

# Changes to GCSE subjects for summer 2021 examination series

Ofqual has instructed examination boards to make the following changes to the assessment arrangements for GCSE subjects.

The individual examination boards will provide more details on the implications of the changes.

GCSE subject	Decision
Art and design	Assessment to be portfolio only. Permit exam boards to carry out moderation by photographic and/or digital portfolio.
Biology	Permit observation of demonstrations and/or simulations to cover required apparatus and techniques.
Business	No change to assessment arrangements.
Chemistry	Permit observation of demonstrations and/or simulations to cover required apparatus and techniques.
Combined science	Permit observation of demonstrations and/or simulations to cover required apparatus and techniques.
Computer science	Permit programming project to be undertaken in unsupervised time.
Design and technology	Permit exam boards to accept mock-ups and/or clear and detailed intentions of prototypes. Exam boards to provide clarification about their requirements. Permit demonstration of using machinery/tools/processes.
Drama	<p>Permit live performance statement to be satisfied through streamed or recorded performances. Require exam boards to permit students to analyse and evaluate the work of others based on live theatre and/or streamed or recorded performances.</p> <p><b>Devised Performance:</b> Require each student to participate as either a performer or designer in a devised performance of at least 1.5 minutes (for monologue), and/or 2 minutes (for duologue or group). Permit exam boards to accept alternative evidence<sup>4</sup> to illustrate the intended final piece, the student's contribution to the creation and development of ideas, and their analysis and evaluation of their own work, as appropriate to the task. Alternative evidence may include audio-visual recordings of complete performance/physical demonstrations of key aspects with explanation of how they inform final piece/original and non-original photographs, images, drawings or sketches with annotations to illustrate intentions for performance or design/scripts/written accounts/video diary. Exam boards to provide clarification about their requirements.</p> <p><b>Text Based Performance:</b> Require each student to participate as either a performer or designer in a text based performance of at least 1.5 minutes (for monologue), and/or 2 minutes (for duologue or group). Require students to evidence their application of theatrical skills to realise artistic intentions, contribution to the creation and development of ideas, and analysis and evaluation of their own work, as appropriate to the task. Permit evidence to include either a complete and unedited audio-visual recording of the text based performance and/or presentation of each discrete aspect/each student's individual contribution. For performance, permit audio-visual recording of acting performance alone without need for fully designed set/lighting/costumes. For designers, permit alternative evidence that may include prototype of product/original photographs, drawings or annotated sketches of designs /annotated scripts/video or written account/physical demonstrations. Exam boards to provide clarification about their requirements.</p>

	<p><b>Both NEA components:</b>  Permit participation in a monologue for both the Devised Performance and Text Based Performance. Permit both NEA components to be marked by the teacher and moderated by the exam board or to be marked directly by the exam board. Exam boards to provide clarification about their requirements. Where permitted changes to non-exam assessments affect usual coverage, permit exam boards to assess 1 complete and substantial performance text and 1 key extract from a second contrasting performance text - no change to coverage in written exams.</p>
English language	No requirement for teachers to submit sample of audio-visual recordings of spoken language assessment for exam board monitoring. Spoken language assessment permitted to take place before a single teacher who can represent an 'audience'. Spoken language assessment may be conducted by the teacher at any time during the course and by virtual means.
English literature	Choice of topics on which students have to answer questions, giving centres choice over the content that must be taught. A minimum common core <sup>5</sup> (play by Shakespeare) that all students will be assessed on. Centre level content choices for students to answer questions on 2 of the 3 remaining content areas: poetry; 19th century novel; fiction/drama from British Isles from 1914.
Food preparation and nutrition	Remove NEA1 and permit an earlier release of NEA2. To reduce the requirements for NEA2 to 2 dishes to be completed within 3 hours to allow for students to use complex processes such as baking, lamination, making ice-cream and to accommodate public health restrictions.
Geography	Remove requirements for (i) written statement that centres have given students the opportunity to undertake 2 days of fieldwork and (ii) students to answer questions in the exam relating to their own fieldwork experience.
History	Permit choice of content topics beyond a core identified for each specification that all students will be assessed on, giving centres a choice over the content that must be taught. Latin No change to assessment arrangements.
Maths	No change to assessment arrangements.
Modern foreign languages	Remove requirement for assessments to use words outside of vocabulary lists and permit glossing where necessary whilst maintaining level of knowledge and accuracy needed for the highest grades. Make the spoken language assessment an endorsement <sup>7</sup> reported on a 3-point scale (pass, merit and distinction) against common assessment criteria. To be assessed by teachers during the course of study. Permit exam boards to include an additional optional question in the writing assessment which would enable students to focus on fewer themes in their writing.
Music	<p><b>Performance Assessment:</b>  Require students to perform 1 or more pieces of music with a combined duration of at least 1.5 minutes (if all solo performance) or 2 minutes (if including performance as part of an ensemble). No requirement to perform as part of an ensemble. Requirement to submit complete and unedited recording of the live performance and, where available, the score or lead sheet for that performance.</p> <p><b>Composition Assessment:</b>  Require students to compose 1 or more pieces of music with a combined duration of at least 2 minutes. Compositions may be in response to an exam board set brief and/or be freely composed, with no requirement to do both. Exam boards to provide clarification about their requirements for students who compose more than 1 piece. Requirement to submit complete recording of each composition with a score, lead sheet or written account of the composition, produced by the student. NB: The student does not have to perform their own composition(s). The recording(s) may be computer generated.</p>

	<b>Both NEA components:</b> Permit both NEA components to be marked by the teacher and moderated by the exam board or to be marked directly by the exam board. Exam boards to provide clarification about their requirements.
Physical education	Permit exam boards to reduce requirement to 2 activities and allow both to be individual. Permit remote moderation using videoed evidence for all activities. Permit exam boards to explore relaxation of the requirements for provision of evidence for example, type and quality of videoed evidence and the evidence of participation in competitive sport.
Physics	Permit observation of demonstrations and/or simulations to cover required apparatus and techniques.
Religious studies	No change to assessment arrangements