



GCSE Grading 2021

Information Booklet for Students & Parents

Ms Jordan – March 2021

Contents

- Introduction and timeline – page 1
- Subject pages – pages 4-24
- Frequently asked questions – pages 25-30

Introduction

As you are aware, GCSE grades will be generated in a different way this year. Instead of sitting a series of formal, public examinations this summer, students will now be assessed on a much broader range of evidence for each subject. This evidence may include exams for many subjects, but grades are not based on these alone.

Schools have been tasked with collecting evidence for each student, which shows the **level they are working at, on the material they have been taught**. Exactly what this evidence looks like will vary depending on the subject being considered, but may include things like coursework (NEA), in-class assessments, topic-tests, extended writing tasks, classwork tasks, as well as written exams.

Evidence is to be collected by your teachers, marked in school and moderated in school. We will have strict processes in place that ensure all marking is fair and grading judgements only based on the evidence at hand. The exam boards will then check our systems and may visit to look at the evidence we have collected. The government have made clear, no student will be disadvantaged by this year's system and at KAA we follow the guidance carefully to make sure this is definitely true for you as well.

Understandably, I expect you will have many questions - both about the grading process itself and the evidence being looked at. I have tried to anticipate many of these questions and have answered them in a set of **FAQs** – please find these in the last section of this document. (*Do not feel you need to read all of them – simply scan through to the questions that apply to you.*)

Timeline

We have looked in detail at how grading evidence will be collected and have designed the next few months so that all students have multiple opportunities to show off what they can do and maximise their final grades. The timeline below shows the upcoming periods of revision and when students can expect to begin taking assessments.

On pages 4 to 24 you will also find **guidance from each subject area**, explaining what their plans are in more detail.

Although we are trying to offer as much clarity as we can at the moment, I must make clear that we are still awaiting exact details from the exam boards about how grading will work in each subject area. Please, therefore, be aware that this information may



change at a later date. We expect all exam board information to be with us by the end of March and will let you know if anything does change.

Final grades have to be submitted by KAA in the week ending **18th June**. Working backwards from this point, gives us approximately 8 school weeks for students to demonstrate how much they know and the level they are working at.

8 weeks is enough time to revise everything you need to and make a real impact on your results. As in any year however, this isn't going to be easy. You must make sure you begin preparing now, if you haven't done so already. GCSEs are difficult and although some of the content may have been reduced this year, **the actual qualifications have not been made easier**. In order to demonstrate that you are working at a Grade 6, for example, you will have to produce evidence that you can do this – consistently. Please be prepared for this and work with your teachers to make sure you do as well as you can at every available opportunity.

<p style="text-align: center;">8th March – 1st April 4-week period of normal lessons and revision</p> <p>The vast majority of time in lessons will be given over to revision, however there may be a small number of assessments taking place during this time. Information about these will be communicated to you directly.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">2-week Easter break – follow your own independent revision timetable</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">19th April – 14th May 4-week period of lessons, revision and ongoing assessment</p> <p>Again, you will be in lessons as normal during this time, however there will also be a much larger number of in-class assessments taking place. These assessments may be topic-tests, multiple choice assessments, extended writing tasks and others.</p> <p>There will also be some whole year group exams taking place in the Sports Hall and Theatre during this time. These include year-group Biology exams on 19th April and English exams in weeks 2 and 3 (tbc).</p> <p>You will be given notice of these exams well in advance.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">17th May – 28th May 2-week exam block – no normal lessons</p> <p>Students will be working at home when not in exams</p> <p>Exams taken in the Sports Hall or Theatre – you will be given a personal exam timetable well in advance, so you know how to plan your revision properly</p> <p>Almost all subjects will have at least one exam - however the number of papers, the paper length and the amount of content being tested, will be reduced (in many cases) in comparison to a normal year.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">1-week half-term break</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">7th & 8th June</p> <p>Staff training days – all students at home unless invited into school for an assessment catch-up or for practical PE moderation</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">9th – 17th June</p> <p><i>Exactly where students will be working is still to be confirmed</i></p> <p>Students may be invited into school for a 'Grading Viva'. This will be a formal meeting with a senior member of staff – please see FAQs for more info.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">All grades submitted to the exam board by 18th June</p>



Subject pages

Below is subject specific information from each GCSE curriculum area. Departments are trying to be as clear as they can at the moment, however **exact dates/requirements may change once individual exam boards release more information.**

Subject	Page Number
English	4 – 5
Mathematics	6
Science	7 - 8
Art	9
Citizenship	10
Computer Science	11
Dance	12
Drama	13
Design & Technology	14
Food & Nutrition	15
French & German	16
Geography	17
History	18
Music	19
PE	20
Psychology	21
RE	22
Statistics	23
Textiles	24
Frequency Asked Questions	25 - 29



How will my grade be decided in GCSE English?

Evidence

In order to establish your grade in English we will use a broad range of evidence. This includes assessing both papers for each English language and English literature over April and May.

Dates

The most important (approximate) dates you need to be aware of are:

Date	Paper
Wednesday 28 th April (<i>date to be confirmed</i>)	English Literature Paper 1 A Christmas Carol and An Inspector Calls
Thursday 6 th May (<i>date to be confirmed</i>)	English Language Paper 1 Explorations in creative reading and writing
Exam period (<i>from week beginning 17th May</i>)	English Literature Paper 2 Macbeth and unseen poetry
Exam period (<i>from week beginning 17th May</i>)	English Language Paper 2 Writers' viewpoints and perspectives

Content changes

We will still assess all four papers on the course. However, for the set texts in English literature, we are giving more guidance about the specific content questions in the exams will based on.

