

Summer Exams Update

October 2021



The Department for Education have now released their plans for the 2022 summer exam season. There is recognition from the DfE that, nationally, students have had a disruptive two years and measures have been put in place to make sure students have not been disadvantaged.

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.

When will students get their results?

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

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 exams in England. They include:

1. A choice of topics or content on which students will be assessed in GCSE English literature, history and geography.
2. Providing advance information on the focus of exams to support students' revision in subjects where there is not a choice of topics.
3. Giving students formulae sheets in GCSE maths and revised equation sheets in GCSE combined science and physics.
4. Changing requirements for practical science work and practical art and design assessments to ensure fairness.

When will advance information on the focus of exams be made available for GCSE students?

Advance information on the focus of summer exam content will be given in early February. We will communicate this information to students as soon as we receive it.

What about grading – are any changes being made to that?

For the past two years, summer exams haven't been able to take place and, instead, students have been awarded grades by an alternative assessment system. As we return to exams, the DfE have announced they want results to get back to the pre-pandemic standard, but in the interests of fairness, Ofqual (who take the decisions on grading) won't 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. This means that 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.

What contingency plans are in place?

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 plan for Teacher Assessed Grades to be used and have launched a consultation on how this might work in 2022, building on the 2021 process.

[Contingency arrangements: GCSE, AS, A level, Project and AEA \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](https://publishing.service.gov.uk)

The consultation closes at 11:45pm on Wednesday 13th October.

You can submit your views on the consultation by following the link below:

[Contingency arrangements: GCSE, AS, A level, Project and AEA qualifications in 2022 - Ofqual Citizen Space - Citizen Space](#)