



1<sup>st</sup> March 2022

Dear Parents/Carers,

I am writing to you with a further update on this summer's exams, and with a request for your support in helping to prepare your child for the next – and final – session of mock exams this half-term.

On Monday 7th February, all exam boards had to publish final details of any changes or support being offered for this summer's exams in light of the Covid pandemic. When this information was received, our Curriculum Leaders scrutinised this, and have summarised the changes to exams that students need to be aware of for this summer. They are compiled in a list at the end of this letter, so that you are fully informed of how your child will be assessed this summer.

We have a full suite of mock examinations beginning on **Monday 7<sup>th</sup> March**, which will last for two weeks. In this final set of mock examinations, students will sit all papers due to be assessed in the summer and will receive a full set of results which will be as close as possible to the real exams.

It is therefore vital that students attend all of the examination sessions, and we ask your support in making sure that there is full attendance during this period. Students will need to be completing revision in the evenings and preparing themselves for the next day by being well-rested and focused, arriving at school on time. During the two weeks we will have morning revision sessions available from 7.30am each day, and the Dining Room will allow them to have a free breakfast while they study.

These examinations will also form the basis of any evidence needed in the event of examinations being cancelled, though this looks increasingly unlikely this year. Your support is highly valued.

Finally, you will be soon receiving a copy of our next Sixth Form prospectus. We would like to see as many of Year 11 as possible joining us in the Sixth Form, so do not hesitate to contact us at school about anything that we can do to help your child with their next steps in education, employment or training.

I will write to you later in the term with details of our Easter holiday revision programme. Until then, please stay safe and well, and we thank you for your continued support of the school.

Best wishes,

Mr S Blower  
Deputy Headteacher – Curriculum





## **Exam Adaptations for 2021/22 Summer**

It is worth noting that BTEC subjects and those subjects without exams have undergone no further changes in this new information, and students are already aware of the requirements in these subjects.

The following changes have been made to the examinations this summer:

### **Art and Design**

For summer 2022 Ofqual have confirmed that students taking GCSE Art & Design will be assessed only on the portfolio component, resulting in the removal of Component 02 – Externally set task.

The course structure has been reduced from a two-component to a single component, resulting in the assessment being entirely focused on Component 01 – Portfolio only.

### **Computer Science**

This year students have been told which topics will come up on the Computer Science exam paper. This list shows the topics in specification order. This notice covers component J277/01 Computer Systems. There is no advance information for J277/02 Computational Thinking and Algorithms. The information is presented in specification order and not in question order.

This document has been posted on TEAMS and this is also available on the OCR – GCSE Computer Science webpage, by clicking on 'Advance information. Further information and full details can be obtained on the OCR webpage:

[https://www.ocr.org.uk/images/J277%20GCSE%20Computer%20Science%20Advance%20Information\\_Jun2022.pdf](https://www.ocr.org.uk/images/J277%20GCSE%20Computer%20Science%20Advance%20Information_Jun2022.pdf)

### **English Language and Literature**

In English Language, students have been told which non-fiction texts they will be encountering in Paper 2. They will have to read a 21st century autobiography and a 19th century essay and complete questions on these. They will also be writing an article.

In English Literature, students have been allowed to 'drop' a section of the exam. They will no longer have to answer a question on the poetry anthology.

These changes have been shared with students and are also available on the AQA website.

### **Geography**

Paper 2: All of Section A (Urban Issues) must be answered. Students do not answer Section B (Economic Development). Students must answer Section C, Resource Management (Q3) and Energy (Q6). These two questions in Section C will have an extra 6 marks added – to account for not answering Section B, and now total 30 marks. The total marks of the Paper has been reduced from 88 to 63 marks, completed in 1 hour 15 minutes, reduced from 1 hour 30 minutes.

Paper 3: Section A: Issue Evaluation – 3 marks added for SPaG, due to Section B Q5 being removed. Section B: Unseen fieldwork (Q4) – No changes. Section B: Fieldwork (Q5) – Removed. Time allocation reduced from 1 hour 15 minutes to 1 hour with 20 marks removed





## German

This year students will be given greater optionality for Paper 4 (Writing). There will be an additional optional question for the overlap question at both tiers (Question 4/Question 1) and for Higher tier Question 2. This is so students can answer on their preferred theme. To account for this, the time for each paper has been extended by 5 minutes. To help students focus on their exam preparation for Writing, advance information on what exams will cover has also been released. This will be given to students in due course. The requirement for assessments to use words outside of vocabulary lists has also been removed.

## History

GCSE History students will only be examined on three units rather than the usual four. These units are Germany 1890 to 1945, Conflict and Tension 1918 to 1939 and Britain: Health and the People 1000 to Present. The only other change is that four marks awarded for the quality of spelling, punctuation and grammar in one of the essay questions has been removed.

## Maths

This year students have been told which topics will come up on each of the three papers. This list does not show the order of the questions and any prior knowledge needed for these topics is not necessarily on the list. This document has been posted on TEAMS and this is also available on the Edexcel Maths webpage under 'Advance information'. Please make sure you have the correct tier of entry (Foundation/Higher).

## Religious Studies

This year students have been told which topics will come up on Paper 1 (The study of religions components -Sikhism and Christianity). This list does not show the order of the questions and any knowledge drawn from other areas of the specification that may be useful. This document has been posted on the RS TEAMS channel and is also available on the AQA Religious Studies webpage: Advanced information June 2022 - GCSE Religious Studies A (8062) (aqa.org.uk)

## Science

Students have been informed of the main topics for each of their six exams and the required practicals and topics which will not be examined. However, the lists do not include any prior knowledge needed and any topic not included on either list can be used in short or link questions. The documents for Biology, Chemistry, Combined Science Trilogy and Physics, all containing Higher and Foundation guidance, have been posted on TEAMS and are available at <https://www.aqa.org.uk/2022-exam-changes>.

