

Exams 2022 – What do I need to know?

Last week the Department for Education (DfE) released their plans for the current Year 11 cohort in relation to the examining of their GCSEs and BTECs. There is recognition from the DfE that nationally students have had a disrupted two years of education and have put measures in place to ensure students are not disadvantaged next summer.

In short, exams are back!

Why are the DfE bringing exams back?

Exams are the best and fairest form of assessment. Recently the DfE ran a consultation, with the exam's regulator Ofqual, on what adaptations should be in place for GCSE exams in May/June 2022. The consultation gathered over 6000 responses from all stakeholders, including students, with over 90% agreeing that providing advance information was favourable and 80% agreeing that students should have a choice of topics in some GCSE subjects.

When will GCSEs happen in 2022?

GCSE exams will happen in May & June as normal. The Joint Council for Qualifications (JCQ) will finalise the exams timetable in due course.

When will students receive the advance information?

Advance information on the content for the summer exams will be shared in early February 2022. The DfE have said they will keep the timing of this release under review in the event of the pandemic worsening again. This is not applicable to all GCSE subjects.

When will GCSEs results day be?

GCSE results day will be held on **Thursday 25 August 2022**.

What measures are in place to ensure students who have missed different amounts of time over the last 2 years are not disadvantaged?

1. Choice of topics in History, English Literature and Geography
2. Provide advance information in subjects where no choice is possible
3. Providing equation sheets to support GCSE Maths, Combined Science and Physics
4. Amending requirements for practicals within Science and Art & Design

Is there a contingency to account for further disruption to learning?

The DfE has launched a consultation on how they would use a Teacher Assessed Grade (TAG) system akin to that in place for 2021 exam season. The DfE and schools are hopeful that this will not need to be enacted and will endeavour to run an exam series in summer 2022.

Are there changes to awarding of grades?

In 2020 and 2021 there were no summer GCSE exams and grades were awarded by teachers. Due to this different assessment system, outcomes have been higher.

As we return to a year of formal terminal assessment the DfE are keen for figures to return to pre-pandemic values – but are keen that this is a year of transition. Therefore, we can expect overall grades to fall between the values seen in 2019 and 2020.

Impact for students in Year 11 at Maiden Erlegh Chiltern Edge

We know that the most successful students have already begun their preparation for GCSEs and therefore we want to ensure that all stakeholders understand the specific changes in place and the impacts for GCSEs in the summer of 2022. Please find a summary in the table below.

Teachers will be sharing this information through lessons and, where applicable, we will be reflecting these changes in the upcoming November PPEs.

Students will also find subject specific information on Google Classroom which will be able to offer the precise and more granular details e.g. number of marks being allocated to a particular type of question & length of papers etc.

Subject Level Information – October 2021		
Subject	Change	Impact
English Literature	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Optional topic introduced. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Students will not be taught the 19th Century Novel unit (Dr Jekyll & Mr Hyde). Instead, the curriculum will be re-mapped with additional time being spent on re-visiting and securing knowledge in the Shakespeare (Macbeth), Poetry and Modern Text (An Inspector Calls) units.
English Language	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No changes 	
Mathematics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Formula sheet provided 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Students will be provided with formula sheets to use during the exams. This will be in place for the November PPEs – although we are awaiting official confirmation of which formulae will be included.
Combined Science	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Required practicals do not need to be completed by the students. Formula sheet provided 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Students do not have to complete all the required practicals themselves. They will, however, still be examined on them. Formula Sheet to be provided to use during the exams. This will be in place for the November PPEs.
Triple Science	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Required practicals do not need to be completed by the students. Formula sheet provided 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Students do not have to complete all the required practicals themselves. They will, however, still be examined on them. Formula Sheet to be provided to use during the exams. This will be in place for the November PPEs.
History	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Optional topic introduced 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Students will be advised to not attempt questions from the Health & the People (medicine) topic. Historically, students have performed less well in this topic and as such teaching time will be focused on the remaining 3 units.
Geography	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Optionality introduced for Paper 2 Familiar fieldwork questions removed 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Curriculum time will be focused on the Resource Management component
French	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Optionality introduced for Paper 4 (writing) Paper 4 (writing) will be extended 	
Food & Nutrition	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> NEA 1 removed NEA 2 reduced in content 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> NEA 2 (which is launched in December and completed in February) encourages students to showcase their cooking skills. Students will be required to cook 2 courses in a controlled environment.
Design & Technology	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> NEA content reduction 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The overall size of student portfolios will be reduced. There is no change to the weighting of the portfolio in the overall grade
Art & Design	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No externally set NEA 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All curriculum time to be spent on current portfolio
Photography	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No externally set NEA 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All curriculum time to be spent on current portfolio
Dance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 set phrase instead of 2 Reduction in performance requirements for choreography and performance units 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Additional curriculum time to be focused on exam paper requirements.
Drama	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A reduction in non-exam assessment (NEA) requirements: There will be a reduction in the minimum duration time of performances for Devising drama and Presenting and performing texts. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Additional curriculum time to be focused on exam paper requirements.
Music	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Only 1 performance which is a solo, instead of two Only 1 composition instead of two. 	
BTEC Sport	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Teacher Assessed Grade to be used for units delivered in Year 10, including examined unit 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Curriculum time focused on remaining unit.