



Dear Parents and Carers,

We wrote to you on 18th February 2022 with information about the changes to the A Level assessment process in 2022 because of Covid-19. Further information has now been provided by exam boards. Attached is a table that lists the A Level qualifications being studied by our current Year 13 students. It identifies the relevant exam board and specification that they are studying, the nature of the assessment for each subject and, where appropriate, additional links to the pre-exam release material issued by exam boards in February of this year.

Key information is highlighted below.

What changes are being made to exams in 2022?

For almost all A Levels studied here there is pre-exam release material, detailed below. The exception to this is Art where there is now no exam and therefore no pre-exam release material.

You will note that for some subjects the table refers to NEAs. This stands for 'Non-Examined Assessment,' projects that might be best viewed as a form of coursework. For some, mainly practical, subjects, changes here mean that the NEAs still count towards the same percentage of the overall grade that will be awarded, with what students are expected to produce being reduced.

How will Ofqual and the Exam Boards Grade Subjects in 2022?

For 2022 Ofqual have announced the following:

"As we return to summer exams, in 2022 exam boards will set the grade boundaries based on a profile that reflects a midpoint between 2021 and pre-pandemic grading. Results overall will be higher than in 2019, and not as high as in 2020. The exact position may vary by subject and by grade."

This might suggest that more higher-level grades will be awarded than prior to 2020, following the nationally reported inflation in grades linked to the lack of a national formula or system to calculate grades in 2020 and 2021. However, the variance by subject and grade at both a school and individual level, means this national trend will not automatically lead to improved or reduced grades in traditionally high or low performing schools. Students at Durham Johnston have traditionally performed very well, and we would expect this to be true again in 2022, regardless of the national context. We are a successful school and prepare our students well.

The Chief Regulator of Ofqual has written to students about the examination process and we include that information here:



Headteacher:

A J O'Sullivan BA, MA

Director of Resources:

H Charlton BA, MBA

Deputy Heads:

J Bell BSc, MA
R McFadden MEng
M J Wright BA

Assistant Heads:

A Lennon BA
S A F McArdle BSc
N Weaver BA



Dear students,

In my job as Chief Regulator of qualifications I get to meet many students, teachers and parents from different parts of the country. Speaking to students like you, who are getting ready for formal exams and assessments, it is clear to me that you want life to get back to normal and that you would like as much certainty about what is going to happen as possible.

For that reason, the exam boards have, this week, published for you 'advance information' on their websites. This is subject by subject, specification by specification, specific outlines of the focus of questions across many of your summer exams. [We have added a tool on our website which shows you what is available for each subject.](#)

These materials are just one of the ways we are working to make sure that, despite the disruption caused by the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic, your exams and formal assessments are less daunting.

As well as advance information and formulae sheets, you will be supported by generous grading, which will provide you with a safety-net to protect you from just missing out on a grade.

We will also publish videos, infographics and other materials to help those of you who have been prevented from ever sitting a formal exam, to know what that feels like.

You can find more information at the following official sources:

- [Rolling update](#)
- [Ofqual Instagram](#)
- [Ofqual blog](#)

Best wishes,

Dr Jo Saxton Ofqual Chief Regulator

Ofqual have made it clear that their primary role will be to ensure that the final grading process is fair and equitable, despite the variation in adaptations and pre-exam release material from different exam boards.

Is there a Plan B?

In addition to these changes, the Government have published their contingency plan explaining what will happen if exams must be cancelled, as they were in 2020 and 2021. If that were to be necessary again, the school would share information about our Teacher Assessed Grade system, which was used to calculate grades in 2021. **It should be noted, however, that the Government have made clear their determination that exams should and will take place unless there is a significant change and schools are closed again in the coming months. Plan B will only be adopted in the event of a significant public health emergency.**

Next Steps

Our teachers have shared the above information with their classes and will answer any questions that students may have. We will continue to offer updates for parents and carers as new information becomes available and we hope that this detailed overview is helpful.

Departments have used this pre-exam release material to help inform the mock exam period. Lessons in the remaining weeks will focus on covering / revisiting relevant areas, as well as exam technique. Students should also use this material to focus their final preparation for the A Level exams starting in May.

Yours faithfully,

M J Wright
Deputy Headteacher

Please note the links in this document are accurate as of publication but that various exam boards may change where the material is located. [The Ofqual tool](#) should reflect the most up to date information.

