

Welsh Baccaulaureate

Exam Board: WJEC

The Advanced Welsh Baccaulaureate is a compulsory Level 3 qualification studied at Radyr Comprehensive School. The Skills Challenge Certificate is considered as an equivalent to A Level/BTEC Level 3 courses. The majority of our students use this qualification to make up one of the qualifications in their university offers if they choose to progress to higher education after sixth form. The course is comprised of three 'Challenges' and an Individual Project.

Minimum Entry Requirements

Studying the Advanced Welsh Baccaulaureate is compulsory at Radyr Comprehensive School but in line with the sixth form entry requirements:

- A minimum of 6 A* to C grades at GCSE (or equivalent)
- To achieve the full Advanced Welsh Baccaulaureate qualification, students must also have a minimum of a C at GCSE in English Language and Mathematics/Numeracy and pass two of their Level 3 qualifications at a minimum of an E grade/Pass by the time they finish Year 13.

If you have any queries, please contact Miss B Willis (Welsh Bac. Co-ordinator).

The Course

Across the two year programme, students will be assessed on the following components:

Community Challenge (15%)

The purpose of the Community Challenge is to develop learners' skills, whilst encouraging learners to identify, develop and participate in opportunities that will benefit a community. During the Community Challenge learners will explicitly develop skills of Planning and Organisation and Personal Effectiveness and apply them in an appropriate manner. Students will need to plan and implement a continuous, 30 hour community project and record, evidence and reflect upon their experience and its outcomes.

Global Citizenship Challenge (15%)

The purpose of the Global Citizenship Challenge is to develop learners' skills, whilst providing opportunities to understand and respond appropriately to global issues. During the Global Citizenship Challenge learners will explicitly develop skills of Literacy, Critical Thinking and Problem Solving and Creativity and Innovation and apply them in an appropriate manner. Students will need to form their own personal standpoint on a current global issue and evaluate the credibility of sources in order to support their argument. They will also need to propose solutions to overcome the challenges faced by the global issue in question before reflecting on the skills they develop throughout the challenge.

Enterprise and Employability Challenge (15%)

The purpose of the Enterprise and Employability Challenge is to develop learners' skills, whilst providing opportunities for learners to develop enterprising skills and attributes and enhance employability. During the Enterprise and Employability Challenge learners will explicitly develop skills in Numeracy, Digital Literacy, Creativity and Innovation and Personal Effectiveness and apply them in an appropriate manner. As part of the challenge, students will have the opportunity to innovate a bespoke idea to overcome a real-life problem within an industry of their choice. Students will also gain the opportunity to plan their future by exploring different career pathways and consider personal finance planning required for independent living once they leave sixth form.

Individual Project (50%)

The purpose of the Individual Project is to develop learners' skills, through carrying out a research activity with an emphasis on future educational or career aspirations. During the Individual Project learners will explicitly develop skills in Literacy, Numeracy, Digital Literacy, Planning and Organisation, Critical Thinking and Problem Solving and apply them in an appropriate manner. Students have the opportunity to formulate their own, dissertation style focus and project between 3000-5000 words. Many of our students discuss their Individual Project in their personal statements and have been asked to discuss their findings at interviews. We usually introduce the Individual Project to students at the end of Year 12 and continue to improve their research and analysis into Year 13.

Assessment

The course will be assessed through a continuous programme of written and verbal controlled assessments. Some of the components, such as the Individual Project, have relatively low controls and so are written and assessed more similarly to coursework. Each challenge and the Individual Project are given raw marks and will be awarded a Pass (P), Merit (M) or Distinction (D). Once the whole qualification is completed, the examining board decides on grade boundaries and if students pass, they will be awarded a grade between A*-E.

Career Opportunities

The course's explicit assessment of seven of the key employability skills - Planning and Organisation, Literacy, Numeracy, Digital Literacy, Critical Thinking and Problem Solving, Personal Effectiveness and Creativity and Innovation – means that the qualification can be related to all career options students may want to pursue in the future.