

What is the terminal assessment rule?

- The terminal assessment rule or ‘terminal rule’ means the exam must be taken in the student’s final assessment series for their Cambridge National, which could be in January or June.
- Non-examined assessment (NEA) units can be submitted in the same series as the exam or an earlier series but the exam must be taken in their final series.

Cambridge Nationals exams are taken and NEA units are submitted in a ‘series’ (January or June). The student must take the exam in the last series when they intend to complete the qualification.

If a student takes the exam in a series before the NEA units are submitted, this is considered as a ‘practice’ attempt and will not contribute to their final qualification grade. The student must take the exam again in their final assessment series and that exam result will be used towards the student’s final qualification grade.

How do we let OCR know it is the student’s final assessment series?

You must make a certification entry (sometimes referred to as ‘cashing-in’) in the student’s final assessment series, which is when the terminal rule must be met. Page 6 of this guide contains more information on certification entries and what results are used for school performance tables.

The certification entry acts as a term-time checkpoint and lets OCR know the student needs an overall qualification result in that series to be able to progress.

	Unit 1 Examined	Unit 2 Non-examined assessment (NEA)	Unit 3 Non-examined assessment (NEA)
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Certification entry code	The terminal rule is met when:		
	The unit 1 exam is taken in the student’s final assessment series	NEA unit 2 is submitted before or in the same series as the exam	NEA unit 3 is submitted before or in the same series as the exam
J809: Child Development	R057	R058	R059
J834: Creative iMedia	R093	R094	One of R095-R099
J822: Engineering Design	R038	R039	R040
J823: Engineering Manufacture	R014	R015	R016
J824: Engineering Programmable Systems	R047	R048	R049
J837: Enterprise and Marketing	R067	R068	R069
J835: Health and Social Care	R032	R033	R034 or R035
J836: IT	R050	R060	R070
J828: Sport Science	R180	R181	R182 or R183
J829: Sport Studies	R184	R185	R186 or R187

Examples

The terminal assessment rule or '**terminal rule**' means the exam must be taken in the final series of the student's course (in the last series when they intend to complete the qualification). Non-examined assessment (NEA) units can be submitted in the same series as the exam or in an earlier series.

Key

- = Valid
- = Not valid
- = Result is not used
- = Exam must be taken

Example student A

The student **meets** the terminal rule because the exam is being taken in the final assessment series for this student, June of Year 11, and both NEA units have been submitted in a series before the exam is taken.

	Unit 1 exam	Unit 2 NEA	Unit 3 NEA
January Series (Year 10)			
June Series (Year 10)		NEA	
January Series (Year 11)			NEA
June Series (Year 11) CERTIFICATION ENTRY	Exam		

Example student B

The student **meets** the terminal rule because the exam is being taken in the final assessment series for this student, January of Year 11, and the NEA units have been submitted in a series before the exam is taken or in the same series as the exam.

	Unit 1 exam	Unit 2 NEA	Unit 3 NEA
January Series (Year 10)			
June Series (Year 10)		NEA	
January Series (Year 11) CERTIFICATION ENTRY	Exam		NEA
June Series (Year 11)			

Example student C

The student **does not** meet the terminal rule because the exam is not being taken in the final assessment series for this student, June of Year 11.

In this example, the exam taken in January of Year 11 will be considered a '**practice**' attempt and will not contribute to the final qualification grade.

To meet the terminal rule, the exam will need to be taken again in June of Year 11. The June exam result will be used towards the student's final grade, **even if this is lower than the January result.**

	Unit 1 exam	Unit 2 NEA	Unit 3 NEA
January Series (Year 10)			
June Series (Year 10)		NEA	
January Series (Year 11)	Exam		
June Series (Year 11) CERTIFICATION ENTRY	!		NEA

Post-results certification (late certification)

If you did not make a certification entry when making your unit entries, you can request certification when results are published by making a free late certification request on Interchange. You have until the post-results deadline for the series to do this. The post-results deadline for each series can be found in the [key dates section](#) of our website.

Key


- = Valid
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- = Result is not used
- = Exam must be taken

Example student D

The student in this example **meets** the terminal rule because the exam is being taken in the final assessment series for this student, January of Year 11.

In this example, a certification entry for January is not made in advance. Once January results are published, you can use our **post-results late certification service** on Interchange to request certification. This is a free service.

You have until the post-results deadline for the series to request late certification. The post-results deadline for each series can be found in the [key dates section](#) of our website.

	Unit 1 exam	Unit 2 NEA	Unit 3 NEA	
January Series (Year 10)				
June Series (Year 10)		NEA		
January Series (Year 11) LATE CERTIFICATION	Exam		NEA	
June Series (Year 11)				

[Continue for resit examples >](#)

What if we want students to take the exam in January and have the option to resit in June?

If you have entered students for the exam in January **and** both NEA units are completed by or in the January series, the student will have met the terminal rule. You can wait until the January series results are published for the student to decide if they want to keep that result and request late certification for January or take the exam again and certificate in June.

Key

- = Valid
- = Not valid
- = Result is not used
- = Exam must be taken

Example student E

When January results are published, if the student is not happy with the result, they can resit the exam in the June series.

If you are planning to give students the option to resit in June, do not make certification entries/late certification requests for January until students have made their decision.

In this example, the student met the terminal rule in the January series, and could have certificated, but the student decided to take the exam again in June.

