

Assessment Arrangements for GCSE, AS and A Level Qualifications in Summer 2021: Summary Document

Version 2
Published 9 November 2020

Introduction

In August 2020 the Department of Education commissioned CCEA to look at how best to adapt GCSE, AS and A level qualifications in 2020/21 to take account of current public health requirements, lost learning time and potential further disruption, and to reduce the burden of assessment on students. On 24 August 2020, CCEA launched a consultation on our initial proposals. On completion of the exercise, the findings and the associated advice were subsequently shared with the Department of Education for consideration.

On Friday 9 October 2020, the Department of Education set out their response to the consultation. Version 1 of this document set out the subject-specific changes for each GCSE, AS and A level qualification emanating from the Department of Education's decisions.

In addition to this, the Department of Education also requested that:

“for the five qualifications (i.e. GCSE Religious Studies, Health and Social Care, Food and Nutrition, Government and Politics, and Statistics) where omission of a GCSE module would exceed this limit (40%), CCEA should explore alternative approaches to achieve a reduction in assessment.”

Version 2 of this document sets out the arrangements for these five subjects.

GCSE Omissions

Subject	Current Arrangements	Defined Unit/ Component for Omission	Additional Amendments
Agriculture and Land Use	Unit 1 external assessment (25%) Unit 2 external assessment (25%) Unit 3 controlled assessment (50%)	Unit 1	Unit 3: For Task 1, teachers supply experimental data for students instead of the requirement to collect primary data. The marking criteria used to assess Task 1 of the controlled assessment will be amended so that no marks are awarded for collection of primary data. No further specification changes are proposed. However, CCEA will provide guidance on how the primary data for Task 2 can be collected.
Art and Design	Component 1 controlled assessment (60%) Component 2 controlled assessment (40%)	Component 2	CCEA to set the theme to Component 1 Part B as the same theme used in Component 2. Component 1 Part B will be taken under controlled conditions.
Biology	Unit 1 external assessment (35%) Unit 2 external assessment (40%) Unit 3 practical (25%)	Unit 1	Booklet A remains; however, students observe a teacher's live demonstration in place of completing the experiments themselves and complete the assessment on that basis.
Business and Communication Systems	Unit 1 external assessment (40%) Unit 2 external assessment (35%) Unit 3 controlled assessment (25%)	Unit 1	N/A
Business Studies	Unit 1 external assessment (40%) Unit 2 external assessment (40%) Unit 3 controlled assessment (20%)	Unit 1	N/A

Subject	Current Arrangements	Defined Unit/ Component for Omission	Additional Amendments
Chemistry	Unit 1 external assessment (35%) Unit 2 external assessment (40%) Unit 3 practical (25%)	Unit 1	Booklet A remains; however, students observe a teacher's live demonstration in place of completing the experiments themselves and complete the assessment on that basis.
Child Development	Unit 1 external assessment (30%) Unit 2 external assessment (30%) Unit 3 practical (40%)	Unit 1	N/A
Construction and the Built Environment	Unit 1 external assessment (20%) Unit 2 external assessment (30%) Unit 3 controlled assessment (25%) Unit 4 controlled assessment (25%)	Unit 1	Unit 3: Permit teacher demonstration of manufacture of one of the products. Students do not manufacture a final product or make a mock-up or model. Their detailed designs will be accepted in lieu of a final product.
Contemporary Crafts	Component 1 controlled assessment (60%) Component 2 controlled assessment (40%)	Component 2	N/A
Digital Technology	Unit 1 external assessment (30%) Unit 2/4 external assessment (40%) Unit 3/5 controlled assessment (30%)	Unit 1	N/A
Drama	Component 1 controlled assessment (25%) Component 2 controlled assessment (35%) Component 3 external assessment (40%)	Component 1	Adaptation to specification to allow monologues. Remove Visiting Moderation and replace with product-based moderation.

