

Exams in 2022 – everything you need to know

This year students will sit exams, but we recognise they have faced disruption over the last two years and we've taken measures to make sure they aren't disadvantaged.

Here we answer your questions.

Why are you bringing exams back?

Exams are the best and fairest form of assessment. But we recognise the disruption the pandemic has caused, so there will be a number of adaptations for this year's exams to ensure fairness for students.

Across January, students have sat more than 500,000 exam papers for vocational and technical qualifications – giving confidence that schools and colleges can host exams smoothly, despite Covid infection rates during winter.

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 adaptations to GCSE, these adaptations will help them reach their potential following the disruption they've faced.

They include giving students formulae sheets in GCSE maths.

Some of these changes will also apply to the November 2022 GCSE English language and mathematics re-sit exams. There will be advance information deployed for both subjects in July, and a formulae sheet will be available for mathematics.

These [adaptations are in response to a consultation](#) we ran with the exams regulator, Ofqual, in summer 2021.

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.

The information will help students focus their revision for the final months and will give an indication of some of the content, texts, topics, themes and skills that students can expect in their exams.

For English language and maths GCSE exams in November 2022, advance information will be given in July.

What about grading – are you making 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 the difference in assessment approach, we have seen higher outcomes.

As we return to exams, we want to get back to the pre-pandemic standard, but in the interests of fairness, Ofqual (who take the decisions on grading) won't do so in one jump.

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

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.

When will GCSE exams happen in 2022?

GCSE exams will happen in May and June, as normal, and the exam boards have now published their final summer exam timetables.

When will students get their results?

GCSE results day will be held on 25th August 2022.