Paper	Content
English Literature Paper 1 A Christmas Carol and An Inspector Calls	No content has been removed. For 'A Christmas Carol', the extract and question will focus on one of the following topics: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Poverty • The impact of the ghosts • Kindness / Happiness For 'An Inspector Calls', there will still be a choice of two questions. The choice of questions will be from the following topics: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr Birling • Generational differences • The Inspector • Male attitudes towards women
English Language Paper 1 Explorations in creative reading and writing	No content has been removed.



<p>English Literature Paper 2</p> <p>Macbeth and unseen poetry</p>	<p>No content has been removed.</p> <p>For 'Macbeth', the extract and questions will focus on one of the following topics:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lady Macbeth's change across the play • The witches across the play • The theme of power <p>Unseen poetry will remain the same.</p>
<p>English Language Paper 2</p> <p>Writers' viewpoints and perspectives</p>	<p>No content has been removed.</p>

Exam Board

The exam board for our subjects are:

GCSE English Literature – AQA

GCSE English Language – AQA

As with all subjects, the final exam board guidance on grading isn't released until the end of March. We hope that this will not alter any of the details above, but it may do. We will let you know as soon as we can, if anything does change.



How will my grade be decided in GCSE Mathematics?

Evidence

In order to establish your grade in Maths we will use a broad range of evidence. This includes in-class topic tests, end of year examination results and possibly a portfolio of additional classwork tasks and mock papers, if needed.

End of year exams will contribute the largest weighting towards your final grade.

Date <i>(subject to change if needed)</i>	Assessment	Content <i>(subject to exam board guidance)</i>
Friday 23rd April <i>(date to be confirmed)</i>	Topic Test 1	To be confirmed before Easter
Friday 30th April <i>(date to be confirmed)</i>	Topic Test 2	To be confirmed before Easter
2-Week Exam Period	Non-Calculator 1 hour 30mins	Refer to topic list
2-Week Exam Period	Calculator 1 hour 30mins	Refer to topic list

Content changes

A number of topics will **not** be assessed at all as part of your GCSE (most of which were taught during lockdown). These topics are slightly different for students studying the higher course, and those studying the foundation course. The draft list of topics is below, however please speak to your teachers this week to confirm.

Higher – circle theorems, similarity & congruence, plans and elevations, bearings, construction & loci, inequalities, iteration, further graphs (e.g. exponential graphs)

Foundation – Standard Form, inequalities, non-linear graphs, trigonometry, similarity & congruence, plans and elevations, bearings, construction & loci, vectors,

Exam Board

The exam board for GCSE Mathematics is Edexcel

As with all subjects, the final exam board guidance on grading isn't released until the end of March. We hope that this will not alter any of the details above, but it may do. We will let you know as soon as we can, if anything does change.



How will my grade be decided in GCSE Science?

Evidence

In order to establish your grade in Science we will use a broad range of evidence. This will mainly come from the exams in Summer I. However, it may also be supported by mock exam results, grades from mini-tests, or homework & classwork tasks, if needed.

Dates & Content changes

The most important (approximate) dates you need to be aware of are...

Date	Paper	Content
19th April	Biology Paper 1	All topics may be assessed: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cell biology • Organisation • Infection & Response • Bioenergetics (photosynthesis & respiration)
19th April	Biology Paper 2	Topics that may be assessed: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inheritance, variation and evolution • Ecology Topics not assessed (combined): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Homeostasis & Response Topics not assessed (triple): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The kidney & kidney disease • Cloning
4th May	Chemistry Paper 1	Topics that can be assessed: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Atomic structure & periodic table • Bonding, structure & properties of matter • Quantitative chemistry • Chemical Changes Topics not assessed: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Energy changes • Electrolysis
Exam weeks	Chemistry Paper 2	All topics may be assessed: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rates and equilibrium • Organic chemistry • Analysis and the Earth's resources
Exam weeks	Physics Paper 1	Topics that may be assessed: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Energy and energy resources • Molecules and matter • Radioactivity Topics not assessed: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Electricity (electric circuits & energy in the home)



Exam weeks	Physics Paper 2	All topics may be assessed: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Forces• Waves• Electromagnetism
------------	-----------------	--

Exam Board

The exam board for our subject is AQA.

As with all subjects, the final exam board guidance on grading isn't released until the end of March. We hope that this will not alter any of the details above, but it may do. We will let you know as soon as we can, if anything does change.



How will my grade be decided in GCSE Art?

In Art, the process is quite easy to understand. Nothing has really changed – except that our exam board has decided that the exam project – component 2 – will be removed.

It remains the case that your final grade will be based on:

- Your coursework projects
- A combination of your **details project**, and your **identity project**.

We really want to be able to give credit for work done in your previous sketchbooks. We will need to start looking at your sketchbooks in detail to decide what grade is appropriate, and as a result, we must have all sketchbooks in school – at the very latest – **by Thursday 1st April** – before the Easter holidays. Doing this will **allow your teachers to give you advice and feedback about specific actions you can take** to improve your grade before it's too late. We strongly recommend that you take advantage of the opportunity to do this, as there is still plenty of time to improve your grade!