Subject	Current Arrangements	Defined Unit/ Component for Omission	Additional Amendments
Economics	Component 1 external assessment (60%) Component 2 external assessment (40%)	Component 2	N/A
Engineering and Manufacturing	Unit 1 controlled assessment (25%) Unit 2 external assessment (25%) Unit 3 external assessment (50%)	Unit 2	N/A
English Language	Unit 1 external assessment (30%) Unit 2 controlled assessment (20%) Unit 3 controlled assessment (20%) Unit 4 external assessment (30%)	N/A	In place of a formal assessment, centres will be required to provide an endorsement for Unit 2.
English Literature	Unit 1 external assessment (30%) Unit 2 external assessment (50%) Unit 3 controlled assessment (20%)	Unit 1	N/A
Food and Nutrition	Component 1 external assessment (50%) Component 2 controlled assessment (50%)	N/A	A reduction in the content and word limit for the controlled assessment task
French	Unit 1 external assessment (25%) Unit 2 external assessment (25%) Unit 3 external assessment (25%) Unit 4 external assessment (25%)	N/A	In place of a formal assessment, centres will be required to provide an endorsement for Unit 2.

Subject	Current Arrangements	Defined Unit/ Component for Omission	Additional Amendments
Further Mathematics	Unit 1 external assessment (50%) Two from Units 2, 3 and 4 external assessment (25% each)	One from Unit 2 or 3 or 4	N/A
Gaeilge	Component 1 controlled assessment (20%) Component 2 controlled assessment (20%) Component 3 external assessment (30%) Component 4 external assessment (30%)	N/A	In place of a formal assessment, centres will be required to provide an endorsement for Component 1.
Geography	Unit 1 external assessment (40%) Unit 2 external assessment (40%) Unit 3 external assessment (20%)	Unit 1	Provide students with archive fieldwork data instead of students collecting their own data for Unit 3.
German	Unit 1 external assessment (25%) Unit 2 external assessment (25%) Unit 3 external assessment (25%) Unit 4 external assessment (25%)	N/A	In place of a formal assessment, centres will be required to provide an endorsement for Unit 2.
Government and Politics	Unit 1 external assessment (50%) Unit 2 external assessment (50%)	N/A	Students permitted the option of completing the examination for Unit 2 and a controlled assessment task for Unit 1, as an alternative to the Unit 1 examination
Health and Social Care	Unit 1 external assessment (50%) Unit 2 controlled assessment (50%)	N/A	A reduction in the content and word limit for the controlled assessment task

Subject	Current Arrangements	Defined Unit/ Component for Omission	Additional Amendments
History	Unit 1 external assessment (60%) Unit 2 external assessment (40%)	Unit 2	N/A
Hospitality	Unit 1 external assessment (25%) Unit 2 external assessment (25%) Unit 3 controlled assessment (50%)	Unit 2	Unit 3: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Candidates will only be expected to complete two of the three tasks in the portfolio, alongside planning and delivering the function. • Allow number of guests for the function aspect to be reduced from 10–20, to 5–10.
Irish	Unit 1 external assessment (25%) Unit 2 external assessment (25%) Unit 3 external assessment (25%) Unit 4 external assessment (25%)	N/A	In place of a formal assessment, centres will be required to provide an endorsement for Unit 2.
Journalism in the Media and Communications Industry	Unit 1 controlled assessment (25%) Unit 2 controlled assessment (25%) Unit 3 external assessment (50%)	Unit 1	N/A
Learning for Life and Work	Unit 1 external assessment (20%) Unit 2 external assessment (20%) Unit 3 external assessment (20%) Unit 4 controlled assessment (40%)	Unit 4	N/A

Subject	Current Arrangements	Defined Unit/ Component for Omission	Additional Amendments
Leisure, Travel and Tourism	Unit 1 external assessment (40%) Unit 2 external assessment (40%) Unit 3 controlled assessment (20%)	Unit 1	N/A
Mathematics	Unit M1–M4 external assessment (45%) Unit M5–M8 external assessment (55%)	N/A	N/A
Motor Vehicle and Road User Studies	Unit 1 external assessment (50%) Unit 2 controlled assessment (25%) Unit 3 controlled assessment (25%)	Unit 3	In Unit 2 permit use of archive data instead of students collecting their own data. For those who choose to complete Unit 3, Visiting Moderation will be removed and replaced by product-based moderation.
Moving Image Arts	Component 1 external assessment (40%) Component 2 controlled assessment (20%) Component 3 controlled assessment (40%)	Component 2	N/A
Music	Component 1 external assessment (35%) Component 2 controlled assessment (30%) Component 3 external assessment (35%)	N/A	Removal of ensemble group performance in Component 1 and replacement of visiting examination with submission of a recording for assessment For Component 2, removal of Composition 2 (pre-release stimulus)
Physical Education	Component 1 external assessment (25%) Component 2 external assessment (25%) Component 3 controlled assessment (50%)	Component 2	Component 3a: Reduce practical performances from three to two. Students perform two physical activities and/or sports. Visiting moderation will be removed and written evidence will be accepted for moderation. Component 3b: Audio recordings of student analysis and evaluation will be required for moderation.

