

SUMMER 2021 GCE EXAMINATION ADAPTATIONS

GCE

AQA

Art and Design (7201)

Component 1

Students will be awarded their Art GCE grade based on the completion of Component 1. The marking criteria has not changed. Students will be awarded marks out of a maximum of 96.

Component 2- Externally Set task

There will be no externally set task this year.

PEARSON

Business

We can confirm that there will be no changes to the qualification, specification or assessments for Pearson Edexcel AS and A level Business for the 2021 exam series.

OCR

Computer Science

There are no adaptations planned for 2021.

AQA

Design and Technology: Product Design (7552)

Changes to NEA

There are changes to parts of the NEA for A-level Design and Technology. The Development of design prototypes and the Analysing and evaluation sections have been rewritten to reflect these changes.

Development of design prototypes.

This section has been reduced from 25 to 15 marks

Students will no longer be assessed on the skill of making but will be required to show their 'intentions of prototypes' and demonstrate their understanding of the processes involved in making.

The assessment no longer requires students to make a final prototype from the materials they want the final prototype to be out of - instead, they can show their understanding of the processes involved in making by making a working card model and writing about the processes they would have used.

Development of design prototypes section.

Analysing and evaluation

This section has been reduced from 20 to 15 marks

Analysis and evaluation throughout the design process will take place in relation to prototype ideas and models. Testing the final made prototype for client feedback and modifications will still be taking place.

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PEARSON

Drama

Component 1

- Final outcomes can differ from intended pre-Covid outcomes in the portfolio.
- There will be the option of monologue and duologue for performance/design realisation, so therefore group work is not compulsory.
- There are new regulatory minimum timings in place for all performance routes.

Component 2

- Performance/design realisation will be done for one key extract only, rather than two.
- The component will be marked out either 24 marks (for monologue and duologue performances/design realisations) or 36 marks (for group performance/design realisations).
- There are new regulatory minimum timings in place for all performance routes and therefore the penalty tables have been changed to reflect these new minimum timings.
- This component will be assessed by an examiner via recorded evidence rather than by visiting examiner.

Component 3

- The live theatre requirement can be satisfied through live streamed, digital or recorded performances.

AQA

Economics

There are no planned changes to A-Level Economics for 2021 following Ofqual's consultation.

OCR

English Literature

There are no adaptations planned for 2021.

PEARSON

Geography

Ofqual has confirmed that the changes for the 2021 series will be to:

- (i) remove the requirement for written statement that centres have given students the opportunity to undertake 4 days of fieldwork.
- (ii) Exam boards to review their guidance about their expectations relating to primary data for the non-exam assessment.

OCR

History

There are no adaptations planned for 2021.

PEARSON

Mathematics

There will be no changes to Pearson Edexcel A Level Mathematics examinations for 2021.

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WJEC

Media Studies

Component 1: Media Products, Industries and Audiences

Written examination: 2 hours and 15 minutes

35% of qualification

The examination assesses media language, representation, media industries, audiences and media contexts. It consists of two sections.

Section A: Analysing Media Language and Representation

This section assesses media language and representation in relation to two of the following media forms: advertising, marketing, music video or newspapers. There are two questions in this section:

- one question assessing media language in relation to an unseen audio-visual or print resource
- one extended response comparison question assessing representation in one set product and an unseen audio-visual or print resource in relation to media contexts.

Section B: Understanding Media Industries and Audiences

This section assesses two of the following media forms – advertising, marketing, film, newspapers, radio, video games - and media contexts.

It includes:

- one stepped question on media industries
- one stepped question on audiences.

Component 2: Media Forms and Products in Depth

Written examination: 2 hours and 30 minutes

35% of qualification

This examination assesses media language, representation, media industries, audiences and media contexts. It consists of three sections:

Section A – Television in the Global Age

There will be one two-part question or one extended response question.

Section B – Magazines: Mainstream and Alternative Media

There will be one two-part question or one extended response question.

Section C – Online Media

There will be one two-part question or one extended response question.

Component 3: Cross-Media Production

Non-exam assessment

30% of qualification

An individual cross-media production based on two forms in response to a choice of briefs set by WJEC, applying knowledge and understanding of the theoretical framework. The briefs published on 1 March 2020 remain unchanged. WJEC Eduqas will accept completed productions, prototypes and mock-ups. Full details of the overall requirements and the requirements for each brief are provided in the document Assessment

OCR

Physical Education H555

Ofqual has confirmed for both AS and A Level Physical Education in summer 2021 that it will allow remote moderation using filmed evidence for all activities. Therefore, we will not be conducting moderation visits in summer 2021. We'll release information soon, to explain the requirements for remote moderation.

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Ofqual has also confirmed that exam boards can explore relaxing the requirements for demonstrating competitive situations. We will provide clarification on what forms of evidence we will accept shortly.

The examined components will remain unchanged.

AQA

Psychology

There are no planned changes to A-Level Economics for 2021 following Ofqual's consultation.

OCR

Religious Studies

There are no adaptations planned for 2021.

PEARSON

Science – Biology B

Ofqual has confirmed that the changes for the 2021 series will be:

The requirements for the Practical Endorsement which allows assessment of the Common Practical Assessment Criteria (CPAC) across the minimum number of practical activities required to demonstrate competence.

It is important to note that this does not impact on the specification content or the nature of examination papers, both of which remain unchanged.

OCR

Science - Chemistry A (H432) Physics A (H556)

The basic requirements for the Practical Endorsement are unchanged. Students should still aim to complete a minimum of 12 practical activities, covering all of the CPAC and apparatus and techniques. A minimum of 15% of marks in the written examinations will still cover indirect assessment of practical skills.

It is understood that circumstances, such as localised school closures, may make meeting the Practical Endorsement requirements difficult for some centres. In such cases, students can still be awarded the Practical Endorsement if they have demonstrated competence in all the CPAC and 1.2.1 criteria, even if they haven't completed the usual minimum requirement of 12 practicals. However, it's important that students still have an understanding of any apparatus and techniques they are unable to cover, as they will still be expected to answer questions about these in the examinations.

There are no adaptations to the specifications or examinations currently planned for 2021.

AQA

Sociology

There are no planned changes to A-Level Economics for 2021 following Ofqual's consultation.

AQA

Spanish

There are no planned changes to A-Level Economics for 2021 following Ofqual's consultation.

SUMMER 2021 GCE EXAMINATION ADAPTATIONS

BTEC

PEARSON

BTECs

Following discussions with schools and colleges and to ensure fairness for all learners who will be preparing for external assessments in summer 2021, Pearson are proposing to align the BTEC exam timetable to the revised exam timetable for general qualifications. This means the BTEC assessment window will start on 24 May and end on 2 July.

The unit 3 assessment usually consists of part A (3 hour laboratory investigation to generate data) and part B (an exam based on the generated data).

For 2021 the format has changed; there is no part A to the unit 3 assessment and learners will instead be given sample data followed by a 45 minute reading period. Learners will then complete the part B assessment.