



GCSE 2022 Updates for Parents and students

Next year, the Department for Education -DFE - have made it clear that all GCSE students will sit exams, however they recognise that they have faced disruption to their education over the last two years. Therefore, some measures have been taken to make sure they are not disadvantaged.

Frequently asked questions:

Here we answer some of your questions.

Why is the DFE bringing exams back?

Exams are the best and fairest form of assessment.

A recently ran consultation, with the exam's regulator Ofqual, on what adaptations should be made to GCSE, AS and A level exams in 2022 in response to the pandemic.

The consultation gathered more than 6,000 responses – with almost a quarter from students – and showed that more than 90 per cent of students and parents were in favour of giving advance information on the focus of exams next summer to support students with revision, and around 80 per cent or more agreed with offering choices of topics in some GCSE subjects.

What measures will be in place to make sure they are fair when different students have missed different amounts of time?

Students will benefit from a range of adaptations to GCSE examinations in England – these adaptations will help them reach their potential following the disruption they've faced.

They include:

- A choice of topics or content on which students will be assessed in GCSE English literature, history, ancient history and geography (*more information to follow in February 2022*)
- Providing advance information on the focus of exams to support students' revision in subjects where there is not a choice of topics. (*more information to follow in February 2022*)
- Giving students formulae sheets in GCSE maths and revised equation sheets in GCSE combined science and physics.

- Changing requirements for practical science work and practical art and design assessments to ensure fairness.

While it is the Government's firm intention for exams to go ahead next year it is right for contingency plans to be in place in the event they cannot. Ofqual and the Department of Education (DfE) plan for Teacher Assessed Grades (TAG's) (these were used for grade awarding Summer 2021) to be used and have launched a consultation on how this might work in 2022, building on the 2021 process.

What about grading – are you making any changes to that?

For the past two years, summer exams have not been able to take place and instead, students have been awarded grades by their teachers. Due to the difference in assessment approach, we have seen higher outcomes.

As we return to exams, we want to get back to the pre-pandemic standard, but in the interests of fairness, Ofqual (who take the decisions on grading) will not do so in one jump.

Instead, 2022 will be a transition year to reflect that we are in a pandemic recovery period and students' education has been disrupted. In 2022 the aim, therefore, will be to move grading to a point close to midway between 2021 and 2019.

Results are likely to be higher than in 2019, but not as high as in 2020.

Ofqual aims to return to results that are in line with pre-pandemic years in 2023.

When will GCSE exams happen in 2022?

GCSE exams will happen in May and June, as normal. The Joint Council for Qualifications (JCQ) will confirm the summer exam dates shortly, provisional dates are **Monday 16th May 2022 until Tuesday 28th June 2022**.

Contingency Day – When & what is Contingency Day

Wednesday 29th June is Contingency Day.

This day will be used if a significant, unexpected event arises nationally or locally during the exam period such that no students (or a large number of them) are able to take an exam when planned.

PLEASE DO NOT BOOK ANY PERSONAL EVENTS (e.g., Holidays) DURING THESE DATES AS EXAMINATIONS CANNOT BE RE-ARRANGED TO ACCOMMODATE STUDENTS.

What is being done for vocational and technical qualifications in 2022?

It is the Government's firm intention that exams and assessments for VTQs and other general qualifications, should go ahead in 2021/22 academic year.

Adaptations for Vocational and Technical Qualifications have already been confirmed, following consultation. Colleges and schools are now being made aware of these changes by their awarding organisations.

When will students get their results?

GCSE results day will be held on 25th August 2022.

Further updates will be provided, however if you have any further questions, please email exams@sjh.srscmat.co.uk