Subject	Current Arrangements	Defined Unit/ Component for Omission	Additional Amendments
Physics	Unit 1 external assessment (37.5%) Unit 2 external assessment (37.5%) Unit 3 practical (25%)	Unit 1	Booklet A remains; however, students observe a teacher's live demonstration in place of completing the experiments themselves and complete the assessment on that basis.
Religious Studies	Unit 1 to Unit 9 external assessment (each worth 50%)	N/A	Students permitted the option of completing the examination for one assessment unit and a controlled assessment task for the second unit, as an alternative to the second examination
Science: Double Award	Unit B1 Biology external assessment (11%) Unit C1 Chemistry external assessment (11%) Unit P1 Physics external assessment (11%) Unit B2 Biology external assessment (14%) Unit C2 Chemistry external assessment (14%) Unit P2 Physics external assessment (14%) Unit 7 Practical (25%)	Unit B1, C1 and P1	Unit 7 Practical: Booklet A remains; however, students observe a teacher's live demonstration in place of completing the experiments themselves and complete the assessment on that basis.
Science: Single Award	Unit 1 Biology external assessment (25%) Unit 2 Chemistry external assessment (25%) Unit 3 Physics external assessment (25%) Unit 4 Practical (25%)	Unit 4	N/A

Subject	Current Arrangements	Defined Unit/ Component for Omission	Additional Amendments
Spanish	Unit 1 external assessment (25%) Unit 2 external assessment (25%) Unit 3 external assessment (25%) Unit 4 external assessment (25%)	N/A	In place of a formal assessment, centres will be required to provide an endorsement for Unit 2.
Statistics	Unit 1 external assessment (50%) Unit 2 external assessment (50%)	N/A	Students permitted the option of completing the examination for Unit 1 and a controlled assessment task for Unit 2, as an alternative to the Unit 2 examination
Technology and Design	Unit 1 external assessment (25%) Unit 2 external assessment (25%) Unit 3 controlled assessment (50%)	Unit 1	Students are permitted to only complete portfolio of evidence consisting of detailed prototype but not actually create the product. The manufacture section will be removed and mark scheme will be amended to accommodate this. Visiting Moderation will be removed and replaced by product-based moderation.

GCE Omissions

Subject	Current arrangements	Specification omissions
Art and Design	AS Unit 1 internal assessment (20%) Unit 2 internal assessment (20%) A2 Unit 1 internal and external assessment (36%) Unit 2 internal assessment (24%)	N/A
Biology	AS Unit 1 external assessment (37.5% of AS; 15% of A level) Unit 2 external assessment (37.5% of AS; 15% of A level) Unit 3 external/internal assessment (25% of AS; 10% of A level) A2 Unit 1 external assessment (24% of A level) Unit 2 external assessment (24% of A level) Unit 3 external/internal assessment (12% of A level)	AS Unit 3 Remove requirement that students carry out practical work in order to collect evidence for AS internal assessment (lab book 7.4% of AS). Teachers provide experimental data which students use to write up their internal assessment. This will facilitate completion of the internal assessment over the full academic year if practical work cannot be carried out due to public health advice. A2 Unit 3 Remove internally assessed element of lab book (4%). Students will still complete A2 Unit 3 examination on practical skills. Provide list of practicals being assessed in AS Unit 3/A2 Unit 3 practical theory exams to minimise the amount of practical preparation required.

