



**Exams 2021**  
**Key Information for Year 11 Students, Parents and Carers**  
**(December 2020)**

The Government is committed to making sure that all students in England sit their exams in the summer of 2021. To ensure that students this year are not disadvantaged the following will be put into place, according to the DfE:

- More **generous grading** than usual, in line with 2020's exam results (but the percentage pass rates will be the same as last year).
- Students will receive advance notice in January of some **topic areas** covered in their GCSEs. This will be passed on to you by your teachers. We should note that this will not be the case for all subjects as far as the guidance currently suggests.
- **Exam aids** – like formula sheets – will be provided in some exams giving students more confidence and reducing the amount of information they need to memorise. Modern Languages students will be able to take in vocabulary sheets to reduce the amount of material that needs to be memorised, but English Literature texts will not be allowed.
- Additional exams will be offered in July 2021 to give students a **second chance to sit a paper** if the main exams or assessments are missed due to illness or self-isolation.
- If a student **misses one or more exams due to self-isolation or sickness**, but has still completed a proportion of their qualification, they will receive a grade.
- In the case **where a student has a legitimate reason to miss all their papers**, then a teacher informed assessment (similar to the CAGs system in 2020) can be used, only once all chances to sit an exam have passed.
- **A new expert group** to look at differences in learning and monitor the variation in the impact of the pandemic on students across the country. The group may look into ideas such as issuing an asterisk on results to show pupils who had lost learning or urging universities to lower entry requirements. But the government has ruled out looking at regional grading variations.
- Test and exam results will not be included in **performance tables** this year (2021), and instead will be replaced by attendance information, student destinations and the subjects taken at Key Stage 4 and 5.
- Most of the above also applies to students taking the **BTEC Sport** qualification, although they will not be informed in advance of exam topics. They will however have to complete less optional units towards their full qualification.

**Further information can be found via the links below and relate to the following. Please note that this is subject to change and we will respond and update you as we receive further information from the DfE and Government guidance.**

**Changes to content and structure of exams and assessments in 2021:**

(subject content and examination structures)

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/exams-and-assessments-in-2021>

and

**Changes to dates of exam season and results days:**

JCQ provisional timetable

<https://www.jcq.org.uk/provisional-gce,-as,-a-level-and-gcse-summer-2021-timetable/>

- GCSE exams will run from Monday 24 May 2021 to Friday 2 July 2021
- GCSE exams will begin with an early English Language Paper 1 on Monday 24 May and Mathematics Paper 1 on Tuesday 25 May
- All other GCSE exams will continue after the May half-term (from 7 June)
- GCSE results will be released to centres on Thursday 26 August 2021
- GCSE results day for students will be Friday 27 August 2021