Subject	Exam Board	Specification	How it will be assessed in 2022?	What changes have been made?	Pre-exam release material - link to relevant exam board website material
Art	OCR	https://www.ocr.org.uk/Images/170210-specification-accredited-a-level-gce-art-and-design-h600-h606.pdf	Portfolio only.	The assessment is only on portfolio work, there is no exam which would usually have accounted for 40% of the grade. The portfolio now counts for 100% of the grade.	No additional material.
Biology	OCR	https://www.ocr.org.uk/qualifications/as-and-a-level/biology-a-h020-h420-from-2015/	Three exams worth 37%, 37% and 26% of the overall grade respectively.	The provision of advance information about the focus of the content of exams - in February the exam board will release information to allow for focused revision and preparation. Students do not have to complete 12 practical activities. They can complete a minimum number of activities to demonstrate competence.	A level Biology Advanced information - OCR - Summer-2022
Business	Edexcel	https://qualifications.pearson.com/content/dam/pdf/A%20Level/Business%20Studies/2015/specification-and-sample-assessment-materials/9781446914694_GCE2015_A_B_US_WEB.PDF	Three exams worth 35%, 35% and 30% of the overall grade respectively.	The provision of advance information about the focus of the content of exams - in February the exam board will release information to allow for focused revision and preparation.	https://qualifications.pearson.com/en/campaigns/summer-2022-support.html

Chemistry	OCR	https://www.ocr.org.uk/qualifications/as-and-a-level/chemistry-a-h032-h432-from-2015/	Three exams worth 37%, 37% and 26% of the overall grade respectively.	The provision of advance information about the focus of the content of exams - in February the exam board will release information to allow for focused revision and preparation. Students do not have to complete 12 practical activities. They can complete a minimum number of activities to demonstrate competence.	Advance Information Summer 2022 - H432 (ocr.org.uk)
Computer Science	OCR	https://www.ocr.org.uk/qualifications/as-and-a-level/computer-science-h046-h446-from-2015/	Two exams both worth 40% of the overall grade respectively and a NEA worth 20%.	The provision of advance information about the focus of the content of exams - in February the exam board will release information to allow for focused revision and preparation.	Advance Information Summer 2022 - H446 (ocr.org.uk)
Economics	Edexcel	https://qualifications.pearson.com/content/dam/pdf/A%20Level/Economics/2015/specification-and-sample-assessment-materials/A_Level_Econ_A_Spec.pdf	Three exams worth 35%, 35% and 30% of the overall grade respectively.	The provision of advance information about the focus of the content of exams - in February the exam board will release information to allow for focused revision and preparation.	W73034 GCE A Economics A 9EC0 AN 16 February 2022.pdf (pearson.com)
English Language	AQA	https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/english/as-and-a-level/english-language-7701-7702/specification-at-a-glance	Two exams both worth 40% of the overall grade respectively and a NEA worth 20%.	The provision of advance information about the focus of the content of exams - in February the exam board will release information to allow for focused revision and preparation.	Advanced information June 2022 - A-level English Language (7702) (aqa.org.uk)

English Literature	AQA	https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/english/as-and-a-level/english-literature-a-7711-7712/specification-at-a-glance	Two exams both worth 40% of the overall grade respectively and a NEA worth 20%.	The provision of advance information about the focus of the content of exams - in February the exam board will release information to allow for focused revision and preparation.	https://filestore.aqa.org.uk/content/summer-2022/AQA-7712-AI-22.PDF
Ethics and Philosophy	OCR	https://www.ocr.org.uk/qualifications/as-and-a-level/religious-studies-h173-h573-from-2016/	Three exams worth 33.3% of the overall grade each.	The provision of advance information about the focus of the content of exams - in February the exam board will release information to allow for focused revision and preparation.	https://www.ocr.org.uk/images/H573%20A%20Level%20Religious%20Studies%20Advance%20Information_Jun2022.pdf
French	AQA	https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/languages/as-and-a-level	One listening, reading and writing exam worth 50% of the overall grade, one writing exam worth 20% of the overall grade and one speaking exam worth 30% of the overall grade.	The provision of advance information about the focus of the content of exams - in February the exam board will release information to allow for focused revision and preparation.	AQA AS and A-level French Changes for 2022
Further Maths	OCR	https://www.ocr.org.uk/qualifications/as-and-a-level/further-mathematics-a-h235-h245-from-2017/	Four exams each worth 25% of the overall grade.	The provision of advance information about the focus of the content of exams - in February the exam board will release information to allow for focused revision and preparation.	A Level FM Advance Information (OCR)
Geography	AQA	https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/geography/as-and-a-level/geography-7037/introduction	Two exams both worth 40% of the overall grade respectively and a NEA worth 20%.	The provision of advance information about the focus of the content of exams - in February the exam board will release information to allow for focused revision and preparation.	Advanced information June 2022 - A-level Geography (7037) (aqa.org.uk)

