

Examinations in 2022

The government intends that all GCSE exams will proceed as normal in 2022. We expect to run a full examination timetable from 16th May to 23rd June. **Students must remain available to sit exams until the contingency day, which is 29th June.**

Changes to exams in 2022

GCSE English Literature, Geography and History

- The exam boards have made reductions to the content of these subjects and the following topics will **not** be assessed:
 - English Literature – poetry anthology
 - Geography – the challenge of resource management
 - History – the Cold War

GCSE Art & Design subjects (Art, Graphics, Photography, Textiles)

- There is no examination and students will be assessed solely on their portfolio.

GCSE – all other subjects

- The exam boards will provide advance information about the focus of the content of exam questions.
- The nature of this information will vary across subjects.
- We will receive this information by 7th February.

GCSE Maths and Physics/Combined Science

- Students will be provided with a formulae sheet in Maths and a revised Physics equation sheet. We will issue copies of these in exams.

Contingency plans

Despite the confidence we have that our Year 11 students will sit exams next summer, we must be aware of the risk of further significant disruption and we have to make contingency plans in case exams cannot take place. The government proposes that schools would use a similar system to that introduced for 2021, which is based on teacher assessed grades (TAGs.)

- If we needed to determine TAGs this year, we would use the following evidence:
 - November mock exams
 - March mock exams
 - May mock exams – we would schedule an additional series of mocks in May to provide more evidence to determine TAGs
- We must emphasise that this is a contingency plan and we expect exams to take place. However, we must be open about our intention to use mock exams as part of the evidence for TAGs if necessary.
- We would give much less weight to the November mocks than to the March and May mocks if we have to determine TAGs.
- If exams are cancelled and we have to use TAGs, we will give you further information as necessary.

Predicted grades, mock grades and TAGs

- The national standard has varied over the last few years. The national proportion of GCSE grades at 7 or higher and at 4 or higher in the last three years has been as shown in this table.

Year	Grade 7 or higher	Grade 4 or higher
2019	21%	67%
2020	26%	76%
2021	29%	77%

- The exams regulator, Ofqual, has determined that in 2022 the standard of grading should be at a midway point between 2019 and 2021. (We would expect nationally about 25% of grades will be 7 or higher and about 72% of grades will be 4 or higher.)
- This turbulent national situation means that it is harder than ever for teachers to judge grades. Grade boundaries that were used in the past are no longer valid without appropriate adjustment.
- We want to keep you informed of your child's progress and we will use grades as a convenient way to summarise this, but the only grades that are truly accurate are those that students will receive next August.
- Mock exam grades – we will use grade boundaries that we judge to be appropriate to assign grades to each student for their mock exams. Teachers in each subject will agree these grade boundaries. The mock exam grade simply indicates how a student has performed in that single exam. The mock exam grade is not a TAG.
- Most likely outcome grades (MLOs) – these are predictions of the grade the teacher thinks each student is most likely to achieve next summer. This prediction is a judgement using all available evidence and taking account of each student's capacity to sustain or improve their performance. The MLO is not a TAG.
- If we have to use TAGs next summer, we will determine each final grade by looking at work from all of the mocks and comparing it against grade descriptors.

Quality assurance processes

- All marking of mock exams will be subject to standardisation and moderation: these are processes we carry out before and after marking respectively to ensure that all teachers are marking work to the same standard.

Retention of evidence

- Teachers will keep mock exam scripts.
- Students will usually be able to look at their scripts in lessons, but they will not be able to take them home.

Summer 2022 Exam timetables

- Final timetables for next summer have now been published. You can find copies of them on the [Exams page](#) of our website.
- We will publish individual student timetables once we have processed entries for exams next summer, which we expect to be in mid-February.