We know many of you will want to add to your body of work before the end of the course, to show the full extent of your ability. All work that you want considered, must be submitted to the department before you leave for the half-term break on **Friday 28th May**.

Exam Board

The exam board for our subject is Edexcel.

As with all subjects, the final exam board guidance on grading isn't released until the end of March. We hope that this will not alter any of the details above, but it may do. We will let you know as soon as we can, if anything does change.



How will my grade be decided in GCSE Citizenship?

Evidence

In order to establish your grade in GCSE Citizenship, we will use a broad range of evidence. This may include:

- Rights, responsibilities and the legal system (The LAW - section 1) **Mini exam**
- The UK and the Wider World (Section 3) **Mini exam**
- Evaluation of campaign – **extended writing assessment** (Section 4)
- Paper 1 **Exam** (Citizenship in perspective - sections 1-3) *Section 2.1-2.4 removed*

End of topic in-class assessments and extended writing tasks may be used as supportive evidence if needed

Dates

- Rights, responsibilities and the legal system in England and Wales mini exam.
Week beginning 3rd May (sat in class)
- The UK and the Wider World mini exam
Week beginning 10th May (sat in class)
- Evaluation of campaign – extended writing assessment
Date still to be arranged
- Paper 1 Exam (Citizenship in perspective - sections 1-3) *Section 2.1-2.4 removed*
Week beginning 17th or 24th May (sat in the Sports Hall or Theatre)

Content changes

Paper 1 and Paper 2 – Sections 2.1-2.4 removed (see below)

2.1 Democracy, elections and voting in the UK

2.2 National, local, regional and devolved government

2.3 British constitution

2.4 The economy, finance and money

Exam Board

The exam board for our subject is OCR.

As with all subjects, the final exam board guidance on grading will not be released until the end of March. We hope that this will not alter any of the details above, but it may do. We will let you know as soon as we can, if anything does change.



How will my grade be decided in GCSE Computer Science?

Evidence and Dates

In order to establish your grade in Computer Science we will use a broad range of evidence.

This will include three in-class assessments:

- (Paper 1) Unit 1 and 4: week beginning 29/03/2021 or 19/04/2021, exact dates to be confirmed
- (Paper 1) Unit 2 and 3: week beginning 19/04/2021 or 26/04/2021, exact dates to be confirmed
- (Paper 2) week beginning 03/05/2021 or 10/05/2021, exact dates to be confirmed

And two end of year exams in the 2-week exam block (beginning 17/05/2021)

Content changes

Some content has been reduced from the final exams due to time constraints and missed teaching time. Your teachers will confirm this list with you during lesson time however the draft list is below:

- The concept of file management
- Encryption
- The concept of Virtual Networks
- Exponentiation
- The concept of a check digit

Exam Board

The exam board for computer science is OCR

As with all subjects, the final exam board guidance on grading isn't released until the end of March. We hope that this will not alter any of the details above, but it may do. We will let you know as soon as we can, if anything does change.



How will my grade be decided in GCSE Dance?

Evidence

In order to establish your grade in Dance we will use a broad range of evidence. This may include the following:

- Your performance of the set phrase 'Breathe' filmed in October 2020
- Your performance of the solo performance filmed in December 2020
- A written paper taken in week four of SUMI
- A written paper taken in the final two weeks of SUMI

Dates

The most important (approximate) dates you need to be aware of are:

- Wednesday 12th May- written paper taken in lesson time.
- End of year 2-week exam block - written paper taken in the sports hall.

Content changes

Practical:

- You will not be required to complete your solo choreographies and these won't be submitted as evidence towards your final grade.
- Instead the two practical performances you filmed before lockdown will now be doubled weighted and account for the full 60% of your practical mark (*to be confirmed by the exam board*)

Theory:

- No changes will be made to the content of the written examination.

Exam Board

The exam board for our subject is AQA

As with all subjects, the final exam board guidance on grading isn't released until the end of March. We hope that this will not alter any of the details above, but it may do. We will let you know as soon as we can, if anything does change.



How will my grade be decided in GCSE Drama?

Evidence

In order to establish your grade in Drama we will use a broad range of evidence. This may include:

- Portfolio Coursework Component 1
- Component 2 scripted performance
- Full Component 3 Paper taken in May
- Full Component 3 Paper taken in SUM 1 (*date still to be confirmed*)
- Devised Performance Component 1 (*only used to support grade at Component 2 if necessary or in case of absence*)

Dates

The most important (approximate) dates you need to be aware of are:

Tuesday 30th March- IID- Component Two Exam (NEA) P5& 6

Wednesday 31st March IIC- Component Two Exam (NEA) P6 and after school

Content changes

Removal of the evaluation coursework in C1

Removal of the performance for C1 (this has been heavily disrupted and relies on larger group work)

Lower time restraints for C2 performance (as already set by the exam board this year)

Exam Board

The exam board for our subject is Eduqas

As with all subjects, the final exam board guidance on grading isn't released until the end of March. We hope that this will not alter any of the details above, but it may do. We will let you know as soon as we can, if anything does change.



How will my grade be decided GCSE Design & Technology?

Evidence

In order to establish your grade in Design and Technology we will use a broad range of evidence. This may include...

