

## Why Complete Assessments on Lifelong Learning Courses?

### ➤ To keep course costs low for *all* learners

Lifelong Learning courses represent excellent value for money because the department can draw down funding from the Higher Education Funding Council for Wales (HEFCW) for every learner completing assessments, thus making the courses financially viable. This breaks down barriers to learning by minimising upfront cost to learners enabling our courses to be accessed by all in the community. The course costs cover tutor contact time and travel, administrative costs and venue hire (when the university buildings are not used), in addition to making a contribution to covering central university costs.

If SELL was unable to draw down government funding through HEFCW then the standard course fee for a student failing to submit his/her assessment would be in the region of £320 instead of the current standard £110 course fees.

*Please support Lifelong Learning in offering affordable courses for all by completing your assessments.*

### ➤ Enhance your own learning experience

Assessment is an important part of the learning process, as it gives participants the opportunity to consolidate learning and to reflect on the learning process. It is of significant value to all learners to receive feedback from the expert tutor. Research into how we learn suggests that we have a deeper learning experience if we engage in the assessment process. Completion of assessment also demonstrates support to the tutor, who has invested energy and time into planning and delivering courses, so that they feel you have engaged and taken part in the sessions.

Lifelong learning assessments are designed for adult learners and they are introduced early in the course so you students have time to prepare and ask for guidance. A variety of assessment methods are used, each one designed to be appropriate for the subject and to accommodate the needs of part-time learners. If learners are on an intensive course a substantial amount of the assessment will be completed, or at least started, during the course.

Whatever the exact nature of the assessment, the aim is to encourage each student to produce work which he or she can feel proud of and which would also serve as a solid foundation for further research and/or writing.

**In summary, assessments are an essential aspect of all lifelong learning courses as they enhance your learning experience at the same time as supporting the lifelong learning programme and your fellow learners.**