

Circular S/IF/01/20

January 2020

To: The Principals of Post-primary Schools and Directors of Further and Higher Education Colleges

For circulation to: Head of Centre, Examinations Officer, Head of Science Department

Special Consideration Applications for GCE/GCSE Science

The JCQ document, *A Guide to the Special Consideration Process (General and Vocational Qualifications)* provides detailed guidance on the minimum requirements for enhanced grading in cases of acceptable absence. This includes the statement:

For CCEA GCE AS and A-level qualifications, and GCSE qualifications, 40% of the total assessment must have been completed.

Partially completed GCSE / GCE units cannot contribute towards the 40%.

GCSE Biology, Chemistry and Physics each consist of 3 units. Unit 3 in each specification is split into 2 components consisting of 2 practical assessments. This unit contributes 25% towards the total qualification. A candidate must take both parts A and B within the unit to achieve 25%. **Partially completed units (1 component) cannot be used towards the 40% in cases of absence.**

GCSE Science Single Award consists of 4 units. Unit 4 is split into 2 components consisting of 2 practical assessments. This unit contributes 25% towards the total qualification. A candidate must take both parts A and B within the unit to achieve 25%. **Partially completed units (1 component) cannot be used towards the 40% in cases of absence.**

GCSE Science Double Award consists of 7 units. Unit 7 is split into 4 components consisting of 4 practical assessments. This unit contributes 25% towards the total qualification. A candidate must take all 4 components within the unit to achieve 25%. **Partially completed units (less than 4 components) cannot be used towards the 40% in cases of absence.**

AS Biology consists of 3 units. Unit 3 is split into two components and contributes 25% towards the total qualification. A candidate must complete both components within the unit to achieve 25%. Candidates must have completed unit 1 AND 2 (each worth 37.5% of the total) **OR** either unit 1 or unit 2 AND unit 3 to meet the minimum requirement. **Partially completed units (1 component) cannot be used towards the 40% in cases of absence.**

AS Physics consists of 3 units. Unit 3 is split into two components and contributes 20% towards the total qualification. A candidate must complete both components within the unit to achieve 20%. However, as units 1 and 2 are both worth 40% of the total qualification completing either of these will satisfy the minimum requirement. **Partially completed units (1 component) cannot be used towards the 40% in cases of absence.**

AS Chemistry consists of 3 units. Unit 3 is split into two components and contributes 20% towards the total qualification. A candidate must complete both components within the unit to achieve 20%. However, as units 1 and 2 are both worth 40% of the total qualification completing either of these will satisfy the minimum requirement. **Partially completed units (1 component) cannot be used towards the 40% in cases of absence.**

[PTO]

A2 Biology, Physics and Chemistry

In an A level qualification a candidate must have completed all AS units and at least 1 complete A2 unit to meet the minimum requirement. Biology, Physics and Chemistry each have 3 A2 units. In each case unit 3 consists of 2 components and a candidate must have completed **BOTH** components for this to count as their complete A2 unit.

In all cases, enhanced grading in cases of acceptable absence can only be applied if the candidate has completed the entire course and the component missed is in the candidate's terminal series.

If you have any queries regarding the content of this circular please contact:

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