

SUMMER 2021 GCSE EXAMINATION ADAPTATIONS

GCSE

AQA

Art and Design (8201, 8202, 8203, 8204, 8205, 8206)

Component 1- Portfolio

Students will be awarded their Art GCSE grade based on the completion of their current project. 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 GCSE (9-1) Business for the 2021 exam series.

OCR

Computer Science (9-1) J276

The Programming Project remains a requirement and students should be given 20 hours of time to complete the Programming Project.

Students do not need to be directly supervised by their teacher when completing the Programming Project. This means that students may now complete the Programming Project remotely at home or in school, or a mixture of both.

A sample of Programming Project work will not need to be submitted in May 2021.

Centres must still log the time each candidate spends on the Programming Project. Keep this log securely within the centre.

AQA

Dance (8236)

Component 1 – Performance

Students will complete two dance performances instead of three (one set phrase and one trio). The combined time for these performances will be two minutes instead of 4 and a half minutes previously.

The marking criteria has not changed for these performances and the set phrase will be marked out of 12 and trio 24.

Component 1 – Choreography

Students will choreograph either a solo dance (one and a half minutes long) or a group dance (2 minutes long). These timings have been reduced from last year.

Component 2 – Dance appreciation

There are no changes to the Written Paper.

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AQA

Design and Technology (8552)

Changes to NEA

There are changes to parts of the NEA for GCSE Design and Technology. The Realising design ideas and Analysing and evaluating sections have been rewritten to reflect these changes.

Realising design ideas.

This section has been reduced from 20 to 10 marks.

The assessment no longer requires students to make a full final prototype - instead, they can show their understanding of the processes involved in making by writing about them and evaluating and testing a card final model.

Analysing and evaluation.

This section has been reduced from 20 to 15 marks

Analysis and evaluation throughout the design process can take place in relation to prototype ideas and models. Students should find ways of testing their final card prototype design with their client and document this in this section.

WJEC

Drama

Component 1: Devising Theatre 40%

The basic requirements for Component 1: Devising Theatre are unchanged yet, some adaptations to timings and assessment conditions have been changed. The minimum time for performances has been reduced. As in previous examination series, the length of the piece will depend on the number of actors in the group. The supporting portfolio can differ from intended pre-Covid outcomes and the evaluation does not need to be completed under Teacher supervision and has now a 900 word-count rather than the 1 hour 30-minute time constraint.

Component 2: Performing from a Text 20%

Learners can choose to performance a monologue of between 1.5-5 minutes in length or centres can continue with group work if deemed safe to do so. The minimum time for group performances has been reduced. The performance will continue to be marked by WJEC Eduqas, however, centre will not be visited by an examiner. Instead, examiners will mark the work from audio-visual recordings.

Component 3: Interpreting Theatre (Written Examination) 40%

There are no changes within this component. However, live recordings/streams of productions may be used as live theatre for the Live Theatre Review within Section B.

AQA

Engineering (8852)

Changes to NEA

There are changes to parts of the NEA for GCSE Engineering. The Problem Solving, Engineering skills and Testing and Evaluation sections have been rewritten to reflect these changes.

Problem solving

Problem solving should be evident in the prototype design, but students aren't required to demonstrate this in a final card prototype.

Engineering skills

This section has been reduced from 15 to 10 marks.

Students will no longer be assessed on the full 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 - instead, they can show their understanding

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of the processes involved in making by making a card model writing about the processes they would have used to make the final prototype.

Testing and evaluation

There is an expectation to test and evaluate the card model and design work.

WJEC

English Language

Components 1 + 2:

Written exams (100%)

There are no changes to the assessment of these components.

Component 3

Non exam assessment

Unweighted

- Learners will need to complete the Spoken Language endorsement but there is no requirement for teachers to record or submit a sample of audio-visual recordings of the Spoken Language assessment for exam board monitoring.
- The Spoken Language assessment is permitted to take place before a single teacher who can represent an 'audience'.
- The Spoken language assessment may be conducted by the teacher at any time during the course by virtual means where necessary.

Rationale:

The changes will help to ensure flexibility for teachers and free up the time that would normally be spent by teachers recording student presentations. The changes also accommodate potential on-going public health restrictions.

AQA

English Literature (8702)

Exam structure for 2021

The most significant change to the exam structure is that students will **not** be required to answer a question on the 'Power and Conflict' cluster of the poetry anthology.

The English Literature exams will be comprised of two papers:

Paper 1

Paper 1B

Students answer one question on the 19th-century novel, 'Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde'.

