

March Assessments – Year 11 Guidance Notes for Students and Parents

Version 2 – updated following results of Ofqual/DfE consultation

These assessments will be known as March Assessments

Which subjects will have an assessment?

- All GCSEs except Art & Photography
- Vocational courses – Drama, Dance and IT only

How long will each assessment last?

- 1 hour - each subject will have just one assessment.

What will be assessed?

- We will assess content from years 10 and 11.

What will the assessment consist of?

- Exam questions

When will we know what to revise?

- We will tell you the content of the assessments **as soon as possible** and no later than Friday 12th March.
- We will tell you in detail which topics to revise.

Supporting your preparation

- Homework until the assessments take place will focus only on revision for the assessments.
- Teachers can set homework, but they will be aware that some of you prefer to take control of your revision yourself.
- Teachers might spend some time in lessons preparing you for these assessments.
- During the assessment window you will go to lessons when you are not sitting an assessment and teachers will expect you to use the time to revise.

What is the timetable for these assessments?

- We have rearranged the timetable so that all students taking a subject will sit their assessment at the same time.
- This means that we will use five days rather than three.

Day	Morning (8:45am)	Mid-morning (11:00am)	Afternoon (1:30pm)
Thursday 25.03.21	Computer Science, Food & Nutrition	Classics, German, Dance, Drama	Spanish
Friday 26.03.21	English Literature	Biology	Latin, Music
Monday 29.03.21	Maths	English Language	Religious Studies, IT
Tuesday 30.03.21	Chemistry	D&T	History
Wednesday 31.03.21	Physics	French	Geography

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- There will be a small number of clashes where some students are timetabled to sit two assessments at the same time.
- We know about these clashes and we will resolve them for you.

Where will these assessments take place?

- In the Sports Hall or Dance Studio, with access arrangements in G182.
- Assessments will run under exam conditions.
- You will receive an Assessment Timetable from the Exams Office showing you the room for each assessment and your seat number.

Access arrangements

- All students entitled to access arrangements will be given these.
- We are using some new software to facilitate these arrangements and Year 11 students will be trained to use this on 16th March.

Will these assessments count towards final grades this summer?

- Yes, but they will be just one of the pieces of evidence we use.

Next steps for assessment

- You will sit more assessments in May.
- We are currently working out the details, but we expect to run an assessment session very similar to the one in March, beginning on 13th May.

What can I do to get a better grade?

- Your final grade is judged on your performance.
- There are two assessment points in March and May and these are your opportunities to show how well you are doing.
- Do not ask your teachers if you can do extra work to prove what grade you can achieve: we have to be fair to all students and give everyone studying a subject the same opportunities.
- The simple way to get the best grade is to keep working hard, revise for your forthcoming assessments and ask for help when you need it.

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Grades

- There are many different names for grades that we use to predict or measure each student's performance.
- This year we will have to submit a Teacher Assessed Grade (TAG) for each subject to the exam board.
- TAGs will be determined by teachers following rigorous quality assurance processes. (We are currently working out the details of these processes.)
- TAGs must be based on a range of evidence of performance.
- We have been issued with draft guidance about what evidence can be used and we are working out what evidence we will consider.
- We have issued other grades this year in reports.

Grade name	Type of grade	Notes
Most likely GCSE grade	Teacher prediction	Teachers judge the grade they think a student would be most likely to achieve at the end of the course, based on the evidence they have seen and taking account of the progress they expect a student to make.
Mock exam result	Current grade	The mock exam taken in November was graded by using exam board grade boundaries
Benchmark	Based on KS2 SATs results	We use national data to give an indication of the grade each student would expect to achieve based on their KS2 SATs.

- Teachers will often also give current grades for tests, essays or other pieces of work.
- TAGs will **not** be based on benchmarks.

Who can I contact to ask questions?

- You should talk to your teachers about how to improve your performance in the March assessments.
- Please contact Mrs Light or Mr Rogan if you have questions about our systems.