



# A Level Grading 2021

## Information Booklet for Students & Parents

Ms Jordan – March 2021

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### Introduction

As you are aware, A Level 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 results. The timeline below shows the upcoming periods of revision and when students can expect to begin taking assessments.

On pages 4 to 23 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 **18<sup>th</sup> 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. A Levels 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 B Grade, 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;"><b>8<sup>th</sup> March – 1<sup>st</sup> April</b> 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;"><b>2-week Easter break</b> – follow your own independent revision timetable</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>19<sup>th</sup> April – 14<sup>th</sup> May</b> 4-week period of lessons, revision and <b>ongoing assessment</b></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 may also be some larger cohort exams taking place in the Sports Hall and Theatre during this time.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>17<sup>th</sup> May – 28<sup>th</sup> May</b> 2-week exam block – no normal lessons</p> <p style="text-align: center;">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;"><b>1-week half-term break</b></p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>7<sup>th</sup> &amp; 8<sup>th</sup> June</b></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;"><b>9<sup>th</sup> – 17<sup>th</sup> June</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><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 <b>18<sup>th</sup> June</b></p>



## **Subject pages**

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

<b>Subject</b>	<b>Page Number</b>
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## How will my grade be decided in 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 solely on your personal investigation**. This will take into account:

- Your body of practical work
- Your personal investigation essay.

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 1<sup>st</sup> 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 28<sup>th</sup> 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 Biology?

### Evidence

- In order to establish your grade in biology the main sources of evidence will be 2 exam papers (paper 1 and paper 2) as well as an essay.
- Your exam papers could include questions only on practicals completed in school (required practical 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6).
- Other potential supporting evidence to inform a final grade could include work comprising previous and future assessment data.
- As with every year, a separate endorsement of practical skills will be taken alongside the A-level. We anticipate that all students will pass the endorsement but should your current work on this require improvement, we will give you the opportunity to do so.

### Dates

The most important dates you need to be aware of are between 17<sup>th</sup> May and 28<sup>th</sup> May 2021, as this is when you will take your 2 biology exams.

### Content changes

- You will no longer be sitting a paper 3 exam
- You will not be assessed on required practical 5, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11 and 12 as these were not physically carried out in school.
- You will also not be assessed on the following topics within your exams:
  - Meiosis
  - Transport of substances in the xylem and the phloem
  - Nutrient cycles

### Exam Board

The exam board for our subject is AQA.

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## How will my grade be decided in Chemistry?

### Evidence

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

- Paper 1 and paper 2 exams taken during the 2-week exam period beginning on the week commencing 17<sup>th</sup> May
- A portfolio of evidence which could include data from past and future mock exams, past and future topic tests, and an oral exam.

### Dates

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

- Week commencing 22<sup>nd</sup> March: full paper 1 and paper 2 mock exams after school on 2 separate evenings
- Week commencing 17<sup>th</sup> May onwards: final paper 1 and paper 2 exams

### Content changes

Paper 3 will not be examined. This is due to students not having had the opportunity to perform every required practical in class. Note that the practical endorsement will be assessed in the normal way based on the practicals you have carried out so far. We anticipate that all students will pass the endorsement but should your lab book require improvement we will give you the opportunity to do so.

### Exam Board

The exam board for our subject is AQA.

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## How will my grade be decided in Computer Science?

### Evidence and Dates

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

This will be made up from a range of your previous unit assessments and the following upcoming assessments:

- Unit test 5A and 5B networks and Web - W/B 22/03/2021
- Programming Techniques and 4A compression. 4B Databases. – W/B 29/03/2021
- Morals and Ethics test. – W/B 19/04/2021
- Legislation test. – W/B 26/04/2021

Your completed programming project will also be used as evidence.

