



GCSE 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 GCSE 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 full GCSE or 2020 for short course GCSE and the new list that applies to qualifications awarded from 2022 for full GCSE or 2021 for short course GCSE.

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 legitimacy or value of the activity, but only its suitability for assessing students' skills at GCSE as set out above.

Students must be assessed in three different activities in the role of player/performer: one of these must be a team activity and one must be an individual activity. The third activity may come from either list. Candidates may only be assessed once in any activity, e.g. they may not be assessed in doubles tennis and also singles tennis.

List of activities applying to qualifications awarded until 2021 for full GCSE or 2020 for short course GCSE

Team Activity	Comments
Association football	Cannot be five-a-side or futsal
Badminton	Cannot be assessed with singles
Basketball	
Camogie	Cannot be assessed with hurling
Cricket	
Dance	This can only be used for one activity
Gaelic football	

Handball	
Hockey	Must be field hockey, not roller hockey
Hurling	Cannot be assessed with camogie
Lacrosse	
Netball	
Rowing	Cannot be assessed with sculling, canoeing or kayaking
Rugby league	Cannot be assessed with rugby union (sevens or fifteen a side). Cannot be tag rugby
Rugby union	Can be assessed as sevens or fifteen a side. Cannot be assessed with rugby league. Cannot be tag rugby. This can only be used for one activity
Squash	Cannot be assessed with singles
Table tennis	Cannot be assessed with singles
Tennis	Cannot be assessed with singles
Volleyball	
Specialist activity	
Blind cricket	
Goal ball	
Powerchair football	
Table cricket	
Wheelchair basketball	
Wheelchair rugby	

Individual Activity	Comments
Amateur boxing	
Athletics	
Badminton	Cannot be assessed with doubles
Canoeing	Cannot be assessed with kayaking, rowing or sculling

Cycling	Track or road cycling only
Dance	This can only be used for one activity
Diving	Platform diving
Equestrian	
Golf	
Gymnastics	Floor routines and apparatus only
Kayaking	Cannot be assessed with canoeing, rowing or sculling
Rock climbing	Can be indoor or outdoor
Rowing	Cannot be assessed with sculling, canoeing or kayaking. This can only be used for one activity
Sculling	Cannot be assessed with rowing, canoeing or kayaking
Skiing	Outdoor/indoor on snow; cannot be assessed with snowboarding. Must not be dry slopes
Snowboarding	
Squash	Cannot be assessed with doubles
Swimming	Not synchronised swimming
Table Tennis	Cannot be assessed with doubles
Tennis	Cannot be assessed with doubles
Trampolining	
Specialist activity	
Boccia	
Polybat	

List of activities applying to qualifications awarded from 2022 for full GCSE or 2021 for short course GCSE

Team Activity	Comments
Acrobatic gymnastics	Cannot be assessed with gymnastics
Association football	Cannot be five-a-side. Cannot be assessed with futsal

Badminton	Cannot be assessed with singles
Basketball	Cannot be street basketball
Camogie	Cannot be assessed with hurling
Cricket	
Dance	This can only be used for one activity
Figure skating	This can only be used for one activity. Cannot be assessed with dance
Futsal	Cannot be assessed with football
Gaelic football	
Handball	
Hockey	Must be field hockey
Hurling	Cannot be assessed with camogie
Ice hockey	Cannot be assessed with inline roller hockey
Inline roller hockey	Cannot be assessed with ice hockey
Lacrosse	
Netball	
Rowing	Cannot be assessed with sculling, canoeing or kayaking
Rugby league	Cannot be assessed with rugby union (sevens or fifteen a side). Cannot be tag rugby
Rugby union	Can be assessed as sevens or fifteen a side. Cannot be assessed with rugby league. Cannot be tag rugby. This can only be used for one activity
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 . This can only be used for one activity. Students must perform as helmsman
Sculling	Cannot be assessed with rowing, canoeing or kayaking. Cannot be assessed with individual sculling
Squash	Cannot be assessed with singles

Table tennis	Cannot be assessed with singles
Tennis	Cannot be assessed with singles
Volleyball	
Water polo	
Specialist activity	
Blind cricket	
Goal ball	
Powerchair football	
Table cricket	
Wheelchair basketball	
Wheelchair rugby	

Individual Activity	Comments
Amateur boxing	
Athletics	Long distance track running must not exceed 5,000 metres. Cross country running must not exceed 6,500 metres.
Badminton	Cannot be assessed with doubles
Canoeing	Cannot be assessed with kayaking, rowing or sculling
Cycling	Track, road or BMX cycling (racing, not tricks) only
Dance	This can only be used for one activity
Diving	Platform diving
Equestrian	
Figure skating	This can only be used for one activity. Cannot be assessed with dance
Golf	
Gymnastics	Floor routines and apparatus only
Kayaking	Cannot be assessed with canoeing, rowing or sculling
Rock climbing	Can be indoor or outdoor

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 . This can only be used for one activity. Students must perform as helmsman
Sculling	Cannot be assessed with rowing, canoeing or kayaking. Cannot be assessed with team sculling
Skiing	Outdoor/indoor on snow; cannot be assessed with snowboarding. Must not be dry slopes
Snowboarding	Outdoor/indoor on snow. Must not be on dry slopes
Squash	Cannot be assessed with doubles
Swimming	Not synchronised swimming, personal survival or lifesaving
Table Tennis	Cannot be assessed with doubles
Tennis	Cannot be assessed with doubles
Trampolining	
Windsurfing	
Specialist activity	
Boccia	
Polybat	

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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