</td><td>Best six remaining qualification awards***</td><td>All qualifications approved/designated for pre-16 delivery in Wales can count, subject to usual discounting rules and excluding Essential Skills Wales qualifications.

The Welsh Baccalaureate Skills Challenge Certificate qualification can count towards one of these slots where it features in a learner's best remaining awards.</td></tr>
</table>

**Each slot is one GCSE in size.*
***Where multiple awards can count, the best grade achieved by a learner is taken. Only the result for the first complete awarding of that qualification is considered when identifying the best grade. Examples are provided at Annex A.*
**** There is no cap on total volume of non-GCSEs contributing to the 'Other six' slots.*

Overview of process

Before calculating the average point score for a cohort, the Capped 9 (interim) Points Score needs to be calculated for each learner within the relevant cohort.

To demonstrate the process, we have used an example learner with the qualifications and grades shown in Table 1 (NB **all** awards for the learner are listed). The values used for

performance measures (GCSE equivalence and points) for all qualifications are taken directly from QiW.

Table 1: An example learner's results

Qualification	Grade	Points	Volume	Standardised points	Cumulative volume	Total points
GCSE Maths (June 2018 Entry)	A*	58				
GCSE English (June 2018 Entry)	C	40				
GCSE English (June 2019 Entry)	A	52				
GCSE Science (Double Award)	AB	98				
GCSE Maths - Numeracy	C	40				
GCSE Computer Science	A*	58				
GCSE Design and Technology (Short Course)	A	26				
GCSE Applied Business (Double Award)	F and F	44				
Foundation/National Skills Challenge Certificate	A	52				
BTEC Level 2 Diploma in Performing Arts	Distinction	104				
Entry Level Certificate in Latin	1	10				
Foundation/National Welsh Baccalaureate	National Pass	0				
AS Level Further Mathematics	D	90				
Total capped points						0

Stage one – Identifying early entries and excluding resits

From 2018/19, if a learner in year 11 has been entered for an examination early and has resat that exam at a later date, the result of the first entry is the one used for performance measures regardless of the outcome. As this learner has been entered early for GCSE English Language and attained a C grade, and then attained an A grade in a subsequent resit, the C grade is used. The resit is set to 0 points and is removed from consideration for all further stages. s. This differs to previous years where the best grade would be used.

Table 2: Identifying early entries and excluding resits

Qualification	Grade	Points	Volume	Standardised points	Cumulative volume	Total points
GCSE Maths (June 2018 Entry)	A*	58				
GCSE English (June 2018 Entry)	C	40				
GCSE English (June 2019 Entry)	A	0				
GCSE Science (Double Award)	AB	98				
GCSE Maths - Numeracy	C	40				
GCSE Computer Science	A*	58				
GCSE Design and Technology (Short Course)	A	26				
GCSE Applied Business (Double Award)	F and F	44				
Foundation/National Skills Challenge Certificate	A	52				
BTEC Level 2 Diploma in Performing Arts	Distinction	104				
Entry Level Certificate in Latin	1	10				
Foundation/National Welsh Baccalaureate	National Pass	0				
AS Level Further Mathematics	D	90				
Total capped points						0

Stage two – Identifying qualifications that count in the subject-specific slots

The Capped 9 Points Score (interim) has three subject-specific slots which will be filled by each learner's best results (first entries only) from the specified group of qualifications:

- **Literacy slot** – Best of GCSE English language or GCSE English Literature or GCSE Welsh language or GCSE Welsh Literature
- **Numeracy slot** – Best of GCSE Mathematics or GCSE Mathematics – numeracy
- **Science slot** – Best of GCSE Science subject (currently limited to awards in the WJEC suite of science GCSE qualifications available to learners): biology, chemistry, physics, science (double award) applied science (double award) and applied science (single award).

The qualifications that can count in these subject-specific slots can also be found on QiW.

Using our example, the learner's best results (first entries only) for each of the subject-specific slots are highlighted in Table 3:

Table 3: Identifying the 'best of' qualifications that count in the subject-specific slots

Qualification	Grade	Points	Volume	Standardised points	Cumulative volume	Total points
GCSE Maths (June 2018 Entry)	A*	58				
GCSE English (June 2018 Entry)	C	40				
GCSE Science (Double Award)	AB	98				
GCSE Maths - Numeracy	C	40				
GCSE Computer Science	A*	58				
GCSE Design and Technology (Short Course)	A	26				
GCSE Applied Business (Double Award)	F and F	44				
Foundation/National Skills Challenge Certificate	A	52				
BTEC Level 2 Diploma in Performing Arts	Distinction	104				
Entry Level Certificate in Latin	1	10				
Foundation/National Welsh Baccalaureate	National Pass	0				
AS Level Further Mathematics	D	90				
GCSE English (June 2019 Entry)	A	0				
Total capped points						0

Literacy and Numeracy Slots

The literacy slot is filled by GCSE English – June 2018 entry (C grade) and the numeracy slot is filled by GCSE Maths (A* grade). Note that while a mathematics – numeracy qualification could count towards the numeracy slot, it is not the learner's best numeracy grade in this case - it will therefore be considered when identifying the learner's best 'other six' results (stage three below).

