

Changes to the GCSE's 2021

Due to the time out of school and the possible impact this would have on students and staff trying to prepare for the 2021 Summer Examinations, the exams regulator, Ofqual, proposed modifications to the assessment requirements for some subjects. The consultation began in July and the response to the consultation were published on the 3rd of August. There are therefore some changes to some individual subjects.

We are still waiting for specific guidance from some examination boards, but have provided you with a summary of what we are aware of currently. As we receive more specific information we will inform you. Students are already being told of the changes in their lessons and we will continue to update them so that they are fully informed and can plan their work/revision accordingly.

Minor Changes	
Subject	Changes
Computer Science	Allowing programming project to be undertaken in unsupervised time
Dance	Changes to both performance and choreography assessments to avoid group work. Class teachers will outline these to students.
Drama	Permit live performances statement to be satisfied by streamed or recorded performances. Minor changes to the evidence exam boards will accept, class teachers will outline these to students. Performance times too be reduced, awaiting details from the exam board..
Food & Nutrition	Remove NEA1 and allow an early release of NEA2. Reduce the requirements to **2 dishes in 3 hours.
Music	Changes to performance assessments to avoid group work - solo performance within time limits will be accepted. Composition assessment only requires one composition; free choice or from Sept 2020 brief. Class teachers will outline these to students.
D&T	Allow exam boards to accept mock-ups and or clear and detailed intentions of prototypes.
PE (EXAM)	Reduce the number of activities to 2 and allow both to be individual. Video evidence for all activities.
Media	Allow exam boards to accept mock-ups or prototype with supporting evidence.

No Changes	
Subject	Changes
Maths	None

Significant Changes	
Subject	Changes
English Literature	Removed one topic. Shakespeare remains compulsory but the School will choose one of the other topics to drop from; poetry; 19 th Century novel; fiction/drama from the British Isles from 1914. Student's English teachers will inform students of which ones they will be sitting an exam on.
English Language	Speaking exams can take place throughout the year as samples are not needed to be sent to the exam board.
Science (Combined & Triple)	Permit observation of demonstrations and/or simulations rather than students having to do a practical. No change in examinable content.
History	British thematic study is compulsory (People's Health). One topic can be removed (Making of America). Class teachers will inform them of what topics they will be examined on. Fieldwork is not required for the History Around Us unit.

Geography	Remove the requirement for field trips (element removed from paper 3)
MFL	Remove the requirement for students to use words outside of the vocabulary list and permit glossing. Spoken language assessment to be an endorsement and reported on a 3point scale (pass, merit and distinction)
Art	No end exam. All grades to be issued based on coursework portfolios.

TBC	
Subject	Changes
Citizenship	TBC - But likely to be a change in how the 'Action' is conducted
Child Development	TBC - But likely to be some minor changes to how they do the NEA
Graphics	TBC

Examination dates for 2021

The consultation did include the proposal that Examination dates for 2021 be pushed back, however these have not been confirmed, we will inform you as soon as we are informed of the outcome.