



Awarding GCSE and A Level Grades 2022

16 November 2021

Dear Year 11 and 13 students and parents/carers

Confirmation of GCSE and A Level Exam Amendments for Summer 2022

As you will be aware, students in Year 11 and Year 13 are currently moving into their first series of mock examinations for this academic year and I thought it would be timely to update you on the exam arrangements for students taking qualifications in summer 2022, which was released by the Department of Education (DfE) and Ofqual last week.

Ofqual and DfE recognise that students' education has been disrupted by the pandemic and as a result, students sitting examinations in the summer of 2022 will be given 'extra help' to prepare for their exams. In order to give students that 'extra help', Ofqual recently confirmed the adjustments that will be made to the assessment of both GCSEs and A Levels in 2022. The full decisions and outcomes of the consultation can be found here: [Decisions on the proposed changes to the assessment of GCSEs, AS and A Levels in 2022](#).

The mock exams your child is sitting over the next few weeks and again in March, will reflect the adjustments that Ofqual and exam boards have made

and I have summarised the main changes to GCSE and A Level subjects for your convenience below:

GCSE English literature, history and geography

There will be optional topics and content in GCSE English literature, history and geography. Teachers have selected which topics will be taught and assessed, along with those that will be omitted and no longer assessed. Students will be informed of these selections regularly in lessons and revision sessions. For English literature and history, examination entries will reflect these changes; students will only sit papers that cover the topics that have been selected for them. For geography, students will be told which topic areas to select questions on in one of the papers. See the subject summary below.

GCSE and A level art and design

Students taking GCSE and A Level art and design subjects will be assessed on their portfolio only. The examination element has been removed.

GCSE English literature (Edexcel)

English Literature students will be examined on

- 'Romeo and Juliet'
- 'An Inspector Calls' and
- 'A Christmas Carol'.

Therefore all students will sit three of the four sections available and 75% of their GCSE.

There have been no adaptations to the content of the English Language specification.

GCSE history (AQA)

At Tewkesbury School, students will be examined on the following areas:

- Wider World Depth study: Conflict and Tension 1918-39 (compulsory unit for all schools)
- Period Study: Russia 1894-1945
- Thematic Study: Health and the People c1000-c2000

Each exam will be 1 hour long and the exams will take place on 3 different days.

GCSE geography (AQA)

- Paper 1- (Living with the physical environment) there are no planned changes to this section.
- Paper 2 - (Human Geography) students have to answer all questions in Section A as normal but they will only complete Section B or Section C for their 2022 exams. The school is currently planning to deliver Section C (The Challenge of Resource Management).
- Paper 3 - students won't be examined on their own fieldwork, and will have to answer generic field work questions in their final examinations.

GCSE mathematics

Students will be given a formulae sheet for GCSE mathematics in summer 2022. Exam boards will provide copies of the formulae sheet and teachers will provide one in lessons and for mock exams to ensure that students are familiar with it prior to the summer examinations. Clean copies of the formulae sheet will be provided in the summer examinations.

GCSE combined science and physics

Students will be given a revised equations sheet for GCSE physics and combined science in summer 2022, covering all the equations required in the subject content. Exam boards will provide copies of the equations sheet and teaching staff will use it in lessons and provide students with an equations sheet for mock exams to ensure that students are familiar with it prior to the examinations. Clean copies of the equations sheet will be provided in the summer examinations.

Most other GCSE and A level subjects

Exam boards will provide advance information about the focus for the content of exams for all GCSE and A Level subjects (except GCSE English literature, history, and geography – because of the optional topics coverage mentioned above) for the summer 2022 exams. This advanced information will be provided by 7 February 2022, at the latest.

This will enable teachers to plan to adapt their teaching shortly after the

release, ready for the second half of the spring term, to help students focus on the key content to be assessed for their revision for their March mock exams and final examinations. It is important to note that subjects will be provided with different formats and depths of advanced information, therefore, each subject will respond differently to the release of this information.

A level Common Practical Assessment Criteria

Schools will be allowed to assess the Common Practical Assessment Criteria (CPAC) across the minimum number of practical activities required to enable students to demonstrate their competence in A Level biology, chemistry and physics.

These adjustments, along with the changes to non - exam assessments (NEA) and fieldwork, are designed to mitigate the impacts of the disruption that students have faced during the pandemic without undermining the value of their qualification.

Contingency arrangements for Summer 2022 Examinations

Dr Jo Saxton, the Chief Regulator for Ofqual published an [open letter to students](#) last week, which you may find useful and has additional links within it around changes for summer exams in 2022, grading and contingency arrangements, should exams not go ahead as normal. To support this process, last week Ofqual released their [guidance for schools, colleges and other exam centres on contingency arrangements for summer 2022 GCSE and A Level exams](#)

These are the suggested arrangements for schools and colleges should exams not be able to run as normal again this summer.

Although the government is firmly committed to exams going ahead as normal in summer 2022, they have outlined that schools need to have contingency plans in place in the unlikely event that exams have to be cancelled again because of the pandemic. Should exams be cancelled again, Tewkesbury School will determine students' exam grades using Centre Assessed Grades (CAG) which have been used by the school for the last two years.

How will Tewkesbury School determine students' CAG?

Where students are studying courses which require Non Examined Assessments (NEA) such as sport, music, catering, textiles as well as art and drama; teachers will support students to complete those assessments in line with the arrangements announced by Ofqual for 2022 and timescales set out by

exam boards. If exams are cancelled, teachers will take each students' NEA into account when determining their CAG.

If the school needs to submit CAG for students this summer, we will do this through students' performance in their November and March mock examinations and also through final internal examinations which will be held in May 2022 under full exam conditions. These timescales fall in line with Ofqual's latest guidance and also follow the process Tewkesbury School used successfully in 2021 very closely. Most weight will be given to students' performance in their summer examinations, as this will be more reflective of what they know, understand and are able to do. Just like in a normal examination year.

Students will be assessed across a wide range of content, similar to that which they will expect in their summer exams, and across the assessment objectives for the qualification and based only on content that students have been taught. Once students have completed their final internal summer examinations, students' examination work will be moderated by subject teachers, subject leaders and myself to ensure the most accurate and robust grades are established prior to submitting them to exam boards. Teachers will mark assessments in line with published exam board mark schemes and guidance where appropriate. All original student work will be retained by the school to ensure we can comply with exam board quality assurance and scrutiny, should any work be sampled.

The same reasonable adjustments will be made for students with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) and the school will keep a record of the adjustments and the reasons for them.

Exam results days in 2022

Please be aware that exam results days in 2022 will move back to their normal dates as shown below:

A Level Results Day: Thursday 18 August 2022

GCSE Results Day: Thursday 25 August 2022

Can I take this opportunity to wish your child every success in their up and coming mock exams and throughout this academic year. Should you have any additional questions then please do not hesitate to contact me via email.

Yours faithfully

Rhys Adams



Tewkesbury School | Aspiration | Challenge | Excellence | Values | Community |



Tewkesbury School | Ashchurch Road | Tewkesbury | Glos | GL20 8DF

01684 292152 | www.tewkesburyschool.org | office@tewkesburyschool.org