Duration: 50 minutes

Paper 1C

Students answer one essay question from a choice of two on the modern drama, 'An Inspector Calls'.

Duration: 50 minutes

Total duration: 2 x 50 minutes

Total marks: 60

Paper 2

Section A

Students answer one question on the Shakespeare play, 'Macbeth'.

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Section B

Students answer two compulsory questions on unseen poetry.

Total duration: 1 hour 45 minutes

Total marks: 70

AQA

Food Preparation and Nutrition (8585)

Changes to NEA tasks

NEA1: Food Investigation Task (15%) - this task is no longer required has been taken out this year.

NEA2: Food Preparation Task (50%) - will remain as part of the assessment with the following change. The requirement for NEA2 is now **two dishes** to be completed within 3 hours.

Breakdown of assessment - The marks in each section remain the same but our expectations have been reduced to accommodate the lack of time for students this year.

Section A: Researching the task - Recording four to six ideas should allow students to show a good range of skills using different ingredients and processes. When they have recorded their ideas, students will then need to decide which dishes to make. 6 Marks

Section B: Demonstration of technical skills - Make up to three technical dishes 18 Marks

Section C: Planning for the final menu - Plan to make two final dishes 8 Marks

Section D: Making the final dishes - Make two final dishes. During the practical assessment, the teacher will be assessing the use and execution of a range of technical skills 30 Marks

Section E: Analyse and evaluate of two final dishes.

Sensory evaluation should be done in a home setting. This can be achieved by setting up testing panels and a variety of sensory analysis methods can be used. This will need to be recorded by the student. It is not advised to carry out testing within a classroom environment because of hygiene and safety issues related to coronavirus. 8 Marks

WJEC

Geography

Component 1: Investigating Geographical Issues

Written Examination: 1 hour 45 minutes

Three structured data response questions. The final part of each question will require an extended response.

Question 1 Theme 1, Changing Places - Changing Economies.

Question 2 Theme 2, Changing Environments.

Question 3 Theme 3, Environmental Challenges.

Component 2: Problem Solving Geography

Written Examination: 1 hour 30 minutes

Part A will introduce an issue.

Part B will outline a number of possible solutions to the issue.

Part C will provide an opportunity for the candidates to choose a solution and justify their choice.

Component 3: Applied Fieldwork Enquiry

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Written Examination: 1 hour 15 minutes

Part A will assess approaches to fieldwork methodology of **change over time**.

There will be no requirement for candidates to answer about their own fieldwork.

Part B will assess how fieldwork enquiry may be used to investigate geography's conceptual framework of **cycles and flows**.

There will be no requirement for candidates to answer about their own fieldwork.

Part C will assess the application of broad geographical concepts to a wider UK context and assess the ability to make and justify a decision.

OCR

History A (Explaining the Modern World) J410

Students taking GCSE (9-1) History A (Explaining the Modern World) in summer 2021 will not have to study the full course and will not be assessed on all the content:

All students will be required to study and will be assessed on the Period study (International Relations).

Students will study and be assessed on two out of the three remaining studies: the Non-British Depth Study, the Thematic Study, and the British Depth Study and Study of a Historic Environment. Centres can choose which two of these studies they enter their students for.

Students will therefore be examined on the following:

Paper 1: Period Study: International Relations

Paper 2: Non-British Depth Study: Germany, 1925-1955

Paper 3: British Depth Study and a Study of a Historic Environment: Personal Rule to Restoration and Kenilworth Castle.

PEARSON

Maths

In August 2020, Ofqual confirmed there will be no changes to the Pearson Edexcel GCSE (9–1) Mathematics 2021 examination series.

WJEC

Media Studies

Component 1: Exploring the Media

Written examination: 1 hours and 30 minutes

40% of qualification

Section A: Exploring Media Language and Representation

This section assesses media language and representation in relation to two of the following print media forms: magazines, marketing (film posters), newspapers, or print advertisements.

There are two questions in this section:

- one question assessing media language in relation to one set product (reference to relevant contexts may be required)
- one two-part question assessing representation in relation to one set product and one unseen resource in the same media form. Part (a) is based on media contexts. Part (b) requires comparison through an extended response.

Section B: Exploring Media Industries and Audiences

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This section assesses two of the following media forms: film, newspapers, radio, video games. It includes:

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

Component 2: Understanding Media Forms and Products

Written examination: 1 hour 30 minutes 30% of qualification

This component assesses all areas of the theoretical framework and contexts of the media in relation to television and music.