Finally, the two end of year exams. W/B 17/05/2021

### Content changes

Some content has been removed from the final assessments, due to recent circumstances. Your teachers will communicate this with you directly, however an overview is below:

- Hashing
- Time complexity of algorithms

### Exam Board

The exam board for our subject is OCR

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## How will my grade be decided in 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 solo 'Ghost Dances' filmed in December 2020
- Your performance of the duet 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:

- Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> May - written paper taken during lesson time.
- 2-week exam period beginning 17<sup>th</sup> May (exact date tbc) - written paper taken in the Sports Hall.

### Content changes

Practical:

- You will not be required to complete your 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 50% 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

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## How will my grade be decided in Drama?

### Evidence

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

- Practitioners in Practice  
(This includes your devised performance, research report and portfolio)
- Exploring and Performing Texts scripted performance
- Full Analysing Performance Paper taken in May
- Full Deconstructing Texts Paper taken in May
- Section A AP paper taken in SUM I
- Section B AP paper taken in SUM I
- Q1 DC Paper taken in SUM I
- Q2 DC Paper taken in SUM I

### Dates

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

**Monday 29<sup>th</sup> March**- Exploring and Performing Texts practical exam (NEA) after school

### Content changes

Removal of the concept pro-forma for Exploring and Performing Texts

Lower time restraints for performance (as per exam board guidance 2021)

Section B AP Paper- question will focus on design as acting elements have not been taught/covered

### Exam Board

The exam board for our subject is OCR

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## How will my grade be decided in English?

### Evidence

In order to establish your grade in English we will use a broad range of evidence. This includes assessing all sections of the course over April and May. Coursework has been completed and this will be weighted at 20%.

### Dates

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

<p><b>Paper 3 - Poetry</b> SPLIT PAPER</p> <p>The Romantics - <b>Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> April - Theatre (tbc) - 8.30 - 1 hour 15 min</b></p> <p>Poems of the Decade - <b>Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> April - Theatre (tbc) - 8.30 - 1 hour 15 min</b></p>
<p><b>Paper 1 - Drama</b> SPLIT PAPER</p> <p>Dr Faustus <b>Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> May - Theatre - 8.30 - 1 hour</b></p> <p><b>Othello</b> <b>W/C 17<sup>th</sup> May - 1 hour 15 min</b></p>
<p><b>Paper 2 - Prose</b> Science in Society (Frankenstein and Never Let Me Go)</p> <p><b>W/C - 24<sup>th</sup> May - 1 hour 15 min</b></p>
<p><b>Coursework has been completed and will be weighted at 20%</b></p>

### Content changes

We will still assess all sections of the course. However, for the poetry papers, we have removed some poems from the selections - please see your class teacher for details of these.

### Exam Board

The exam board for our subject is: A level English Literature - Edexcel

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## How will my grade be decided in French?

### Evidence

In order to establish your grade in French 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:

- Speaking exam (3 mock speaking exams)
  - o Week commencing 1<sup>st</sup> March (Spring 2, Week 2)
  - o Week commencing 22<sup>nd</sup> March (Spring 2, Week 5)
  - o Week commencing 19<sup>th</sup> April (Summer 1, Week 1)
- Mini-exams
  - o Mini paper 1 exam (reading, listening and writing) week commencing 26<sup>th</sup> April (Summer 1, Week 2)
  - o Mini paper 2 exam (writing) week commencing 3<sup>rd</sup> May (Summer 1, Week 3)
- Full exams during the 2 exam weeks starting 17<sup>th</sup> May
  - o Paper 1 (reading, listening and writing)
  - o Paper 2 (writing)
- If needed, we may also use previous evidence from year 13 such as AP4 mock exams, previous speaking exams or previous writing exams and essays.

### Content changes

- We are removing the film studies element from the writing exam as this was studied during the first lockdown. Students will now only be assessed on the literature element of the writing exam (on No et Moi). The paper 2 writing exam will now be 1 hour only, and students will only write one essay in this exam on No et Moi. We will also offer a wider choice of essay question for students.
- We are also removing these two topics from the speaking exam: septieme art and criminals. Students may still need the vocabulary from these topics in paper 1, but they will not need to be able to speak about these topics.
- In the speaking exam, we will offer students a wider choice of topic.

