

Moorgate Road
Rotherham
S60 2UH

01709 512222

info@oakwood.ac

www.oakwood.ac

Headteacher: Chris Eccles

Monday 1st November 2021

Summer exam and assessment arrangements 2022

Dear Parent/Carer

As a consequence of the ongoing impacts of the Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic, most subjects will have changes to how they are assessed in Summer 2022. The Department for Education (DfE) and Ofqual have published their 2022 decisions on GCSEs and Vocational and Technical Qualifications (VTQs). **These changes are for 2022 only.**

This can include advance information on exams, optionality, other adaptations and changes to the non-exam assessment (NEA).

Advance information on exams

To help pupils revise, exam boards will provide advance information about the focus of exams for most subjects at GCSE.

Advance information will:

- help focus revision time
- vary in breadth, depth and presentation between subjects
- not detail everything in the exam (this could risk providing a balanced education, progression or fair results)
- not require changes to a question paper's usual structure (so exam papers will be familiar to teachers and students)
- not be allowed into the exam.

For more details, read the Joint Council for Qualifications (JCQ) [guidance for teachers and students on the use of advance information for 2022](#).

A member of the Inspire Trust



Registered in England: 08775996

Awarding bodies will publish advance information by 7th February 2022 – or sooner if the impact of the pandemic worsens.

Optionality and other adaptations to exams and assessments

To free up teaching time and to ensure pupils are fully prepared for their exams, the exam boards are also introducing other changes to some of their qualifications for 2022.

For example:

- giving schools and colleges a choice of topics (known as 'optionality')
- removing questions on topics that are no longer required
- reducing total marks and total exam time to reflect these changes
- providing pupils with formulae and equations sheets in the exam
- changing the requirements for fieldwork.

Non-exam assessment (NEA) changes

Ofqual published its [decisions on arrangements for NEA](#) in June 2021 which includes information on fieldwork, speaking tests and plans for moderation) is also available on your subject pages.

[Summary of confirmed arrangements – for Summer 2022 only](#)

Advance information

To help pupils revise, exam boards will provide advance information about the focus of exams for all subjects at GCSE – with the exception of:

- GCSE English Literature
- GCSE History
- GCSE Geography
- GCSE Art and Design

Ofqual and the DfE have decided that exam boards will publish advance information by 7th February 2022 – or earlier if the impact of the pandemic worsens.

Optionality

Schools will be given some choice about the topics or content that pupils will be assessed on in the following qualifications only:

- GCSE English Literature (Year 10)
- GCSE History
- GCSE Geography

They have already confirmed the options for [GCSE English Literature](#) and [GCSE History](#).

Formulae sheets

Pupils will be given a formulae sheet in GCSE Maths and a revised equations sheet in GCSE Physics and GCSE Combined Science covering all the equations required in the subject content.

AQA will make these sheets available to schools for use in teaching beforehand so pupils can familiarise themselves with them. They will also be provided in the exams.

Practical work

There will be changes to the practical work requirements of some subjects:

- GCSE Art and Design pupils will only be assessed on their portfolio.
- GCSE Biology, Chemistry, Physics and Combined Science – teachers will have the opportunity to deliver practical science work by demonstration.

Non-exam assessment (NEA)

Ofqual published its decisions on arrangements for NEA in June, and the awarding bodies have [confirmed the NEA changes](#) for most of our relevant qualifications.

GCSE Modern Foreign Languages (MFL)

- Exam boards will not have to include vocabulary that's not on the vocabulary lists for assessments in GCSE MFL.
- Exam boards will include an extra optional question in the writing assessment to help students to focus on fewer themes in their writing.
- Teachers and pupils should prepare for spoken language in 2022 to be assessed in the normal way, through formal speaking tests. There will be a contingency of using the published criteria to award an endorsed grade if it's not possible for the formal tests to go ahead as planned.

[Arrangements still to be confirmed](#)

These are the only general qualifications where there is still information to be confirmed:

Optionality in GCSE Geography

All exam boards are working together to finalise how the optionality will work for GCSE Geography. Teachers need this information quickly so they can plan – AQA will let us know as soon as possible.

Non-exam assessment (NEA) in GCSE PE

AQA is planning for live moderation visits to go ahead as normal for Summer 2022, and they will be back in touch with more guidance in the next few weeks.

Vocational Technical and other qualifications (VTQs)

Ofqual and the DfE published their decisions on the arrangements for [VTQs in summer 2022](#) back in August. The awarding bodies do their best to align VTQs with GCSEs, they are waiting for the decisions on these qualifications to be able confirm their plans.

Contingency arrangements

We hope exams will be able to go ahead as planned next Summer, but Ofqual and the DfE have [launched a short consultation on contingency arrangements](#) in case they can't. These proposals include using grades provided by schools for GCSEs. The DfE has [published separate guidance on the contingency plans for VTQs](#).

Grading in autumn 2021 and summer 2022

Ofqual has also [confirmed its plans for grading standards for summer 2022](#). In their blog they've explained that they'd like to get back quickly to the pre-pandemic standard, but in the interests of fairness this will be a gradual process.

Summer 2022 will be a transition year to reflect that we're in a pandemic recovery period – then, in 2023, Ofqual will aim to return to results that are in line with those in pre-pandemic years.

Results days in summer 2022

The DfE and Ofqual have confirmed that the summer 2022 results days will be one week apart as usual. This means GCSEs and similar VTQ results will be on Thursday 25 August.

If you have any questions regarding the Summer 2022 exam/assessment arrangements please contact n.moorhouse@oakwood.ac

Thank you

Mr Eccles
Headteacher