1. The NEA
2. 3 in-class assessments comprising of 3 separate papers focused on the core technical principles.
3. 1 in-class assessment on a single specialist principle
4. A single end of year assessment comprising section A questions only.

Dates

The most important (approximate) dates you need to be aware of are...

- NEA Deadline: March 31ST 2021
- In-class assessment 1: 20TH – 23RD April
- In-class assessment 2: 26TH – 30TH April
- In-class assessment 3: 4TH – 7TH May
- In-class assessment 4: 10TH – 14TH May
- End of year assessment: Section A 1 Hour Paper (weeks beginning 17th or 24th May)

Content changes

Reductions in mark allocations for specific sections of the NEA (*still to be confirmed*).

- **Realising Design Ideas:** this section of the NEA has been reduced from 20 to 10 marks
- Students will no longer be assessed on the skill of making but will be required to show their 'intentions of prototypes' and demonstrate their understanding of the processes involved in making
- The assessment no longer requires students to make a final prototype - instead, they can show their understanding of the processes involved in making by writing about them.
- **Analysing and Evaluation:** this section has been reduced from 20 to 15 marks
- Analysis and evaluation throughout the design process can take place in relation to prototype ideas and models
- There's no expectation to test a final made prototype, but students should find ways of testing prototype designs – *please speak to your teacher about this.*

Exam Board

The exam board for our subject is AQA

As with all subjects, the final exam board guidance on grading isn't released until the end of March. We hope that this will not alter any of the details above, but it may do. We will let you know as soon as we can, if anything does change.



How will my grade be decided in GCSE Food & Nutrition?

Evidence

In order to establish your grade in GCSE Food and Nutrition we will use a broad range of evidence. This may include...

- NEA2
- 4 In class written assessments
- End of Year Final Exam Paper

Dates

The most important (approximate) dates you need to be aware of are...

NEA Deadline: 31st March 2021

In class assessment: 29th March – 4th April

In class assessment: 4th – 7th May

In class assessment 10th -14th May

In class assessment: 17th -21st May

End of Year Paper 1hr: 24th – 28th May

Content changes

NEA1 Removed

All 5 sections of the theoretical elements of the course will continue to be assessed as these have been taught in depth - however specific sub sections will not be included. These topics will be shared with you in due course by your specialist teacher and after the exam board update.

Exam Board

The exam board for our subject is AQA

As with all subjects, the final exam board guidance on grading isn't released until the end of March. We hope that this will not alter any of the details above, but it may do. We will let you know as soon as we can, if anything does change.



How will my grade be decided in French or German GCSE?

Evidence

In order to establish your grade in French/German we will use a broad range of evidence. All dates below are approximate, and are subject to change. We will let students know as soon as possible if the dates change. This may include:

- Your speaking endorsement (3 separate recordings)
 - o Week commencing 1st March (Spring 2, Week 2)
 - o Week commencing 15th March (Spring 2, Week 4)
 - o Week commencing 22nd March (Spring 2, Week 5)
- Mini-exams
 - o Listening week commencing 19th April (Summer 1, Week 1)
 - o Writing week commencing 26th April (Summer 1, Week 2)
 - o Reading week commencing 3rd May (Summer 1, Week 3)
- Full exams during the 2 exam weeks starting 17th May
 - o Listening and Reading exam
 - o Writing exam
- If needed, we may also use previous evidence from year 11 such as November mock exams or big writes.

Content changes

The speaking part of the GCSE has already been changed, as you will know. It is now an endorsement which will result in either a pass, merit or distinction. This will not be included in your final grade; it will be awarded alongside it. E.g. you might receive a grade 6 with a merit in speaking.

We will also be offering more choice of topic in the writing and speaking exams, so that students are able to answer questions on a topic that they feel more confident in. There will be at least 3 choices of topic for each writing exam we sit.

Exam Board

The exam board for Languages is AQA.

As with all subjects, the final exam board guidance on grading isn't released until the end of March. We hope that this will not alter any of the details above, but it may do. We will let you know as soon as we can, if anything does change.



How will my grade be decided in GCSE Geography?

Evidence

In order to establish your grade in geography we will use a broad range of evidence. This may include:

Paper 1, 2 and 3 formal assessments – with decreased weighting for paper 2 due to removed content.

In-class benchmarking assessments, some prior assessment data and/or classwork tasks may be used as back up evidence to support the formal assessment data, if required.

Dates

The most important (approximate) dates you need to be aware of are...

Spring 2, Week 6 – Benchmark Paper 3 (in class)

Summer 1, Week 1 – Benchmark Paper 1 (in class)

Summer 1, Week 3 – Paper 1 assessment with topic choices (in class)

Summer 1, Week 4 – Paper 2 assessment with content removed (in class)

Summer 1 Week 5 and 6 – Paper 3 assessment (formal school assessment conditions)

Content changes

Paper 1 – Global Geographical Issues: students will be offered a choice of 2 out of the 3 topic areas to choose from in assessments to reduce content load required.

Paper 2 – UK Geographical Issues: removal of physical geography topics (rocks, rivers and coasts) taught during Y10 lockdown period and fieldwork requirements which were not delivered due to restrictions. This leaves UK human landscapes taught in Y11 Autumn term.

Paper 3 – Making Geographical Decisions: students will complete all of this paper based on more recent learning.