### Exam Board

The exam board for our subject is AQA.

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## How will my grade be decided in Further Maths?

### Evidence

- Student grades will largely be determined by end of year examinations
- A portfolio of student classwork, previous data and additional in-class tasks, may be used to support the exam evidence, if needed.

Date	Paper	Content
<b>Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> April</b> P5 and P6	Core Pure paper 1 hour 30 mins	Refer to topic list, given by your teacher
<b>Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> April</b> P5 and P6	Decision I Further Mechanics I 1 hour 30 mins	Refer to topic list, given by your teacher
<b>Exam Period</b>	Core Pure 1 hour 30 mins	Refer to topic list, given by your teacher
<b>Exam Period</b>	Decision I + Further Mechanics I 1 hour 30 mins	Refer to topic list, given by your teacher

### Content changes

Some content is being removed from each unit. For exact details, please see your teacher. A general (draft) list is below:

- Vectors
- Modelling with Differential Equations
- The Planarity Algorithm
- The Travelling Salesman Problems
- The Simplex Algorithm
- Elastic collision in 2 dimensions

### Exam Board

The exam board for our subject is Edexcel

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## How will my grade be decided in Geography?

### Evidence

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

- NEA results – weighting remains at 20%
- Paper 1, 2 and 3 assessments in exam conditions with adjusted content for remaining 80% (tbc)
- Paper 1, 2 and 3 benchmarking assessments prior to more formal exams, plus prior AP data may also be used to provide supporting evidence if required.

### Dates

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

Paper 2 benchmark – Spring 2, Week 6 (in class)

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

Paper 3 benchmark – Summer 1, Week 2 (in class)

Paper 1 formal assessment – Summer 1, Week 4 (in class)

Paper 2 and 3 formal assessments – Summer 1, Week 5 and 6 (formal assessment period)

### Content changes

Topics covered during Y12 lockdown will be removed to make content manageable and fair – breadth across the course will still be ensured as these topics were covered in NEAs. A balance of physical and human geography has still been maintained by the remaining content.

- Paper 1 – Removal of the coasts topic
- Paper 2 – Removal of the regeneration topic

### Exam Board

The exam board for our subject is Edexcel

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## How will my grade be decided in German?

### Evidence

In order to establish your grade in 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:

- Speaking exam (3 mock speaking exams)
  - o Week commencing 1<sup>st</sup> March (Spring 2, Week 2)
  - o Week commencing 22<sup>nd</sup> March (Spring 2, Week 5)
  - o Week commencing 19<sup>th</sup> April (Summer 1, Week 1)
- Mini-exams
  - o Mini paper 1 exam (reading, listening and writing) week commencing 26<sup>th</sup> April (Summer 1, Week 2)
  - o Mini paper 2 exam (writing) week commencing 3<sup>rd</sup> May (Summer 1, Week 3)
- Full exams during the 2 exam weeks starting 17<sup>th</sup> May
  - o Paper 1 (reading, listening and writing)
  - o Paper 2 (writing)
- If needed, we may also use previous evidence from year 13 such as AP4 mock exams, previous speaking exams or previous writing exams and essays.

### Content changes

- We are removing the film studies element from the writing exam as this was studied during the first lockdown. Students will now only be assessed on the literature element of the writing exam. The paper 2 writing exam will now be 1 hour only, and students will only write one essay in this exam on the book, Der Vorleser. We will also offer a wider choice of essay question for students.
- We are also removing these two topics from the speaking exam: Kunst und Architektur and Die Wiedervereinigung. Students may still need the vocabulary from these topics in paper 1, but they will not need to be able to speak about these topics.
- In the speaking exam, we will offer students a wider choice of topic.

### Exam Board

The exam board for our subject is AQA.