Section A: Television

- one question on either media language or representation, which will be based on an extract from one of the set television programme episodes to be viewed in the examination (reference to relevant contexts may be required)
- one question on media industries, audiences or media contexts.

Section B: Music (music videos and online media)

- one question on either media language or representation (reference to relevant contexts may be required)
- one question on media industries, audiences or media contexts.

AQA

MFL - French (8658) German (8668) Spanish (8698)

Speaking

There will not be an end of course speaking exam in 2021.

The spoken language assessment in summer 2021 will be a teacher assessed grade on a 3-point scale (pass, merit and distinction) against common assessment criteria. Students' speaking skills will be assessed by teachers during the course of study and the endorsement level of pass, merit or distinction will be reported alongside the 9-1 grade. We will assess students using the pre prepared general conversation questions during the first half of spring term

Writing

There will be more optionality in the writing components. This is so students can answer on their preferred theme. Students will need to answer one question from a choice of three. For each question, the theme will be given in the introduction to the question in the question paper.

There will be an extra five minutes to the scheduled exam time at both tiers for the Writing paper in 2021.

Vocabulary

Vocabulary used in the listening and reading exams is now limited to the published AQA vocabulary list although there will be a small number of basic vocabulary items (eg primary colours, cognates/near cognates) not listed in the specification which will not be listed and which students may need to understand in order to answer the questions. This is because excluding such items from the assessments is likely to increase the demand of the tasks.

WJEC

Music

Component 1 Performing

Students only need to complete **one** performance with a minimum time of 1 minute 30 seconds if it is a solo piece, or 2 minutes if an ensemble piece.

If your performance is shorter than the required length, there will be a penalty a mark deduction.

Component 2 Composing

For the composition element, students have to submit **one** composition with a recommended minimum duration of 2 minutes.

You can choose to compose your own 'free' composition or to compose to a brief given by Eduqas.

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AQA

Physical Education (8582)

Students will be assessed in two activities rather than three. These can be two individual activities, two team activities or one of each.

The overall weighting of the Non Examined Assessment will remain at 40% of the total qualification. The NEA will be marked out of a total of 75 marks (25 marks for each activity and 25 marks for the written element).

We don't anticipate that the timelines for submitting marks and for moderation to take place will change.

Therefore:

Schools/colleges should submit their marks using the PE centre marks and moderation spreadsheet between 15 February – 15 May 2021.

WJEC

Religious Studies

In line with Ofqual's decisions regarding changes to assessment of GCSEs, AS and A levels in 2021, there are no changes to assessment arrangements for Eduqas GCSE Religious Studies.

AQA

Science - Combined Science: Trilogy (8464) Biology (8461) Chemistry (8462) Physics (8463)

Students are still expected to learn all of the required practical activities for their course including the practical apparatus, techniques and processes in enough depth to demonstrate their understanding in exams.

There have no changes made to the specifications or format of the examinations at the present time (Dec 2020).

CAMBRIDGE NATIONALS

OCR

Creative iMedia J807/J807

R082 - Creating digital graphics

Tasks

We do not propose any adaptations to this mandatory unit other than the format of the evidence for LO1, LO2 and LO4.

Formats of evidence:

- LO1, LO2, LO4: We believe students could complete these in a paper-based format (if digital format is not possible)

R087 - Creating interactive multimedia products

Tasks:

One option is to change the optional unit to R091: Design a game concept, which does not need any specialist equipment or software.

Otherwise, we do not believe any changes are needed to the scenario or current OCR set assignments.

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Forms of evidence

- LO1, LO2, LO4: We believe students could complete these in a paper-based format (if digital format is not possible)

R089 - Creating a digital video sequence

Tasks

One option is to change the optional unit to R091: Design a game concept, which does not need any specialist equipment or software.

Otherwise, we do not believe any changes are needed to the scenario or current OCR set assignments.

Forms of evidence

- LO1, LO2, LO4: We believe students could complete these in a paper-based format (if digital format is not possible)

OCR

Enterprise & Marketing J819

R065 - Design a business proposal

Assessor changes only – no changes for students

R066 - Market and pitch a business proposal

Task:

The requirements for the practice pitch remain the same. Candidates practice their pitch with one other candidate and observe the pitch of one other candidate. As candidates do not need to social distance there are no issues with doing this task.

At present candidates must make their professional pitch in front of two external witnesses. To allow for situations where the candidates are isolating, the pitch can be carried out remotely, using Zoom/Skype/Facetime/Teams.