Exam Board

The exam board for our subject is Edexcel B

As with all subjects, the final exam board guidance on grading isn't released until the end of March. We hope that this will not alter any of the details above, but it may do. We will let you know as soon as we can, if anything does change.



How will my grade be decided in GCSE History?

Evidence

In order to establish your grade in History GCSE we will use a broad range of evidence. This may include:

- Assessments completed in class in April
- Assessments completed in the Sports Hall/Theatre in May
- Supplementary evidence, where needed (e.g. extended writing tasks done in lesson time or previous mock results)

Dates

The most important dates (*these are still to be confirmed*) that you need to be aware of are:

Date	Assessment	Topics you assessed <i>You need to revise these:</i>	Exam questions <i>Ensure you practice these:</i>
Both papers held in the exam weeks beginning 17 th May	Paper 1: History of medicine	-Medieval medicine, c1250-1500 -Renaissance medicine, c1500-1700 -Medicine in the industrial period c1700-1900 -WWI: Illness and injuries on the Western Front -WWI: Treatments used on the Western Front	-Describe 2 features (4) -How useful are sources B and C (8) -Explain one way in which x was similar / different to y (4) -Explain why (12) -Statement. HFDYA (16+4 SPAG)
	Paper 2: Early Elizabethan England, 1558-88	<i>All 3 topics will need to be revised:</i> 1. Queen, government and religion, 1558-88 2. Challenges to Elizabeth at home and abroad, 1569-88 3. Elizabethan society in the age of exploration, 1558-88	-Describe 2 features (4) -Explain why (12) -Statement. HFDYA (16)

Content changes

- Paper 1 Section A: WWI – we will only be assessing the topics mentioned above.
- Paper 1 Section B: we will **not** be assessing the topic modern medicine, 1900-present.
- Paper 3: Given the difficult circumstances this year, you will **not** be assessed again on Paper 3 (Weimar and Nazi Germany, 1918-39). If needed, your December mock Paper 3 can be used as supplementary evidence.

Exam Board

The exam board for our subject is Edexcel

As with all subjects, the final exam board guidance on grading isn't released until the end of March. We hope that this will not alter any of the details above, but it may do. We will let you know as soon as we can, if anything does change.



How will my grade be decided in GCSE Music?

Evidence

In order to establish your grade in Music we will use a broad range of evidence. This may include your recorded performance recital, your free composition, and listening test results.

Dates

The most important (approximate) dates you need to be aware of are:

Wednesday 31st March	Final performance recital: at least grade 3 standard and 2 minutes long. If under 2 minutes prepare a second piece. You must have a score of the piece you are performing.
Thursday 1st April	Final composition submitted to Google Classroom as MP3 with score or screenshots of Logic/Bandlab and commentary
Late in Sum I	Music listening test

Content changes

The content of your music GCSE remains the same. You may recall that coursework requirements for music were nearly halved in September 2020. We are maintaining these adjustments of one performance and one composition. The above components will continue to be *worth* the same: performance 30%, composition 30% and appraising 40%. You must continue to revise Classical music, musicals, jazz, film, pop, fusion, and bhangra music as well as the Mozart and Rainbow set works.

Exam Board

The exam board for our subject is EDUQAS

As with all subjects, the final exam board guidance on grading isn't released until the end of March. We hope that this will not alter any of the details above, but it may do. We will let you know as soon as we can, if anything does change.



How will my grade be decided in GCSE Physical Education?

Evidence

In order to establish your grade in GCSE Physical Education we will use a broad range of evidence. This may include:

Component 1- Fitness and Body Systems- Paper 1 exam

Component 2- Health and Performance- Paper 2 exam

Component 3- Practical performance

Component 4- Personal Exercise Programme (PEP)

Dates

The most important (approximate) dates you need to be aware of are:

Component 4 (PEP)- Needs to be handed in on the **19th April**

Component 3 (Practical) – **Moderation day on 7/06/21**

Component 2 (Paper 2 exam)- **week beginning 3/05/21**

Component 1 (Paper 1 exam)- **week beginning 24/05/21**

Content changes

It is still to be decided exactly which content students will be tested on. At the moment, students should prepare to be tested on all of the theory work they have studied – we will review this in light of the exam board guidance.

Exam Board

The exam board for our subject is Edexcel - GCSE (9-1) Physical Education

As with all subjects, the final exam board guidance on grading isn't released until the end of March. We hope that this will not alter any of the details above, but it may do. We will let you know as soon as we can, if anything does change.



How will my grade be decided in GCSE Psychology?

Evidence

In order to establish your grade in GCSE Psychology we will use a broad range of evidence. This may include:

- Memory Mini Exam
- Development Mini Exam
- Research Methods Mini Exam
- Paper 2 Exam (Language, Brain & Neuropsychology and Psychological Problems)

(End of topic tests sat just before Easter may be used as supportive evidence *if* needed)

Dates

The most important (approximate) dates you need to be aware of are:

- Memory Mini Exam – week beginning 3rd May (sat in class)
- Development Mini Exam – week beginning 10th May (sat in class)
- Research Methods Mini Exam – week beginning 10th May (sat in class)
- Paper 2 Exam – week beginning 17th or 24th May (sat in the sports hall/theatre)

Content changes

Paper 1 – Perception removed

Paper 2 – Social Influence removed

Exam Board

The exam board for our subject is AQA.

