

Haileybury Turnford

Ambition · Pride · Success

11th October 2021

Dear Parent/Carer and Students in Year 11 and 13

Adaptations to GCSE, A Level and Vocational & Technical Qualification (VTQ) Examinations - 2022

You will be aware that, because of the impact of the pandemic, in 2020 and 2021 GCSEs, A Levels and Vocational Qualifications were awarded through school based and teacher assessments and there were no public examinations.

The government has confirmed its policy decision that, in 2022, examinations should go ahead as planned but there will be 'adaptations' to recognise the disruption to students' learning.

The attached document outlines the planned changes across different subject areas and different levels. Subject Leaders and individual subject teachers will explain in more detail how this affects their classes and how these changes will be built into planned work over the next year.

The government has recognised that in a pandemic, things may not always run as planned and has therefore confirmed the 'contingency arrangements' if exams cannot go ahead nationally. If exams are cancelled, it has been confirmed that grades would then be determined through teacher assessment. The DfE is consulting on what this teacher assessment process should look like. More details can be found on the attached document. The consultation can be found [HERE](#) and closes on Wednesday 13 October at 11:45 pm. Please remember, though, this is not the government's preferred approach and they are firmly committed to exams going ahead, if at all possible.

We understand the uncertainty surrounding examination plans may have been unsettling, but as a school, we are committed to ensuring our students are as well prepared as possible for their GCSEs, A Levels and Vocational qualifications, whatever the planned changes.

The planned mock examinations will reflect these 'adaptations' as much as is practical. GCSE mocks are due to take place before Christmas and A Level mocks are due to take place early in the new calendar year. More specific details will follow for each year group separately.

We'd like to reassure you that teachers have already carefully planned adaptations to the course content as well as additional intervention and revision activities to provide targeted support to students.

Therefore, it is essential that students due take exams next year, continue to work hard and discuss any challenges with us so that we can help them be as well prepared for these adapted assessments next year as possible.

Yours sincerely

Mr R Newman
Principal



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Principal: Robin Newman MSc MBA

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Registered office: Haileybury Academy Trust, London Road, Hertford Heath, Hertford, Hertfordshire, SG13 7NU

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Adaptations to GCSE, A level and VTQ examinations -2022

What changes are planned for next year's exams?

- Exams and assessments for GCSEs, A levels and Vocational qualifications will go ahead in 2022.
- There will be adaptations and adjustments to recognise the disruption experienced by the 2022 cohort.
- In GCSE English literature, history and geography there will be optional (reduced) topics and content.
- In GCSE Science, schools will be allowed to deliver practical work by demonstration, although hands-on practical activities are encouraged wherever possible.
- In A level biology, chemistry, physics, schools will be allowed to assess the minimum number of practical activities required.
- In GCSE mathematics, students will be given a formulae sheet in summer 2022. Exam boards will provide copies of the formulae sheet for use in teaching and to ensure that students are familiar with it prior to the exams. Clean copies of the formulae sheet will be provided in the exams.
- In GCSE physics and combined science, students will be given a revised equation sheet for covering all the equations required in the subject content. Exam boards will provide copies of the equation sheet for use in teaching and to ensure that students are familiar with it prior to the exams. Clean copies of the equation sheet will be provided in the exams.
- In GCSE, AS and A level art and design students will be assessed on their portfolio only.
- In almost all GCSE, AS and A level subjects, exam boards will provide advance information about the focus of the content of the exams subjects for the summer 2022 exams. (This will *not* include GCSE English literature, history, ancient history and geography – where there is reduced content)
- This 'advanced notice of content' will be released by February 7th to enable teachers to plan to adapt their teaching in the second half of the spring term if necessary and to help students to focus their revision time.
- In addition, the grading standard will be adapted in summer 2022 with grade boundaries to be set reflecting a midway point between 2021 and 2019 – so that more students get higher grades in 2022 than before the pandemic. It is expected that this approach will provide a safety net for those students who might otherwise just miss out on a higher grade.
- Exam boards have been asked ensure that when scheduling the exam timetable, there is at least a 10 day gap between exams in the same subject to reduce the risk of students missing all exams in a subject.
- Exam boards have been told that 'special consideration should apply for students who *unavoidably* miss one or more exams in a subject. This means students will be able to achieve a grade through the special consideration process, so long as they have completed the assessment for at least one component of the qualification.
- Results for exams next year will return to their normal format, with AS and A levels being released on 18 August, and GCSEs on 25 August.

What changes are planned to Non Exam Assessment (NEA) and fieldwork?

The adjustments to NEA and fieldwork had previously been confirmed. Subject teachers will explain in more detail how this affects their classes and how these changes will be built into the work over the next year.



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These adjustments accommodate public health restrictions in dance, design and technology, drama (and theatre), film studies, food preparation and nutrition, media studies, music, music technology, and physical education (PE).

In addition:

- In geography, fieldwork activities may not have been possible and at GCSE the exam boards will not ask questions in written examinations about fieldwork that students have undertaken themselves.
- For A level, the non-exam assessment will be retained but exam boards have been directed to be flexible in their requirements for students to use primary data.
- In GCSE English language, schools will not have to submit an audio-visual recording of a sample of students undertaking their spoken language assessments, although they may choose to record.
- In GCSE modern foreign languages, Teachers and students should prepare for spoken language in 2022 to be assessed in the normal way, through formal speaking tests, but exam boards will not have to include vocabulary that is not on the vocabulary lists for assessments in GCSE modern foreign languages (MFL).

What happens if public health concerns mean that exams have to be cancelled again?

The government has been clear it wants exams to go ahead, but understands there may be a situation where this cannot happen.

If exams are cancelled, it has been confirmed that grades would then be determined through teacher assessment. The DfE is consulting on what this teacher assessment process should look like, particularly:

- the type, volume and timing of the production of the evidence used to inform teacher assessment
- the support given by the exam boards to teachers determining teacher assessed grades
- quality assurance within schools and colleges and external quality assurance by the exam boards

The consultation can be found [HERE](#) and closes on Wednesday 13 October at 11:45 pm.

We believe it is important that as many students and parents as possible respond so that those directly affected have their views considered and would encourage you to respond if at all possible.

Please remember, though, this is not the government's preferred approach and they are firmly committed to exams going ahead if at all possible.



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