

Exams in 2022

Everything you need to know



The Rudheath Senior Academy

The Department for Education have released their plans for **2022 Summer exams**.

There is recognition from the Department for Education that nationally students have had a disruptive two years. Measures are in place to make sure students have not been disadvantaged.

Why are the DfE bringing exams back?

Exams are the best and fairest form of assessment.

The DfE recently ran a consultation, with the exams regulator Ofqual, on what adaptations should be made to GCSE exams in 2022 in response to the pandemic.

The consultation gathered more than 6,000 responses – with almost a quarter from students – and showed that more than 90 per cent of students and parents were in favour of giving advance information on the focus of exams next summer to support students with revision, and around 80 per cent or more agreed with offering choices of topics in some GCSE subjects.

When will GCSE exams happen in 2022?

GCSE exams will happen in May and June, as normal. The Joint Council for Qualifications (JCQ) will confirm the summer exam dates shortly.

When will advance information be made available for GCSE students?

Advance information on the focus for summer exam content will be given in early February, although they are keeping the timing under review in case the course of the pandemic worsens.

When will students get their results?

GCSE results day will be held on 25th August 2022

Reference – DfE <https://educationhub.blog.gov.uk/2021/09/30/exams-in-2022-everything-you-need-to-know/>

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What measures will be in place to make sure they are fair when different students have missed different amounts of time?

Students will benefit from a range of adaptation to GCSE exams in England – these adaptations will help them reach their potential following the disruption they've faced. These include:

1. A choice of topics or content on which students will be assessed in GCSE English Literature, history, ancient history and geography.
2. Providing advance information on the focus of exams to support students' revision in subjects where there is not a choice of topics.
3. Giving students formulae sheets in GCSE maths and revised equation sheets in GCSE combined science and physics.
4. Changing requirements for practical science work and practical art and design assessments to ensure fairness.

While it is the Government's firm intention for exams to go ahead next year it is right for contingency plans to be in place in the event they cannot. Ofqual and the department plan for Teacher Assessed Grades to be used and have launched a consultation on how this might work in 2022, building on the 2021 process.

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What about grading – will there be any changes to that?

For the past two years, summer exams haven't been able to take place and instead, students have been awarded grades by their teachers. Due to difference in assessment approach, the outcomes have been higher.

As exams return, the aim is to get back to pre-pandemic standard, but in the interest of fairness, Ofqual (who make the decisions on grading) won't do so in one jump.

Instead, 2022 will be a transition year to reflect the pandemic recovery period and that students' education has been disrupted. In 2022 the aim therefore will be to move grading to a point close to midway between 2021 and 2019.

Results are likely to be higher than in 2019, but not as high as in 2020.

Ofqual aims to return to results that are in line with pre-pandemic years in 2023.

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