As with all subjects, the final exam board guidance on grading isn't released until the end of March. We hope that this will not alter any of the details above, but it may do. We will let you know as soon as we can, if anything does change.



How will my grade be decided in GCSE RE?

Evidence

In order to establish your grade in RE we will use a range of evidence, including:

- Philosophy & Ethics – in-class exam questions sat in exam conditions
- Christianity & Islam – Exam papers sat during exam weeks
- Some prior assessment data may be used as back up evidence to support the formal assessment data, if required.

Exam Week Paper 1: Christian Beliefs & Christian Practices (2, 5, 8, 15 mark questions)

Exam Week Paper 2: Islamic Beliefs & Islamic Practices (2, 5, 8, 15 mark questions)

Dates

The most important (approximate) dates you need to be aware of are:

Week beginning 19th April: In class exam questions on Relationships

Week beginning 3rd May: In class exam questions on Good & Evil

Week beginning 17th & 24th May: Paper 1 Christianity & Paper 2 Islam

Content changes

You will not be examined on many of the content/topics covered in lockdown.

This means you will not be examined on **Human Rights** or **Life & death** units in Philosophy & Ethics.

Exam Board

The exam board for our subject is Eduqas.

As with all subjects, the final exam board guidance on grading isn't released until the end of March. We hope that this will not alter any of the details above, but it may do. We will let you know as soon as we can, if anything does change.



How will my grade be decided in GCSE Statistics?

Evidence

In order to establish your grade in Statistics we anticipate using the following evidence:

- Final exams in May (from week beginning 10th) to contribute the largest weighting towards your final grade.
- A portfolio of classwork and small topic tests will also be used to support your final grade, if needed.

Dates

The most important (approximate) dates you need to be aware of are:

Assessment 1 – week beginning 10th May (in-class)

Assessment 2 – week beginning 17th May or 24th May (in the Sports Hall)

Content changes

- There will be a reduction in extended response questions to reflect the circumstances under which this was taught.
- There will be a number of content areas removed from the final assessments. These are quite specific and will be communicated directly by your teacher.

Exam Board

The exam board for our subject is Edexcel.

As with all subjects, the final exam board guidance on grading isn't released until the end of March. We hope that this will not alter any of the details above, but it may do. We will let you know as soon as we can, if anything does change.



How will my grade be decided in GCSE Textiles?

In Textiles, the process is exactly the same as with Art (see above). Nothing has really changed – except that our exam board has decided that the exam project – component 2 – will be removed.

It remains the case that your final grade will be based on:

- Your coursework projects
- A combination of your **details project**, and your **identity project**.

We really want to be able to give credit for work done in your previous sketchbooks. We will need to start looking at your sketchbooks in detail to decide what grade is appropriate, and as a result, we must have all sketchbooks in school – at the very latest – **by Thursday 1st April** – before the Easter holidays. Doing this will **allow your teachers to give you advice and feedback about specific actions you can take** to improve your grade before it's too late. We strongly recommend that you take advantage of the opportunity to do this, as there is still plenty of time to improve your grade!

We know many of you will want to add to your body of work before the end of the course, to show the full extent of your ability. All work that you want to be considered must be submitted to the department before you leave for the half-term break on **Friday 28th May**.

Exam Board

The exam board for our subject is Edexcel.

As with all subjects, the final exam board guidance on grading isn't released until the end of March. We hope that this will not alter any of the details above, but it may do. We will let you know as soon as we can, if anything does change.



Frequency Asked Questions

Will my grades be based on old (mock) exam results?

As much as possible, grade evidence will be collected as late on in the year as is practicable. This means student grades will be **based primarily on assessments and other evidence gathered in the summer term**. However, in some circumstances we may also need to use evidence from earlier on in the year. This might be because a student was absent for an assessment, or because earlier evidence is a fairer demonstration of what they can do (speaking assessment results in languages, for example, may have been better earlier on in the year as students were not able to practice this during lockdown).

Will my grades be based on exams only?

No – these are not ‘exams replaced with exams’. Each subject will pull together evidence in the way that is best for that subject. If a subject usually has coursework, this will be included in the evidence. If a subject is usually only assessed by exam, evidence may also include in-class topic tests or substantial pieces of classwork, as well as written exams. Some written exams will be taken in the Sports Hall or the Theatre, some may be taken during normal lesson time just with your class. The best way to think of it, is some exams with the ‘safety net’ of supporting evidence, where needed.

Will my coursework (NEA) count towards my final grade?

Yes. If one of the subjects you study has coursework (Non Examined Assessment), then this will count towards your final grade. If your NEA isn’t finished your teacher will still use it as evidence towards your grade and will mark the work you have completed. You will not be penalised and receive a lower grade if your NEA isn’t finished.

What other ‘evidence’ might my teachers take into account?

Teachers may include topic tests, classwork (individual work only), coursework, exam questions, multiple choice tests, portfolio work and anything else that is appropriate for that subject. Your teachers will tell you (and you can see on the previous pages) which type of evidence they *anticipate* using for their subject. In most cases the majority of your final grade will be determined by assessments taken late on in Sum I. Where students are absent for these assessments, or when a student is on the borderline between two different grades, we may need to include supplementary evidence. We expect the exam boards to give us further guidance on this before Easter – we will let you know if anything changes.