The terminal assessment requirement means the June exam result will now be used towards the student's final grade, **even if this is lower than the January result.**

	Unit 1 exam	Unit 2 NEA	Unit 3 NEA	
January Series (Year 10)				
June Series (Year 10)		NEA		
January Series (Year 11)	Exam		NEA	
June Series (Year 11) CERTIFICATION ENTRY	Exam Resit			✓

Note: There is an extended deadline for resit entries in the June series for units taken in January for that student.

Example student F

If a student takes the exam in a series before both NEA units have been submitted, this **does not** meet the terminal rule and will be considered a 'practice' attempt. The result will not contribute to their final qualification grade.

The student will need to take the exam again in the final series.

In this example, it is the result from June that will contribute to the final qualification grade, **even if this is lower than the January result.**

	Unit 1 exam	Unit 2 NEA	Unit 3 NEA	
January Series (Year 10)				
June Series (Year 10)		NEA		
January Series (Year 11)	Exam			✗
June Series (Year 11) CERTIFICATION ENTRY	Exam Resit		NEA	✓

What if students want to resit non-examined assessment (NEA) units?

Students can resit NEA units but the terminal assessment requirement for the exam still applies and the exam must be taken in the final assessment series. For NEA units, the best result of any multiple attempts is used towards the final grade.

Key

- = Valid
- = Not valid
- = Result is not used
- ! = Exam must be taken



If you are resitting an NEA unit from Year 10 in Year 11, the new task that is valid for submission in Jan/June of Year 11 must be used. Each task will show the series in which they can be submitted on the front cover.*

*Assignments for Sport Studies Unit R185 and Enterprise and Marketing Unit R069 are not replaced each year – we will update the dates on the front cover each year.

Example student G

The student **meets** the terminal rule because the exam is being taken in the final assessment series for this student, June of Year 11.

In this example, the NEA units have both been attempted twice. The **best result** for each NEA unit is used towards the final grade.

	Unit 1 exam	Unit 2 NEA	Unit 3 NEA	
January Series (Year 10)				
June Series (Year 10)		NEA		
January Series (Year 11)			NEA (Best)	
June Series (Year 11) CERTIFICATION ENTRY	Exam	NEA Resit (Best)	NEA Resit	✓

Example student H

The student **does not meet** the terminal rule because the exam is not being taken in the final assessment series for this student, June of Year 11.

In this example, the student met the terminal rule in the January series of Year 11, and could have certificated in this series.

However, by resitting the NEA in the June series, the final assessment series has changed and the exam must be taken again in the June series of Year 11. The exam result from June will contribute to the final qualification grade, **even if this is lower than the January result.**

	Unit 1 exam	Unit 2 NEA	Unit 3 NEA	
January Series (Year 10)				
June Series (Year 10)		NEA		
January Series (Year 11)	Exam		NEA	
June Series (Year 11) CERTIFICATION ENTRY	!	NEA Resit		✗

Can we certificate ('cash-in') more than once?

Yes, however it is the **first overall certification** that is used for school performance tables. When retaking the qualification, the student must meet the terminal rule by taking the exam again. Students cannot retake a non-examined assessment (NEA) unit and certificate again without resitting the exam.

Students can retake a qualification by:

- resitting the exam and retaking both NEA units or
- resitting the exam and retaking one NEA unit or
- resitting the exam only.

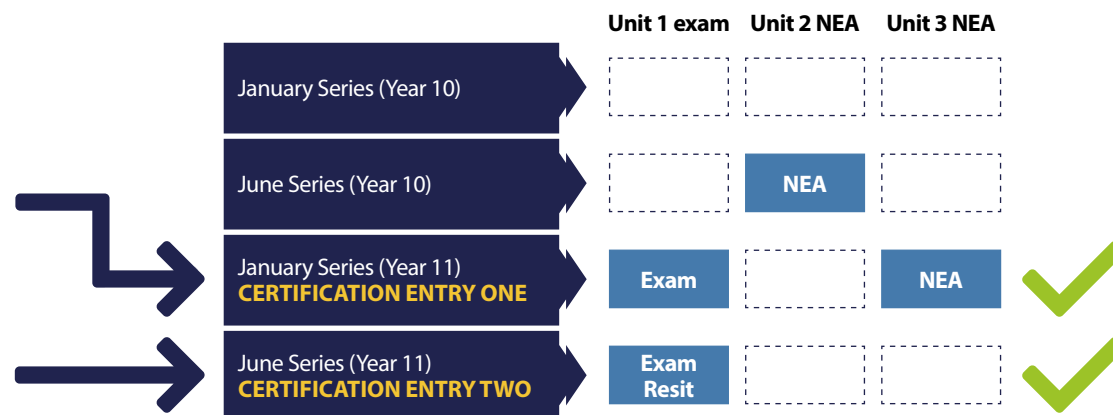
Key

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Example student I: In this example, the terminal rule is met both times the student certifies

This is the first time the student receives a qualification result (certification one). This result will count towards school performance tables.

This qualification result (certification two) will use the new exam result from June of Year 11. This qualification result can be used by the student, but will not count towards school performance tables.



Example student J: In this example, the terminal rule is not met the second time the student certifies

This is the first time the student receives a qualification result (certification one). This qualification result will count towards school performance tables.

This **does not meet** the terminal rule. The terminal rule must be met each time a certification entry is made. The exam must be taken again in the June series of Year 11.