German	AQA	https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/languages/as-and-a-level	One listening, reading and writing exam worth 50% of the overall grade, one writing exam worth 20% of the overall grade and one speaking exam worth 30% of the overall grade.	The provision of advance information about the focus of the content of exams - in February the exam board will release information to allow for focused revision and preparation.	AQA AS and A-level German Changes for 2022
Government and Politics	AQA	https://filestore.aqa.org.uk/resources/politics/specifications/AQA-7152-SP-2017.PDF	Three exams worth 33.3% of the overall grade each.	The provision of advance information about the focus of the content of exams - in February the exam board will release information to allow for focused revision and preparation.	https://filestore.aqa.org.uk/content/summer-2022/AQA-7152-AI-22.PDF
History	OCR	https://www.ocr.org.uk/qualifications/as-and-a-level/history-a-h105-h505-from-2015/	One exam worth 15% of the overall grade, one exam worth 25% of the overall grade, one exam worth 40% of the overall grade and a NEA worth 20%.	The provision of advance information about the focus of the content of exams - in February the exam board will release information to allow for focused revision and preparation.	Advanced information Summer 2022 OCR History H505
Latin	OCR	https://www.ocr.org.uk/qualifications/as-and-a-level/latin-h043-h443-from-2016/	One exam worth 33% of the overall grade, a second exam worth 17% of the overall grade and a further two exams worth 25% of the overall grade respectively.	The provision of advance information about the focus of the content of exams - in February the exam board will release information to allow for focused revision and preparation.	2022 advance information (ocr.org.uk)
Maths	OCR	https://www.ocr.org.uk/qualifications/as-and-a-level/mathematics-a-h230-h240-from-2017/	Three exams worth 33.3% of the overall grade each.	The provision of advance information about the focus of the content of exams - in February the exam board will release information to allow for focused revision and preparation.	A Level Maths Advance Information (OCR)

Media Studies	Eduqas	https://www.eduqas.co.uk/media/d3fbs2s3/eduqas-a-level-media-studies-spec-from-2017-e-27-05-2021.pdf	Two exams both worth 35% of the overall grade and a NEA worth 30%.	<p>The provision of advance information about the focus of the content of exams - in February the exam board will release information to allow for focused revision and preparation. For the NEA the exam board will now accept prototypes or mock-ups, with supporting evidence as necessary, of an individual cross-media production in response to an exam board set brief.</p> <p>Supporting evidence may include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> original and non-original photographs, images, drawings or sketches with annotations to illustrate intentions storyboards a television screenplay a shooting script 	https://www.eduqas.co.uk/umbraco/surface/blobs/storage/download?nodeId=39601
Music	AQA	https://filestore.aqa.org.uk/resources/music/specifications/AQA-7272-SP-2016.PDF	One exam worth 40% of the overall grade, one NEA worth 35% of the overall grade and a further NEA worth 25% of the overall grade.	<p>The provision of advance information about the focus of the content of exams - in February the exam board will release information to allow for focused revision and preparation. For the Performance NEA the length of the performance that must be submitted has been reduced to 3 and a half minutes. For the Composition NEA students now need to compose one piece of music with a duration of two minutes that they do not need to perform themselves.</p>	Advance information June 2022 A-level Music (aqa.org.uk)

Physical Education	AQA	https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/physical-education/as-and-a-level	Two exams both worth 35% of the overall grade and a NEA worth 30%.	The provision of advance information about the focus of the content of exams - in February the exam board will release information to allow for focused revision and preparation.	Advanced information June 2022 - A-level Physical Education (7582) (aqa.org.uk)
Physics	OCR	https://ocr.org.uk/qualifications/as-and-a-level/physics-a-h156-h556-from-2015/	Three exams worth 37%, 37% and 26% of the overall grade respectively.	The provision of advance information about the focus of the content of exams - in February the exam board will release information to allow for focused revision and preparation. Students do not have to complete 12 practical activities. They can complete a minimum number of activities to demonstrate competence.	Advance Information Summer 2022 - H556 (ocr.org.uk)
Product Design	AQA	https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/design-and-technology/as-and-a-level/design-and-technology-product-design-7552	One exam worth 30% of the overall grade, one exam worth 20% of the overall grade and a NEA worth 50% of the overall grade.	The provision of advance information about the focus of the content of exams - in February the exam board will release information to allow for focused revision and preparation. The exam board have also changed what must be produced for the NEA component of the course so they are no longer required to develop a final prototype. The NEA is still however worth 50% of the total grade.	https://filestore.aqa.org.uk/content/summer-2022/AQA-7552-AI-22.PDF
Psychology	AQA	https://filestore.aqa.org.uk/resources/psychology/specifications/AQA-7181-7182-SP-2015.PDF	Three exams worth 33.3% of the overall grade each.	The provision of advance information about the focus of the content of exams - in February the exam board will release information to allow for focused revision and preparation.	https://filestore.aqa.org.uk/content/summer-2022/AQA-7182-AI-22.PDF

Sociology	AQA	https://filestore.aqa.org.uk/resources/sociology/specifications/AQA-7191-7192-SP-2015.PDF	Three exams worth 33.3% of the overall grade each.	The provision of advance information about the focus of the content of exams - in February the exam board will release information to allow for focused revision and preparation.	https://filestore.aqa.org.uk/content/summer-2022/AQA-7192-AI-22.PDF
Spanish	AQA	https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/language/as-and-a-level	One listening, reading and writing exam worth 50% of the overall grade, one writing exam worth 20% of the overall grade and one speaking exam worth 30% of the overall grade.	The provision of advance information about the focus of the content of exams - in February the exam board will release information to allow for focused revision and preparation.	AQA AS and A-level Spanish Changes for 2022