Will we be given any study leave?

You will have some study leave during the 2-week exam block at the end of May. This means, from Monday 17th May you will be able to work at home when you do not have an exam in school. You must make sure you organise your revision during this time, read your exam timetable carefully and arrive at school well before any exams start.

Will there be revision sessions (either during school time or during the holidays)?

All of your teachers are available to support you, from now, with any extra revision you may need. At the moment there is no compulsory after school intervention programme – working as hard as you can during lesson time is more important. If you would like to stay and do some extra revision



after school, you are more than welcome to, however – please arrange this directly with your teachers.

Similarly, if you would like to attend some revision sessions during the Easter holidays, please speak to your subject teachers about this. Departments will be more than happy to arrange intervention sessions, as long as this isn't seen as a substitute for hard work during lessons now, and a sensible programme of independent revision.

How do I know what to revise?

On the previous pages, Heads of Department may have signposted some course content that isn't now being assessed this year. Make sure you don't spend time revising this content in place of something more urgent. If this isn't clear from the subject page (not all subjects are able to adjust their courses / assessments in the same way) then go directly to your teacher. For full guidance about exactly what to revise and when, you must speak to your subject teachers – they know best of all and will advise you accordingly.

Will I be disadvantaged if I haven't been able to work easily during lockdown?

It is important that you tell us if you think you have been **disproportionally** affected (*affected much more than others*) by the Covid pandemic. Although we cannot apply for 'special dispensation' for any student this year (this is only allowed under the usual exam and grading arrangements), we can make sure all subject teachers know to consider separately the circumstances under which you were studying and how you may not have been able to learn content in the same way as other students. These would, sadly, need to be quite serious circumstances (for example a close family bereavement or similar) as the grading process has already been adjusted quite a bit this year. If you think there is something of this nature that we need to know, please communicate this to your child's Director of Learning.

Has my grade already been decided?

No, it definitely has not. In all subjects, there is still a huge opportunity for you to influence your final grade. In the vast majority of subjects and the vast majority of cases, evidence gathering hasn't started yet and you still have multiple opportunities to show your teachers what you are capable of!

What if I am not happy with my final grades?

There is a substantial appeals system in place this year, which you can use if you believe you have not been treated fairly. More information is still to be released on this, however the general gist is that you can appeal to KAA first of all, if you think there has been an administration error. Or, secondly, you can request that KAA appeals to the exam board, on your behalf if you believe the grading process hasn't been carried out properly and you have been unfairly disadvantaged. We will write to you with more information on this, once the guidance has been released (expected at the end of April). Please remember though, if you do appeal your result – your final grade could be adjusted up **or down**, by the exam board.

Can I re-sit my exams at a later date?

We are still waiting for clarification on whether there will be a 're-sit' exam series later on this year. Last year, students who were not happy with their final grades were able to take exams in



the autumn and choose the best of their two results. We will let you know, as soon as we can, if the same thing is also happening this year.

Will my teachers give me a lower grade if I have not behaved well this year?

Absolutely not. The government guidance is very clear – student grades should be based on evidence and must not be influenced by student behaviour or any other similar factors. There is a thorough moderation and quality assurance process put in place, both at a subject and a whole school level, to make sure this doesn't happen.

Am I allowed to know my assessment results before June?

You may already know some of the assessment results you have achieved across the course of this/last year – for example, mock exam, internal class test or NEA results. This is completely fine and will give you an idea of the level you are working at. **Your teacher's are not, however, allowed to tell you what your final school assessed grade will be – please do not ask them.** This means they cannot tell you the results of any substantial assessments you take after **19th April**. This will include exams taken in the Sports Hall/Theatre, or any substantial in-class assessments. They will still be able to mark your usual classwork/homework, of course, and be able to give you feedback on how to improve.

When will I find out my final grades?

A Level results day is 10th August 2021

GCSE results day is 12th August 2021

We will write to you with more information about collecting your results nearer the time.

Will my results be worth as much as GCSES/ A Levels in previous year?

Absolutely, yes. Your final grades will be treated in exactly the same way as grades achieved by students in previous years, and in years to come. You will be able to access college/university courses in exactly the same way as you would have done in previous years, and future employers view them in the same way. When you receive your final (formal) qualification certificates, they will look no different to those from previous years.

Who should I speak to if I am worried about my results?

If you are particularly worried about your results and feel you would like to talk to someone in advance, please make sure you do this. The best person to speak to initially, would be your Form Tutor, or your Director of Learning.

Will my classwork & homework count towards my final grade?

In the vast majority of cases, grades will be based on substantial pieces of evidence – exams, in-class assessments, essays, topic-tests etc. We have been instructed to base your grades on a broad range of evidence however, so may need to refer to classwork / homework if you are lacking evidence elsewhere. Any work of this nature would need to be **only your work however**, not work done with the help of others (which some classwork / homework is). To minimise the need for us to use your classwork / homework as evidence, make sure you prepare as well as you can for all future assessment opportunities and have excellent attendance.



Is it more difficult to get a very high grade (A/A* or 8/9) within this grading system?

No – all assessments will be designed so you can 'show off' what you have learnt and aim for the highest grades possible. We will apply grading systems in line with the exam board recommendations, which will include grading at the very top end. The government have said no student should be disadvantaged by achieving their results under this system, in comparison to others. This means at the highest grades as well.