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## How will my grade be decided in Government & Politics?

### Evidence

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

- Assessments completed in class in April
- Assessments completed in the Sports Hall in May
- Supporting evidence from other sources, if needed

### Dates

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

<b>Date</b>	<b>Assessment</b>	<b>Topics assessed <i>You need to revise these:</i></b>	<b>Exam questions <i>Ensure you practice these:</i></b>
Thursday 1 April	Core and Non-Core Political Ideologies	-Liberalism -Socialism -Nationalism	24 mark knowledge essay x 2
Week commencing 17 <sup>th</sup> May (exam period)	Paper 2: UK Government	1. The UK Constitution 2. The UK Parliament 3. The UK Executive	30 mark source question 30 mark essay question
	Paper 3: USA G&P and Comparative Politics	1. The US Constitution 2. The US Congress 3. The US Executive 6. Comparative approaches	12 mark comparative question 30 mark essay question x 2

### Content changes

You have been taught the majority of content already but to support this, the following changes have been made regarding assessment:

- Paper 1 (UK Politics and Core Political Ideologies)
  - UK Politics topics and Conservatism removed
- Paper 2 (UK Government)
  - Topic 4 (Relations between branches) removed
- Paper 3 (USA and Comparative Politics)
  - Topics 4 and 5 (Supreme Court and Democracy and Participation) removed

### Exam Board

The exam board for our subject is Edexcel

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## How will my grade be decided in History?

### Evidence

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

- Assessments completed in class in March
- Assessments completed in the Sports Hall in May
- Coursework already completed
- Supporting evidence from other sources, if needed

### Dates

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

<b>Date</b>	<b>Assessment</b>	<b>Topics assessed</b> <i>You need to revise these:</i>	<b>Exam questions</b> <i>Ensure you practice these:</i>
Monday 29 <sup>th</sup> March during period 6 in class	Paper 3: Rebellion and disorder under the Tudors, 1485-1603	DS1: Challenging the succession, 1485-99 DS2: Challenging religious changes, 1533-37 DS3: Agrarian discontent, Kett's rebellion, 1549 DS4: Queen takes queen? Revolt of Northern Earls, 1569-70	20 mark knowledge essay 20 mark source question
Week commencing 17 <sup>th</sup> May (exam period)	Paper 1: USA, 1917-80	-Theme 1: Changing political landscape, 1917-80 -Theme 2: The quest for civil rights, 1917-80 -Theme 3: Society and culture in change, 1917-80 -Theme 4: Changing living standards, 1917-80	20 mark knowledge essay x2
	Paper 2: South Africa, 1948-94	1. The response to apartheid, 1948-59 2. Radicalisation of resistance and the consolidation of National Party power, 1960-68	20 mark knowledge essay

### Content changes

You have been taught the majority of content already but to support this, the following changes have been made regarding assessment:

- Paper 3 (Rebellion and Disorder under the Tudors, 1485-1603)
  - Depth study 5 and both breadth studies removed
- Paper 1 (USA, 1917-80);
  - Topic 5 – Reagan removed
- Paper 2 (South Africa, 1948-94)
  - Section A source question removed
  - Topics 3&4 removed

### Exam Board

The exam board for our subject is Edexcel

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## How will my grade be decided in Mathematics?

### Evidence

- Student grades will largely be determined by end of year examinations
- A portfolio of student classwork, previous data and additional in-class tasks, may be used to support the exam evidence, if needed.

