

Information about Summer 2022 Examinations

The following information is from the DfE's [proposed changes to the assessment of GCSEs, AS and A-levels in 2022](#).

Subjects will include advanced information or optional content

The following **GCSE** subjects will have optional topics or content:

- English literature
- History
- Ancient history
- Geography

The optional content will not be assessed by exam boards. For all other **GCSEs**, exam boards will provide advance information about the focus of the content covered in the exams. This will be provided by **7 February 2022** at the latest. Information may be provided earlier at the DfE's discretion.

Formulae and equation sheets will be provided

Pupils taking the following **GCSE** subjects will be given sheets with all the necessary formulae and equations as part of the exam:

- Mathematics (formulae)
- Physics (equations)
- Combined science (equations)

There's a reduced need for practical work in science subjects

Hands-on practical activities are still allowed and encouraged, but this requirement **can** be covered by demonstration if necessary for the following subjects:

Qualification	Subject
GCSE	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Biology• Chemistry• Physics• Combined science

No set task for art and design

The student's portfolio alone will determine their grade for **GCSE**.

Grade boundaries will take the pandemic into account

For summer 2022 exams, grade boundaries will be "based on a profile that reflects a midpoint between 2021 and pre-pandemic grading".

Contingency arrangements

In the unlikely event that 2022 exams cannot go ahead, students' grades will instead be determined by their teachers, using a Teacher Assessed Grades approach. [Following joint public consultation with DfE, we have published the decisions that have been taken about this approach.](#)

We have provided [guidance that sets out what teachers should do during the rest of this academic year](#), until exams are taken, as a contingency in case it is not possible for exams to go ahead. We hope that the guidance will help you take a proportionate approach in gathering evidence, and avoid

an unnecessary assessment burden on either staff or your students. Information about how TAGs will be determined, based on the evidence collected, will only be published if exams cannot go ahead as planned – it is only at that point that teachers will need to determine TAGs. Again, we want to avoid any unnecessary additional work for staff and your students.

Vocational and technical qualifications (VTQs) and other general qualifications

Teacher assessed grades (TAGs) shouldn't be needed this year

During the pandemic, some VTQs were assessed based on teacher assessed grades (TAGs). Exams and assessments are expected to take place for **all** qualifications in 2021/22, and TAGs won't be accepted as an alternate means of assessment. This is explained in guidance on the [arrangements for the assessment and awarding of VTQs: 2021 to 2022](#).

Advanced notice of exam content

Examination bodies for some VTQs (e.g. linear qualifications with exams at the end of the year) will publish advance information about the focus of the exam content. This means teachers can focus the rest of their teaching time to ensure the exam content is covered. Advance information will be published no later than **28 February 2022**, but may be earlier (see contingencies below).

This is explained on page 6 of the DfE's guidance on [contingencies for 2021/22](#).

Changes to examination or assessment format

Depending on the qualification, the exam board may make changes to the usual means of assessment. This is in response to the missed learning caused by the pandemic.

These changes will depend on individual qualifications and exam boards, but may include:

- Fewer internal assessments, while ensuring all content is taught
- Fewer hours of work experience or work placements
- Longer and more assessment windows
- Social distancing adaptations (e.g. professional discussion instead of practical activities)
- Greater flexibility in invigilation rules (e.g. letting subject teachers invigilate their own subject).

This is explained on page 4 of the DfE's guidance on contingencies for 2021/22, linked above.