



3 November 2021

Dear Parent/Guardian

Year 11 - Changes to GCSE Qualifications for 2022

The government has conducted a consultation on proposed changes to the content and structure of next summer's GCSE examinations. The outcomes from this consultation were finally published on Thursday 30 September. Their aim is to support students and to make the exams as fair as possible for them. I will summarise each of these decisions in turn:

1. Adjustment to Grading

The use of teacher assessment to determine GCSE and A Level grades in 2020 and 2021 has resulted in higher grades for many students than was the case when public examinations were last taken in 2019. Ofqual have announced that in 2022 they will aim for the final grades to reflect a midway point between 2021 to 2019 (with the intention to return to pre-pandemic levels in 2023). They expect results overall in 2022 to be higher than in 2019 but not as high as in 2020.

2. Changes to GCSE Examinations

Ofqual have decided that there will be changes to assessment in a number of subjects:

a) *Optional Topics and Content*

There will be optional topics and content in GCSE English Literature, history and geography.

| Subject | Exam Board | Changes to exam content and structure |
|--------------------|------------|---|
| English Literature | Pearson | <p>Ofqual has decided that the changes which were in place for the 2021 exams (if they had taken place) will also apply to 2022.</p> <p>All students will be assessed on a play by Shakespeare and on 2 of the 3 remaining areas of content: poetry; 19th Century Novel; or fiction/drama from the British Isles from 1914.</p> <p>In the case of our students, they will study:</p> <p>Macbeth</p> <p>Jekyll and Hyde OR A Christmas Carol</p> <p>An Inspector Calls</p> |

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|-----------|-----|--|
| Geography | AQA | <p>Paper 1 Living with the physical environment</p> <p>No changes</p> <p>Paper 2 – Challenges in the human environment All candidates have to answer questions on the Urban issues and challenges topic in Section A. There will now be a choice of either answering questions on The Changing Economic World topic or The Challenge of Resource Management topic.</p> <p>Our year 11 students have studied both The Challenge of Resource Management and The Changing Economic World topics, so they will be able to decide in the examination which question they prefer to answer.</p> <p>Paper 3 – Geographical Applications The questions on the students’ own fieldwork will be removed from the paper.</p> |
| History | AQA | <p>Students will only answer questions on three out of four studies. There will be a mixture of compulsory and optional studies.</p> <p>The compulsory study will be:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the Wider World Depth study (Paper 1, Section B) – Conflict and tension: the inter-war years, 1918–1939 <p>Students will also answer questions on these two optional studies:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the Period study (Paper 1, Section A) – Russia, 1894–1945: Tsardom and communism • the Thematic study (Paper 2, Section A) – Health and the people: c1000 to the present day <p>Maiden Erlegh students will not be examined on:</p> <p>the British Depth study with the historic environment (Paper 2, Section B) Medieval England - the reign of Edward I, 1272–1307</p> |

b) Changes in Science

Centres will be allowed to deliver practical work in GCSE biology, chemistry, physics and combined science by demonstration. This means the assessment arrangements that the exam boards have in place for these elements in their specifications will not change.

There will be a revised equation sheet for the GCSE Physics exam and the GCSE Combined Science: Trilogy exam in Summer 2022 which will cover all the equations required in the subject content.

c) Changes in Art & Design

Students taking GCSE art & design will be assessed on their portfolio only (no exam unit).

d) Changes to IMEDIA

There is a reduction in the number of assessments taken of moderated units. This will mean that the students will undertake one extra controlled assessment this year (R091).

[Reducing the number of assessments of optional or mandatory moderated units in 2021/22](#)

[Unit level adaptations for all students due to take assessments in 2021/22](#)

e) Changes to Design Technology and Food NEA

In Design Technology there is now no expectation for students to manufacture a working prototype and they can make a scale model or use alternative materials. This section has been reduced by 10 marks. The evaluation section of the NEA has also been reduced by 5 marks.

The NEA is now reduced from 100 marks to 85. The NEA is still worth 50% of the final assessment.

In Food Technology there is now one NEA instead of 2. The NEA is still worth 50%. There are now 2 dishes to be made in the 3 hour practical exam.

f) Changes to Physical Education

GCSE PE will be assessed on two practical sports this summer, rather than three.

g) Changes to MFL

Writing papers will include an additional optional question for the overlap question at both tiers (Question 4/Question 1) and for Higher tier Question 2. This is so students can answer on their preferred theme.

To give students time to read all of the optional questions, an extra five minutes will be added to the scheduled exam time at both tiers for the writing paper.

The regulatory requirement for assessments to use words outside of vocabulary lists has been removed. The exam board may still include a small number of basic vocabulary items (eg primary colours, cognates/near cognates) not listed in the specification which students may need to understand in order to answer the questions.

Students should prepare for spoken language in 2022 to be assessed in the normal way, through formal speaking tests.

h) Publication of Advance Information Relating to Exam Content

The exam boards will provide advance information about the content of the exams for all GCSEs (except GCSE English Literature, history and geography for the summer 2022 exams). This information, which is designed to support revision, will be provided by 7 February 2022 at the latest.

i) Formulae Sheet in Mathematics

Students will be given a formulae sheet for GCSE mathematics in summer 2022. The exam boards will provide copies of the formulae sheet for use in teaching and to ensure that students are familiar with it prior to the exams. Clean copies of the formulae sheet will be provided in the exams.

The full details of the decisions taken by Ofqual can be found in the document below:

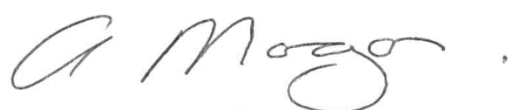
https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1021743/6834_Decisions_for_proposed_changes_to_the_assessment_of_GCSEs_AS_and_A_levels_in_2022.pdf

The consultation document which lists the full details of the changes to the content taught in English Literature, geography and history can be found in the document below:

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1001117/6811_Proposed_changes_to_the_assessment_of_GCSEs_AS_and_A_levels_in_2022_.pdf

If you have any queries please do not hesitate to contact us.

Yours sincerely



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