Subject	Current arrangements	Specification omissions
Business Studies	AS Unit 1 external assessment (20%) Unit 2 external assessment (20%) A2 Unit 1 external assessment (30%) Unit 2 external assessment (30%)	N/A
Chemistry	AS Unit 1 external assessment (40% of AS; 16% of A level) Unit 2 external assessment (40% of AS; 16% of A level) Unit 3 practical assessment (20% of AS; 8% of A level) A2 Unit 1 external assessment (40% of A2; 24% of A level) Unit 2 external assessment (40% of A2; 24% of A level) Unit 3 practical assessment (20% of A2; 12% of A level)	AS: Unit 3 (Booklet A and B) Unit 3 Booklet A – remove requirement to complete practical skills Booklet A due to public health requirements. Unit 3 Booklet B – provide list of practicals being assessed in this booklet to minimise the amount of practical preparation required. A2: Unit 3 (Booklet A and B) – remove requirement to complete practical skills Booklet A due to public health requirements. However, students would still complete Booklet B practical skills theory.
Digital Technology	AS Unit 1 external assessment (20%) Unit 2 external assessment (20%) A2 Unit 1 external assessment (40%) Unit 2 internal assessment (20%)	N/A

Subject	Current arrangements	Specification omissions
Economics	AS Unit 1 external assessment (20%) Unit 2 external assessment (20%) A2 Unit 1 external assessment (30%) Unit 2 external assessment (30%)	N/A
English Literature	AS Unit 1 external assessment (24%) Unit 2 external assessment (16%) A2 Unit 1 external assessment (20%) Unit 2 external assessment (20%) Unit 3 internal assessment (20%)	N/A
Environmental Technology	AS Unit 1 external assessment (20%) Unit 2 internal assessment (20%) A2 Unit 1 external assessment (30%) Unit 2 internal assessment (30%)	AS Unit 2 Students to carry out practical investigation using one of three renewable technologies rather than two of three. A2 Unit 2 Students to review only one category of the code for sustainable homes instead of two.

Subject	Current arrangements	Specification omissions
French	AS Unit 1 visiting external assessment (12%) Unit 2 external assessment (16%) Unit 3 externally assessed (12%) A2 Unit 1 visiting external assessment (18%) Unit 2 external assessment (24%) Unit 3 externally assessed (18%)	N/A
Further Mathematics	AS Unit 1 external assessment (20%) Unit 2 external assessment (20%) A2 Unit 1 external assessment (30%) Unit 2 external assessment (30%)	N/A
Geography	AS Unit 1 external assessment (16%) Unit 2 external assessment (16%) Unit 3 external assessment (8%) A2 Unit 1 external assessment (24%) Unit 2 external assessment (24%) Unit 3 external assessment (12%)	AS Unit 3 – remove the requirement for students to collect primary data; allow centres to use archive data.

Subject	Current arrangements	Specification omissions
German	AS Unit 1 visiting external assessment (12%) Unit 2 external assessment (16%) Unit 3 externally assessed (12%) A2 Unit 1 visiting external assessment (18%) Unit 2 external assessment (24%) Unit 3 externally assessed (18%)	N/A
Government and Politics	AS Unit 1 external assessment (16%) Unit 2 external assessment (24%) A2 Unit 1 external assessment (35%) Unit 2 external assessment (25%)	N/A

Subject	Current arrangements	Specification omissions
Health and Social Care	<p>AS</p> <p>Unit 1 internal assessment (5%/10%)</p> <p>Unit 2 internal assessment (5%/10%)</p> <p>Unit 3 external assessment (10%/20%)</p> <p>Unit 4 internal assessment (5%)</p> <p>Unit 5 external assessment (10%)</p> <p>Unit 6 internal assessment (5%)</p> <p>Unit 7 external assessment (10%)</p> <p>A2</p> <p>Unit 1 internal assessment (7.5%/15%)</p> <p>Unit 2 internal assessment (7.5%/15%)</p> <p>Unit 3 external assessment (15%/30%)</p> <p>Unit 4 internal assessment (7.5%/15%)</p> <p>Unit 5 internal assessment (7.5%/15%)</p> <p>Unit 6 external assessment (15%)</p> <p>Unit 7 external assessment (15%)</p>	<p>AS Single Award Unit 1 and 2: remove requirement for placement in Health, Social Care or Early Years settings.</p> <p>Schools will be provided with guidance on alternatives such as guest speakers (face-to-face and online), possibility of involving family members in the sector etc.</p>
History	<p>AS</p> <p>Unit 1 external assessment (20%)</p> <p>Unit 2 external assessment (20%)</p> <p>A2</p> <p>Unit 1 external assessment (20%)</p> <p>Unit 2 external assessment (40%)</p>	N/A

