



GCE PE activity list

This list is based upon the suitability of activities as a means of assessing students' skills as part of a physical education AS or A level qualification. The Department for Education and awarding organisations developed a set of five key considerations which were applied to each activity in order to ensure parity and rigour. These considerations take into account Ofqual's principles for non-exam assessment (outlined on page 3 [here](#)).

In 2018-2019 the Department conducted a review of the activity list. This review resulted in the addition of some activities. Therefore there are two separate lists: the current list that applies to qualifications awarded until 2021 for A level or 2020 for AS level and the new list that applies to qualifications awarded from 2022 for A level or 2021 for AS level.

The list of activities below is a full and complete list of all available activities. The inclusion or non-inclusion of an activity in the proposed list does not represent a view on the intrinsic legitimacy or value of the activity, but only its suitability for assessing students' skills at AS and A level as set out above. Students must be assessed in one activity in the role of player/performer or coach.

List of activities applying to qualifications awarded until 2021 for A level or 2020 for AS level

| Activity | Comments |
|----------------------|----------------------------|
| Amateur boxing | |
| Association football | Cannot be five-a-side |
| Athletics | |
| Badminton | |
| Basketball | |
| Camogie | |
| Canoeing | |
| Cricket | |
| Cycling | Track or road cycling only |
| Dance | |
| Diving | Platform diving |

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| Equestrian | |
| Golf | |
| Gaelic football | |
| Gymnastics | Floor routines and apparatus only |
| Handball | |
| Hockey | |
| Hurling | |
| Kayaking | |
| Lacrosse | |
| Netball | |
| Rock climbing | Can be indoor or outdoor |
| Rowing | |
| Rugby league | Cannot be tag rugby |
| Rugby union | Can be assessed as seven or fifteen a side. Cannot be tag rugby |
| Sculling | |
| Skiing | Outdoor/indoor on snow. Must not be dry slopes |
| Snowboarding | Outdoor/indoor on snow. Must not be dry slopes |
| Squash | |
| Swimming | Not synchronised swimming |
| Table Tennis | |
| Tennis | |
| Trampolining | |
| Volleyball | |
| Specialist activity | |
| Blind cricket | |
| Boccia | |
| Goal ball | |
| Powerchair football | |

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| Polybat | |
| Table cricket | |
| Wheelchair basketball | |
| Wheelchair rugby | |

List of activities applying to qualifications awarded from 2022 for A level or 2021 for AS level

| Activity | Comments |
|----------------------|--|
| Acrobatic gymnastics | |
| Amateur boxing | |
| Association football | Cannot be five-a-side |
| Athletics | Long distance running must not exceed 10,000 metres |
| Badminton | |
| Basketball | |
| Camogie | |
| Canoeing | |
| Cricket | |
| Cycling | Track, road or BMX cycling (racing, not tricks) only |
| Dance | |
| Diving | Platform diving |
| Equestrian | |
| Figure skating | |
| Futsal | |
| Golf | |
| Gaelic football | |
| Gymnastics | Floor routines and apparatus only |
| Handball | |
| Hockey | Must be field hockey |
| Hurling | |

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| Ice hockey | |
| Inline roller hockey | |
| Kayaking | |
| Lacrosse | |
| Netball | |
| Rock climbing | Can be indoor or outdoor |
| Rowing | |
| Rugby league | Cannot be tag rugby |
| Rugby union | Can be assessed as seven or fifteen a side. Cannot be tag rugby |
| Sailing | Royal Yachting Association recognised sailing boat classes only. The list can be found online at: https://www.rya.org.uk/racing/youth-junior/info/Pages/recognised-classes.aspx . Students must perform as helmsman |
| Sculling | |
| Skiing | Outdoor/indoor on snow. Must not be dry slopes |
| Snowboarding | Outdoor/indoor on snow. Must not be dry slopes |
| Squash | |
| Swimming | Not synchronised swimming, personal survival or lifesaving |
| Table Tennis | |
| Tennis | |
| Trampolining | |
| Triathlon | Sprint only |
| Volleyball | |
| Water polo | |
| Windsurfing | |
| Specialist activity | |
| Blind cricket | |
| Boccia | |
| Goal ball | |

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| Powerchair football | |
| Polybat | |
| Table cricket | |
| Wheelchair basketball | |
| Wheelchair rugby | |

The five considerations were:

The range and demand of skills and techniques in the activity

This considers whether the activity meets Ofqual's Non Examined Assessment (NEA) rationale and whether the skills needed to perform each included activity have comparable levels of difficulty. This aims to ensure that activities are comparably rigorous and there is parity of assessment across practical activities.

During the review of 2018-19, we considered whether activities put forward for inclusion were comparable with activities on the existing list. The skills needed to perform the activity needed to have comparable levels of difficulty to other activities already on the list.

The application of tactics/strategies/composition in the activity

This considers whether the activity enables students to understand and implement tactics, strategies, and/or composition. An example of tactics and strategy might be a team counter-attacking in football where the student has to show discipline in how they play in order for the team to be successful in this area. An example of composition would be the linking up of movement and gymnastic skills when performing a routine in gymnastics.

The ability to develop skills over a significant period of time

This considers whether successful performance in the activity requires the development of skills over time. For example, if proficiency can be gained in a short time span (e.g. by attending a two-day residential or workshop experience, despite having no prior exposure to that activity) then these types of activities are not considered comparable to others on the list.

Suitable conditions in which to perform

All activities must have a competitive or formal condition in which students can be assessed. Students cannot be assessed in a recreational form of the activity. An example of a competitive condition in this context would be an 11-a-side football game, whereas a formal condition could refer to a gymnastic event.

The level of performance can be realistically assessed by PE practitioners (teachers/ moderators)

This considers whether activities can be accurately and robustly assessed by practitioners. Some activities are so specialist or niche that specific expertise in that activity is required for valid and reliable assessment; these type of activities are not included the list.

It must be possible for activities to be either moderated live or for filmed evidence of a suitable quality to be produced to ensure reliable internal assessment and external moderation. Activities which cannot be filmed live in appropriate detail and accuracy are not included in the list.

In addition to the considerations above, all activities on the list must be sports recognised by Sport England.

Disability activities

Accessibility and inclusion for students has been addressed in a number of ways.

A number of specialist activities are included in the activity list.

Any of the listed activities may be adapted or adjusted to meet the needs of students who share protected characteristics, so long as any adaptation or adjustment does not compromise the rigour and validity of the assessment. Often it is the context of the performance which changes, such as the use of adapted equipment or rules and regulations. In some cases, a particular move or technique required in an activity can be substituted for a suitable alternative, as appropriate.

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