Will I be tested on the full course – even the work we have struggled with during lockdown?

The government have said this year, you should be tested on only the work you have been **taught**, not necessarily the full course, as in all other years. This may be work taught to you in school, or work taught remotely during lockdown. Each of your subjects is looking carefully at the work you have covered across the 2 years and being careful not to assess you on work they don't think you have had a chance to learn. This is probably some of the work taught in the first school closure, or maybe some of the work in the second. It is up to individual departments to decide which work this is and you should speak to your teachers in detail about what this might be. Some departments will only have a little bit of content removed from their assessments (as they were able to teach you everything else properly) and some will have more. It depends on the structure of each course and the type of content.

Will my attendance affect my final grade?

In any year, there is a strong correlation (connection) between how well students do and their attendance. If your attendance has been low during your earlier years at secondary school, then this will have limited your achievement in the past – you cannot learn well if you are not in school. However, this is not a normal year. We are not allowed to take your actual attendance figure into account when generating your grade this year – we will not look at it. Your grade will be based on evidence of the level you are working at – not how much work you have produced. If you are absent when assessments take place this year, we will look at previous evidence (perhaps your mock exams, previous assessment results or other in-class evidence).

What processes are KAA putting in place to check the results are fair?

Each department will have a full plan of moderation and quality assurance to check that the final grades produced, are fair. They will check fairness in marking, that unconscious bias hasn't played a role in deciding the grades, that assessments have been administered in the same way to all students, that the same information was given to all students, that test papers were treated anonymously where possible, that teachers have treated all students fairly and a range of other measures.

Will the exam boards check our results?

The school will submit grades to the exam boards by 18th June. Following this, the exam boards will check that our results are reasonable and that they fit with the performance of other students nationally and other students in previous year's at KAA (approximately). Exactly how they will do this and whether or not they will want to look at our evidence, isn't clear yet. This information should be out by the end of March but yes, generally the exam boards will check the grades we submit.



Might the exam boards change our results once they have been submitted?

There is no algorithm designed to check / adjust results this year, as was used in part, last year. If the exam boards don't think our results are reasonable and don't believe we have carried out the grading process in an objective and fair way, they will come back to us (before you receive your results) and discuss changes. Again, we are not exactly sure what this will look like yet but should do by the end of March. This is one reason why having a robust, broad range of evidence for each of you, and why completing this process in a fair and transparent way, is so important.

What is a Grading Viva?

A Grading Viva is a formal meeting that we might need to hold with some students before your final grades are submitted. This might be because we need to use a different piece of evidence to support a grade (and we want to inform you of this), or because you are on the borderline between two grades and we need to gather further evidence in order to distinguish. You will be given warning if you need to attend this meeting and guidelines about what will happen. During these meetings **we are absolutely not allowed to tell your final result**. It is unlikely that many students will have these meetings, but we wanted to warn you just in case.

When do we leave school officially?

We are still awaiting guidelines on when exactly students will finish the year officially. As it stands at the moment, we expect students only need attend school for specific 'bridging sessions' after May half term, however this is very much to be confirmed. **Please don't focus on this for now, it is not important and will distract you from what is**. Instead, please focus on the next 3 months and how you can do as well as possible, in the time left.

Will there be any support offered to help me prepare for my courses next year?

Yes – as mentioned above, we think we will be able to offer 'bridging sessions' in Summer2 to help prepare you for your next stage of study. We will be able to confirm this later on in the year.

Do we still have to learn any new content, or is it only revision in each subject from now on?

In most subjects, the delivery of new content is stopping over the next few weeks. This is slightly earlier than normal for some subjects to allow you an appropriate amount of revision time.

Do I still revise for each subject in the same way as I was going to?

Yes – in most cases. This is a subject specific question however, and you **must speak to your class teachers** (as a matter of urgency) if you are unsure about how to revise for each subject.

Will I be given an exam timetable?

Yes – we will provide you with an overview of Summer1 as soon as we can. This will tell you when *most* exams are taking place during this time (even if they are in lesson time) – however we will not include smaller in-class mini tests. We will then give you a personalised exam timetable for the last 2 weeks of the half-term. This is when you will be off timetable (not in lessons) and taking exams in the Sports Hall or Theatre.



Will I still get a grade for my home languages qualification?

Yes. If you have already been entered for a home language qualification (e.g. Arabic GCSE or Italian A Level) then we will base your grade on evidence in the same way as with other subjects. You will need to demonstrate your level through written exam papers and we will quality assure this in the appropriate way. Arrangements for this are already being made so if you haven't yet spoken to Ms Pedley, please do so as a matter of urgency.

What if I am usually entitled to exam access arrangements?

If you usually take your exams in a separate room, have a scribe that writes for you, have rest breaks built into your time, or have a prompter that supports you in exams - this will all still apply. When the rest of the year group take exams in the Sports Hall/Theatre, we will make sure you are supported in the usual way. When you have topic-tests or in-class assessments, your teacher will either act as that supporting person, or will make sure you can do the assessment somewhere else (with support). All of your teachers have already been informed about exam access arrangements and are planning with this in mind. If you want to check whether you have qualified for these arrangements (strict process through the exams regulator) then please see Ms Sullivan in Learning Support.