

## Examinations in 2022

The government intends that all A-level exams will proceed as normal in 2022. We expect to run a full examination timetable from 23<sup>rd</sup> May to 24<sup>th</sup> June. **Students must remain available to sit exams until the contingency day, which is 29<sup>th</sup> June.**

### Changes to exams in 2022

#### A-level Art & Design subjects (Art, Photography)

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

#### A-level – 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 7<sup>th</sup> February.

### Contingency plans

Despite the confidence we have that our Year 13 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 has decided that schools would use a similar system to that introduced for 2021, which is based on teacher assessed grades (TAGs.) (Please note that this is different from the centre assessed grade (CAG) system used in 2020.)

- If we needed to determine TAGs this year, we would use the following evidence:
  - January 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 the evidence for TAGs if necessary.
- We would expect to give a little less weight to January mocks than to the 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.

### Applied general courses

Arrangements are broadly the same in applied general courses (Business, Drama, Food Science, Forensics, Health & Social Care, Media, Music, Travel & Tourism)

- Exams will proceed as planned.
- We **do not** expect that students will be given advance information about the focus of the content of exam questions.
- Coursework units will proceed as planned with appropriate adjustments which have been set out by the exam boards and which teachers have implemented as necessary.

## Predicted grades, mock grades and TAGs

- The **national** standard has varied over the last few years. The **national** proportion of A-level grades at A or higher and at C or higher in the last three years has been as shown in this table.

Year	Grade A or higher	Grade C or higher
2019	25%	76%
2020	39%	88%
2021	45%	89%

- 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 35% of grades will be A or higher and about 83% of grades will be C 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 will be 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 both mock exam sessions 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.
- Students will be allowed to make an electronic copy of mock scripts for the purpose of revising.

## 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.

## Mock Examinations January 2022

### Timetable

Day	Morning 8:45am	Afternoon 12:30pm
Wednesday 19 <sup>th</sup> January	Maths English Literature	Biology Classics
Thursday 20 <sup>th</sup> January	Psychology, Physics Politics	D&T, Economics
Friday 21 <sup>st</sup> January	History Chemistry	Geography, Spanish, Computer Science, Further Maths
Monday 24 <sup>th</sup> January	English Language, Philosophy	Sociology, French
Tuesday 25 <sup>th</sup> January	Biology Classics	Maths English Literature
Wednesday 26 <sup>th</sup> January	Economics	Psychology, Physics Politics
Thursday 27 <sup>th</sup> January	Geography, Spanish, Computer Science, Further Maths	History Chemistry
Friday 28 <sup>th</sup> January	Sociology, French	English Language, Philosophy

### How long is each exam?

- Most exams will last for 2 hours, but teachers will students details of exact durations in advance and we will also issue individual timetables as usual.

### Clashes

- There are occasions where the timetable will show a clash of exams for a few students.
- Such clashes are inevitable when we organise a timetable so that all classes taking a subject sit the exam at the same time.
- We will make arrangements for students with clashes to be supervised between exams: occasionally this might require supervision overnight at home by parents, with no access to electronic devices and no communication with anyone else.
- We will notify students of these arrangements in early January.

### Advance notice

- In Summer 2022 students will be given advance notice of “the focus of the content of exam questions” in all A-level subjects.
- We will apply the same policy to all subjects for these mock exams.
- This advance information will follow the outline given in the JCQ guidance.
- Students will be given this advance notice by the end of Friday 10th December.

### **Information from the Chief Regulator**

- Ofqual sets the rules for exams in England and the Chief Regulator has written an open letter to all students which you can find [here](#).

### **Special consideration**

- Please use the special consideration form on the [Exams page](#) of our website to notify us of illness or other circumstances that affect any student at the time of an exam.