Science Slot

For most GCSE science subjects, the best grade is counted. However, if the qualification is a double award, then the qualification is split into two separate qualifications, each with a separate grade. In our example, the learner attained the following result in double science:

Qualification	Grade	Points
GCSE Science (Double Award)	AB	98

Therefore, the qualification is split into two separate qualifications, each with a separate grade:

Qualification	Grade	Points
GCSE Science (Double Award)	A	52
GCSE Science (Double Award)	B	46

As the learner's best GCSE science result, the science slot is filled by the A grade (shaded) and the remaining B grade will be considered when identifying the learner's best 'other six' results (stage three below). Note that in Table 1 the double Science qualification has been shaded in a gradient as only one of the two grades will count towards the science slot.

Stage three – identifying the qualifications that count in the 'other' slots

The learner's best six other qualifications are calculated as follows.

Step 1 – Calculating the volume of a qualification

Qualifications are compared to the size of a GCSE to determine a volume indicator (i.e. how many GCSEs a qualification is worth). For example, a vocational double award GCSE is twice the size of a GCSE so would have a volume indicator of 2, a short course GCSE would be 0.5.

These values are determined using the 'size contribution' field in the 'Points Score Values' table in QiW (as shown below).

Points Score Values

Grading Scale	Key Stage 4 Measures						Post-16 Measures
	Size contribution	Capped Points Score	Capped Points Score - Literacy	Capped Points Score - Maths Numeracy	Capped Points Score - Maths	Capped Points Score - Science	Points Score
A*	1	58	No	No	Yes	0 of 2	58

In our example, we take only the qualifications in the non-shaded cells as shown in Table 4 (i.e. we have excluded the qualifications contributing to the three subject-specific slots) and now work out the volume of each.

Table 4: Adding volume indicators

Qualification	Grade	Points	Volume	Standardised points	Cumulative volume	Total points
GCSE Science (Double Award)	B	46	1			
GCSE Maths - Numeracy	C	40	1			
GCSE Computer Science	A*	58	1			
GCSE Design and Technology (Short Course)	A	26	0.5			
GCSE Applied Business (Double Award)	F and F	44	2			
Foundation/National Skills Challenge Certificate	A	52	1			
BTEC Level 2 Diploma in Performing Arts	Distinction	104	2			
Entry Level Certificate in Latin	1	10	1**			
Foundation/National Welsh Baccalaureate	National Pass	0	1			
AS Level Further Mathematics	D	90	2			
GCSE English (June 2019 Entry)	A	0	1			
Total capped points						0

*The GCSE Science (double award) has been split in half as detailed in stage two, leaving only the lower grade (B grade) for consideration in this step. As the qualification has been split in half, it now has a volume of one, not two.

Step 2 – Calculating standardised points for qualifications (and discounting)

Standardised points are the points for a qualification calculated proportionally to a volume equivalent to one GCSE. We calculate standardised points in order to be able to determine which qualifications are the 'best'. The standardised points take into account the actual volume of the qualification (as derived at Step 1) and the number of points attached to the grade achieved for the qualification (taken from QiW).

Standardised points are calculated using the following formula:

Standardised points = (total points for the qualification) / (volume indicator)

If the learner did not pass a particular qualification (e.g. grade U or X for GCSE, F for BTEC) then the standardised points for the qualification are set to zero.

In our example, standardised points are calculated as shown in Table 5:

Table 5: Calculating standardised points

Qualification	Grade	Points	Volume	Standardised points	Cumulative volume	Total points
GCSE Science (Double Award)	B	46	1	46		
GCSE Maths - Numeracy	C	40	1	40		
GCSE Computer Science	A*	58	1	58		
GCSE Design and Technology (Short Course)	A	26	0.5	52		
GCSE Applied Business (Double Award)	F and F	44	2	22		
Foundation/National Skills Challenge Certificate	A	52	1	52		
BTEC Level 2 Diploma in Performing Arts	Distinction	104	2	52		
Entry Level Certificate in Latin	1	10	1**	10		
Foundation/National Welsh Baccalaureate	National Pass	0	1	0		
AS Level Further Mathematics	D	90	2	45		
GCSE English (June 2019 Entry)	A	0	1	0		
Total capped points						0

Note on discounting: If two qualifications share the same discounting code, then the qualification with the highest standardised points is used and the other is eliminated from all calculations from this point. Discounting codes, alongside a list of qualifications that share that discounting code, can be found in the information held on the QiW website for each individual qualification.

