



PARMITER'S SCHOOL

FOUNDED 1681

Headmaster: Mr M Jones BA MEd

October 2021

Dear Year 11 Students and their Parents/Carers

Summer 2022 GCSE Examinations

The last two weeks have seen various announcements regarding GCSE examinations in Summer 2022. The government has confirmed its policy decision that, in 2022, examinations should go ahead as planned but there will be 'adaptations' to recognise the disruption to students' learning.

Key points from the announcements are:

- **The examination boards will provide advance information on the focus of the content of the Summer 2022 exams** for all GCSEs **except** GCSE English Literature, GCSE History and GCSE Geography.

The policy intention of providing advance information is that it will support students' revision. This advance information will be available on the exam boards' public websites by 7 February 2022.

For GCSE English Literature, GCSE History and GCSE Geography there has been more significant changes, with optional topics and content. Details of these changes can be found later in this letter.

- **Grading standards will be a 'transition year'** to reflect that we are in a pandemic recovery period and students' education has been disrupted. In 2022, the grade boundaries set by exam boards will reflect a midway point between 2021 and 2019 so that, at a national level, more students get higher grades in 2022 than before the pandemic. It is expected that 2023 results will return to the usual grade profile.
- The government has recognised that in a pandemic, things may not always run as planned and has therefore **confirmed the contingency arrangements**. If exams cannot go ahead nationally, it has been confirmed that grades will be determined through teacher assessment. If these contingency plans are activated we will, of course, provide you with all necessary information. Please remember, this is not the government's preferred approach and they are firmly committed to exams going ahead, if at all possible.

We thought it helpful to summarise the planned changes to the assessment of each GCSE subject. Our Subject Leaders have already considered these changes and how they will be built into our curriculum plans. Once the advance information is available (by 7 February 2022), our Subject Leaders will plan a focused period of revision that best prepares students for the Summer 2022 examinations.

Students and parents/carers may also wish to know that the GCSE results day has been confirmed as **Thursday 25 August 2022**.

Subject (exam board and subject code)	Changes to Exams & NEA (coursework) for Summer 2022
English Language (AQA 8700)	<p>There are no changes to the content or format of the written examinations.</p> <p>As part of the GCSE qualification, students have to complete a Spoken Language component assessment. Students are still required to perform an assessed presentation but these are no longer recorded.</p>
English Literature (AQA 8702)	<p>Content has been reduced by one set text and students will no longer study <i>A Christmas Carol</i>. The format of both examinations has also been changed:</p> <p>Paper 1 Students will now be assessed on Power and Conflict Poetry and <i>An Inspector Calls</i> (both moved from Paper 2).</p> <p>Paper 2 Students will now be assessed on <i>Macbeth</i> (moved from Paper 1) and Unseen Poetry. Spelling, punctuation and grammar will now be assessed in this paper only (on <i>Macbeth</i> and Question 1 of the Unseen Poetry).</p>
Maths (Edexcel 1MA1)	There are no changes to the content or the format of the examinations but students will be given a revised formulae sheet.
Triple Science - Biology (AQA 8461)	There are no changes to the content of the format of the examinations.
Triple Science - Chemistry (AQA 8462)	There will be a revised equation sheet for the GCSE Physics exam and the GCSE Combined Science: Trilogy exam which will cover all the physics equations required in the subject content.
Triple Science - Physics (AQA 8463)	The exam board have specified that students can study the required practical activities (the ones named in the specification) through the use of demonstrations and simulations if it is not possible for them to carry out all of the practical activities specified.
Double Science (AQA 8464)	

French (AQA 8658)	<p>Speaking Spoken language will be assessed through a speaking examination which includes a short role play; talking about a photo card and a short conversation. This is recorded and marked by the examination board.</p>
German (AQA 8668)	<p>Writing Where students have a choice of question, there will be an additional question included so students have more choice and can answer on their preferred theme. The examination will be 5 minutes longer than in previous years to give students time to read the extra question and decide which question(s) to answer.</p>
Spanish (AQA 8698)	<p>Vocabulary in Listening and Reading The 2022 examination papers will be reviewed to ensure they comply with minor amendments to the regulatory requirements regarding the testing of vocabulary.</p>
Art (Edexcel 1AD0)	<p>Students are now assessed on only one component. This component consists of their Cornwall Structures project, their current Macro project and a mini project that students will start in January 2022. Students do not have a 10 hour examination at the end of Year 11.</p>
Computer Science (AQA 8525)	<p>There are no changes to the content or format of the written examinations.</p> <p>The programming project must still be completed by students but need not be supervised, so it can be completed outside of lesson time.</p>
Design & Technology (AQA 8552)	<p>There are no changes to the content or format of the written examination.</p> <p>For the NEA project, the mark allocation for the final two sections, ‘realising design ideas’ and ‘analysing and evaluation’, have been reduced.</p> <p>Students will no longer be assessed on the skill of making a final prototype but will instead produce a model of their final design. Consequently, students will not be able to test a final made prototype but students will be required to find ways of testing prototype designs.</p>

Drama (OCR J316)	<p>There are no changes to the content or format of the written examination.</p> <p>The minimum duration of each of the two assessed performances has been reduced. Students may present monologues for performance where group performances are not possible.</p> <p>There will be no visiting examiner to mark the unit 3 performance; instead performance recordings will be submitted to the exam board.</p>
Economics (OCR J205)	<p>There are no changes to the content or format of the examinations.</p>
Food Preparation & Nutrition (AQA 8585)	<p>There are no changes to the content or format of the written examination.</p> <p>Students will not do the NEA 1 task (Food Investigation).</p> <p>The NEA 2 task has been reduced, so students must complete 2 dishes in 3 hours.</p>
Geography (Edexcel A 1GA0)	<p>There are no changes to the content or format of the Paper 1 (Physical Environment) written examination.</p> <p>For the Paper 2 (Human Environment) written examination, students can answer questions on either Resource Management or Development.</p> <p>The Paper 3 (Geographical Investigations: Fieldwork and UK Challenges) written examination will not include questions about students' own fieldwork. Instead, students will answer unfamiliar fieldwork questions on rivers or coasts (section A) and inner urban areas or rural settlements (section B).</p>
History (Edexcel 1HI0)	<p>Students must now study only three components, not four. Our students will study: Weimar and Nazi Germany, 1918-1939, Superpower Relations and the Cold War, 1941-1991, and Henry VIII and his ministers, 1509-1540. Students will not study Crime and Punishment through time, c1000-present.</p> <p>There will be a separate examination for each of the three components studied.</p>

<p>Music (AQA 8271)</p>	<p>There are no changes to the content or format of the understanding music examination paper.</p> <p>Component 3.2 Performing Music Students will only submit a solo performance (minimum 1 ½ minutes). Previously students had submitted both a solo and ensemble performance, both longer in duration.</p> <p>Component 3.3 Composing Music Students must compose only one piece of music (minimum duration 2 minutes). Previously students had to submit two longer compositions.</p>
<p>PE (AQA 8582)</p>	<p>There are no changes to the content or format of the written examinations.</p> <p>Students will be assessed in two activities rather than three. These can be two individual activities, two team activities or one of each. The written component of the NEA is unchanged.</p>
<p>RS (Edexcel B 1RB0)</p>	<p>There are no changes to the content or format of the examinations.</p>

We would also draw your attention to the JCQ ‘Information for Students’ documents on the [school website](#). It is the responsibility of all students to familiarise themselves with these. The most relevant at the current time is the ‘[Information for students - non-exam assessment \(NEA\)](#)’.

Kind regards



Mrs E Berks
Deputy Headteacher