



HARROGATE
GRAMMAR SCHOOL
EXCELLENCE FOR ALL

8 October 2021

Dear Student and Parent/Carer

Update on DfE decisions to modify the assessment of GCSEs, AS and A Levels

After a period of consultation, OFQUAL and Department of Education have confirmed the decisions made to modify the assessment of GCSEs, AS and A Levels in 2022 in response to the disruption caused by the pandemic. The aim of this letter is to summarise those decisions.

It is the government's policy that exams and assessments for GCSEs, AS and A Levels (as well as for vocational and technical qualifications) should go ahead in summer 2022. However, adjustments to the assessments themselves will be made in some subjects and additional support will be given to mitigate some of the pressure on teaching time and the pressure that students experience when revising for and sitting exams.

Summary of adjustments

- Students will not be assessed on all topics and content in GCSE English literature, history and geography
- Advance information about the focus of the content of exams will be provided for all subjects at GCSE, AS and A Level except GCSE English literature, history, and geography and GCSE, AS and A Level art and design.
- The advance information is to support students' revision rather than a reduction in subject content. Its policy is that this should be released **by 7 February 2022** at the latest. The Department of Education has also decided to retain the flexibility to deploy advance information at other points ahead of 7 February 2022 if circumstances require. At least a week's notice will be given if it is decided that advance information will be released earlier than 7 February 2022.
- GCSE, AS and A Level art and design qualifications will be awarded on the basis of a student's portfolio only.
- It is not necessary for students to memorise formulae for GCSE maths and equations for GCSE physics and combined science, as they must in a normal year. Exam boards will provide copies of the formulae and equation sheets for use in teaching and to ensure that students are familiar with them prior to the exams. Clean copies of the formulae and equation sheets will be provided in the exams.
- In terms of science practical work, GCSE biology, chemistry, physics, combined science can be delivered by demonstration. In A Level Biology, Chemistry and Physics the DfE have decided to permit the assessment of the Common Practical Assessment Criteria (CPAC) in A Level across the minimum number of practical activities required for students to demonstrate their competence. Despite this announcement, the Science Faculty will continue to deliver practical at GCSE and the routine number of practicals at A Level.

Over the coming weeks, we expect exam boards to share more specific information in GCSE English literature, history and geography and your subject teachers will explain this to you and make the necessary adjustments to their teaching.

We will continue to keep you informed, with particular attention to the release of advanced information for the purpose of revision, released by Monday 7 February.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'N. Renton', is positioned above the typed name.

Mr N Renton
Headteacher