Step 3 – Calculating cumulative volume

Once we've calculated standardised points for all qualifications we:

1. Sort the qualifications in descending order by standardised points
2. Work out the cumulative total volume for each qualification by summing the volume column as we descend the rows.

In our example, cumulative volume is calculated as shown in Table 6:

Table 6: Calculating cumulative volume

Qualification	Grade	Points	Volume	Standardised points	Cumulative volume	Total points
GCSE Computer Science	A*	58	1	58	1	
GCSE Design and Technology (Short Course)	A	26	0.5	52	1.5	
Foundation/National Skills Challenge Certificate	A	52	1	52	2.5	
BTEC Level 2 Diploma in Performing Arts	Distinction	104	2	52	4.5	
GCSE Science (Double Award)	B	46	1	46	5.5	
AS Level Further Mathematics	D	90	2	45	7.5	
GCSE Maths - Numeracy	C	40	1	40	8.5	
GCSE Applied Business (Double Award)	F and F	44	2	22	10.5	
Entry Level Certificate in Latin	1	10	1	10	11.5	
Foundation/National Welsh Baccalaureate	National Pass	0	1	0	12.5	
GCSE English (June 2019 Entry)	A	0	1	0	13.5	
Total capped points						0

Step 4 – Identifying which are the best 'other six' qualifications and their points scores

1. We use the cumulative volume column and consider all qualifications until the cumulative volume is >=6. These are shaded in grey in Table 6 below.
2. Where the final qualification added takes the cumulative volume over six and only a proportion of that qualification's volume is required, we need to adjust the relevant qualification. In our example, AS Level Further Mathematics would take the cumulative volume to 7.5 (whereas only 0.5 is required to reach the required cumulative volume of six). We therefore need to adjust the points for that qualification by taking the required proportion of its points using the following formula:

((6	-	(previous cumulative volume))	/	(volume))	*	(points)	=	**Adjusted points**
((6	-	(5.5))	/	2)	*	90	=	**22.5**

Table 7: Summing the points score

Qualification	Grade	Points	Volume	Standardised points	Cumulative volume	Total points
GCSE Computer Science	A*	58	1	58	1	58
GCSE Design and Technology (Short Course)	A	26	0.5	52	1.5	26
Foundation/National Skills Challenge Certificate	A	52	1	52	2.5	52
BTEC Level 2 Diploma in Performing Arts	Distinction	104	2	52	4.5	104
GCSE Science (Double Award)	B	46	1	46	5.5	46
AS Level Further Mathematics	D	90	2	45	7.5	(0.5/2)*90 = 22.5
GCSE Maths - Numeracy	C	40	1	40	8.5	0
GCSE Applied Business (Double Award)	F and F	44	2	22	10.5	0
Entry Level Certificate in Latin	1	10	1	10	11.5	0
Foundation/National Welsh Baccalaureate	National Pass	0	1	0	12.5	0
GCSE English (June 2019 Entry)	A	0	1	0	13.5	0
Total capped points						308.5

So the total points for the best 'other six' (non-subject-specific) qualifications is 58+26+52+104+46+22.5 = **308.5.**

Step 5 – Calculating the total Capped 9 Points Score (interim)

Finally, we need to calculate the total points for the Capped 9 by adding the points for the three subject-specific slots to the points for the 'other six' slots.

Table 8 shows the summed total points for the qualifications filling all slots of the Capped 9 Points Score:

1. The total points for the qualifications filling the 'other six' slots (as established in Step 4) are taken from QiW for each relevant qualification and corresponding grade achieved.
2. We then add the points for the three subject-specific qualifications (total 150 points) to those from the best 'other six' qualifications (total 308.5 points).
3. The learner in our example has therefore achieved a Capped 9 Points Score of 150 + 308.5 = **458.5 points**.

Table 8: Summing the points score for specified and non-specified slots

Qualification	Grade	Points	Volume	Standardised points	Cumulative volume	Total points
GCSE Maths (June 2018 Entry)	A*	58				58
GCSE English (June 2018 Entry)	C	40				40
GCSE Science (Double Award)	A	52				52
GCSE Computer Science	A*	58	1	58	1	58
GCSE Design and Technology (Short Course)	A	26	0.5	52	1.5	26
Foundation/National Skills Challenge Certificate	A	52	1	52	2.5	52
BTEC Level 2 Diploma in Performing Arts	Distinction	104	2	52	4.5	104
GCSE Science (Double Award)	B	46	1	46	5.5	46
AS Level Further Mathematics	D	90	2	45	7.5	(0.5/2)*90 = 22.5
GCSE Maths - Numeracy	C	40	1	40	8.5	0
GCSE Applied Business (Double Award)	F and F	44	2	22	10.5	0
Entry Level Certificate in Latin	1	10	1	10	11.5	0
Foundation/National Welsh Baccalaureate	National Pass	0	1	0	12.5	0
GCSE English (June 2019 Entry)	A	0	1	0	13.5	0
Total capped points						458.5

Welsh Government

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