### Dates

Date	Paper	Content
<b>Wednesday 21st April</b> P5 13D P5 13DFM P6 13B 13C to sit paper either P5 or P6 (all free except EL who will sit after school) <i>Final dates/lessons to be confirmed nearer the time</i>	Applied Mock Paper 45mins	Refer to topic list given by your teacher
<b>Friday 23rd April</b>  All students to sit P6	Pure Mock Paper 1 hour 30mins	Refer to topic list given by your teacher
<b>Exam Period</b>	Pure 1 1 hour 30mins	Refer to topic list given by your teacher
<b>Exam Period</b>	Pure 2 1 hour 30mins	Refer to topic list given by your teacher
<b>Exam Period</b>	Applied 1 hour 30mins	Refer to topic list given by your teacher

### Content changes

Some content is being removed from each unit. For exact details, please see your teacher. A general (draft) list is below:

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Vectors</li> <li>• Binomial expansions</li> <li>• Parametric Equations</li> <li>• Parametric differentiation</li> <li>• Numerical methods</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Parametric integration</li> <li>• Large data sets (stats)</li> <li>• Regression, correlation and hypothesis testing</li> <li>• Variable acceleration</li> <li>• Further Kinematics</li> </ul>
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### Exam Board

The exam board for our subject is Edexcel

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## How will my grade be decided in 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:

<b>Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> March</b>	Final <b>performance</b> recital: at least grade 6 standard and 2 minutes long. If under 2 minutes prepare a second piece. You must have a score of the piece you are performing.
<b>Wednesday 31<sup>st</sup> March</b>	Final <b>composition</b> submitted as MP3 with score or screenshots of Logic/Bandlab and commentary
<b>Sum I</b>	Music listening test

### Content changes

The content of your music A Level 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 35%, composition 25% and appraising 40%. You must continue to revise symphonies from 1750 to 1900, musicals and 20<sup>th</sup> Century Music as well as the Haydn and Mendelssohn 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 Physical Education?

### Evidence

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

Paper 1- Physiological Factors affecting performance- weighting 30%

Paper 2- Psychological Factors affecting performance- weighting 20%

Paper 3- Socio-cultural issues in physical activity and sport- weighting 20%

Practical performance- weighting 15%

Evaluating and analysing performance for improvement (EAPI)- weighting 15%

*(please note, these weightings are approximate and unconfirmed at this point)*

### Dates

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

Paper 2 (1 hour exam)- **W/C 26/04/21**

EAPI (video evidence)- **W/C 3/05/21 (2 weeks)**

Paper 1 (1 hour exam)- **W/C 10/05/21**

Paper 3 (2hour exam)- **W/C 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 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 Physics?

### Evidence

In order to establish your grade in Physics we will use a broad range of assessment evidence. The majority of this will come from final assessments taken in the last two weeks of Sum I. If needed, this evidence will be supported by a portfolio of evidence. This may be based on: Mock exam results (past and future); grades from previous data points; HW; classwork, and an oral exam.

NEA - Practical Endorsement: This will be assessed in the same way as normal however it will be based only upon those practicals that have been completed so far. It is our expectation that everybody will pass. If your practical log book is not of a sufficient standard you will be given the chance to improve it.

### Dates

Exams Paper 1, 2 and 3 during week 5 (17th May) and week 6 (24th May) of the summer 1 half term.

There will be a mock exam period during the week of 29th March.

- Paper 2: Monday 29th 4pm-6pm (This is supposed to be paper 2)
- Paper 1: Wednesday 31st 4pm-6pm
- Paper 3 Engineering (No practical section): Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> April (after school tbc).

There will be a second mock period (exact number of papers and/or an oral exam to be confirmed) during the week of 26th April.

### Content Adjustment

Paper 3 Section A (the practical part of the exam) will not be examined.

### 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 Psychology?

### Evidence

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

- Paper 1 Exam
- Paper 2 Exam
- Paper 3 Exam

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

### Dates

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

- Paper 2 Exam – W/C 3<sup>rd</sup> May (sat in class)
- Paper 3 Exam – W/C 10<sup>th</sup> May (sat in class)
- Paper 1 Exam – W/C 17<sup>th</sup> or 24<sup>th</sup> May (sat in the Sports Hall/Theatre)

### Content changes

**Paper 1** (Social Influence, Memory, Attachment & Psychopathology) – students will select 3 out of 4 topics to answer. Exam shortened to 1.5 hours.

**Paper 2** (Approaches, Biopsychology & Research Methods) – all topics to be answered. Exam shortened to 1.5 hours.

**Paper 3** (Issues & Debates, Cognition & Development, Addiction & Schizophrenia) – students will select 3 out of 4 topics to answer. Exam shortened to 1.5 hours.

### 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 RE?

### Evidence

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

- In class exam questions
- Exam week papers: Paper 1 (Philosophy), Paper 2 (Ethics), Paper 3 (Islam)
- Some prior assessment data 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:

W/C 19<sup>th</sup> April: In class exam question - 8 mark

W/C 3<sup>rd</sup> May: In class exam question – 20 mark

W/C 17<sup>th</sup> & 24<sup>th</sup> May: 3 exam papers consisting of a 12 & 30 mark (Philosophy/Ethics/Islam)

### Content changes

Our aim is that you will not be examined on some of the content/topics covered in lockdown.

You will not answer a 10 mark question.

Until we see exam board guidance, however, we cannot confirm the exact topics you will be assessed on. However, as a starting point for revision we suggest focusing on topics studied in school which are:

Philosophy:

- Arguments for the existence of God (Ontological/Cosmological/Teleological)
- Reference to Russell and Copleston's radio debate can be made (part 1)
- Problem of Evil
- Religious Language (reference to Flew & Hare's symposium can be made)
- Flew & Hare Anthologies

Ethics:

- A study of 3 ethical theories (Utilitarianism/Situation Ethics/Natural Law)
- Situation Ethics Anthology
- Applied Ethics (Sexual Ethics/War & Peace)
- Meta Ethics
- Virtue Ethics (including anthology)
- Kantian Ethics (including anthology)

Islam:

- Pre-Islamic Arabia
- Life of the Prophet
- Rightly Guided Caliphs
- Sunni & Shi'a history
- Six Beliefs (reference to Surah I can be made)
- Jihad set texts by T Ramadan and M Khadduri

### Exam Board

The exam board for our subject is Pearson 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 Spanish?

### Evidence

In order to establish your grade in Spanish 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:

- Speaking exam (3 mock speaking exams)
  - o Week commencing 1<sup>st</sup> March (Spring 2, Week 2)
  - o Week commencing 22<sup>nd</sup> March (Spring 2, Week 5)
  - o Week commencing 19<sup>th</sup> April (Summer 1, Week 1)
- Mini-exams
  - o Mini paper 1 exam (reading, listening and writing) week commencing 26<sup>th</sup> April (Summer 1, Week 2)
  - o Mini paper 2 exam (writing) week commencing 3<sup>rd</sup> May (Summer 1, Week 3)
- Full exams during the 2 exam weeks starting 17<sup>th</sup> May
  - o Paper 1 (reading, listening and writing)
  - o Paper 2 (writing)
- If needed, we may also use previous evidence from year 13 such as AP4 mock exams, previous speaking exams or previous writing exams and essays.

### Content changes

- We are removing the play (La Casa de Bernarda Alba) from the writing exam as this was studied during the first lockdown. Students will now only be assessed on the film element of the writing exam. The paper 2 writing exam will now be 1 hour only, and students will only write one essay in this exam on the film, Volver. We will also offer a wider choice of essay question for students.
- We are also removing this topic from the speaking exam: Unit 6 - Los movimientos populares. Students may still need the vocabulary from this topic in paper 1, but they will not need to be able to speak about this topic.
- In the speaking exam, we will offer students a wider choice of topics.

### 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.**



## **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 17<sup>th</sup> 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?**

It has been announced that 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.** There is a consultation out at the moment to determine exactly what this will look like. Once we know more, we will let you know.

### **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 **19<sup>th</sup> 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 10<sup>th</sup> August 2021

GCSE results day is 12<sup>th</sup> 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 18<sup>th</sup> 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.