Subject	Current arrangements	Specification omissions
Irish	AS Unit 1 visiting external assessment (12%) Unit 2 external assessment (16%) Unit 3 externally assessed (12%) A2 Unit 1 visiting external assessment (18%) Unit 2 external assessment (24%) Unit 3 externally assessed (18%)	N/A
Journalism in the Media and Communications Industry	AS Unit 1 external assessment (16%) Unit 2 internal assessment (24%) A2 Unit 1 external assessment (24%) Unit 2 internal assessment (36%)	N/A

Subject	Current arrangements	Specification omissions
Life and Health Sciences	AS Unit 1 internal assessment (6.7%/13.3%) Unit 2 external assessment (6.7%/13.3%) Unit 3 external assessment (6.7%/13.3%) Unit 4 internal assessment (6.7%) Unit 5 external assessment (6.7%) Unit 6 internal assessment (6.7%) A2 Unit 1 internal assessment (10%/20%) Unit 2 external assessment (10%/20%) Unit 3 external assessment (10%/20%) Unit 4 external assessment (10%/20%) Unit 5 external assessment (10%/20%) Unit 6 internal assessment (10%) Unit 7 internal assessment (10%) Unit 8 internal assessment (10%) Unit 9 internal assessment (10%) Unit 10 internal assessment (10%)	Reduce the number of practicals in AS 1 from 12 to 9.
Mathematics	AS Unit 1 external assessment (24%) Unit 2 external assessment (16%) A2 Unit 1 external assessment (36%) Unit 2 external assessment (24%)	N/A

Subject	Current arrangements	Specification omissions
Moving Image Arts	AS Unit 1 internal assessment (24%) Unit 2 external assessment (16%) A2 Unit 1 internal assessment (36%) Unit 2 external assessment (24%)	N/A
Music	AS Unit 1 visiting external assessment (13%) Unit 2 internal assessment (13%) Unit 3 externally assessed (14%) A2 Unit 1 visiting external assessment (19.5%) Unit 2 internal assessment (19.5%) Unit 3 externally assessed (21%)	AS and A2 Unit 1 – removal of visiting examination, replaced with students’ performances and vivas being recorded and sent to CCEA for assessment
Nutrition and Food Science	AS Unit 1 external assessment (20%) Unit 2 external assessment (20%) A2 Unit 1 external assessment (30%) Option A and Option B choices Unit 2 internal assessment (30%)	N/A

Subject	Current arrangements	Specification omissions
Performing Arts	<p>AS Unit 1 internal assessment (24%) Unit 2 visiting external assessment (16%)</p> <p>A2 Unit 1 internal assessment (36%) Unit 2 visiting external assessment (24%)</p>	<p>AS Unit 2 Remove visiting examination; send in recording. Accept monologues/solo performances also.</p> <p>A2 Unit 2 Remove visiting examination; send in recording. Accept monologues/solo performances also.</p>
Physics	<p>AS Unit 1 external assessment (16%) Unit 2 external assessment (16%) Unit 3 external/internal assessment (8%)</p> <p>A2 Unit 1 external assessment (24%) Unit 2 external assessment (24%) Unit 3 external/internal assessment (12%)</p>	<p>AS: Unit 3 (Booklet A and B) Unit 3 Booklet A – remove requirement to complete practical skills Booklet A due to public health requirements. Unit 3 Booklet B – provide list of practicals being assessed in this booklet to minimise the amount of practical preparation required.</p> <p>A2: Unit 3 (Booklet A and B) remove requirement to complete practical skills Booklet A due to public health requirements. However, students would still complete Booklet B practical skills theory.</p>

Subject	Current arrangements	Specification omissions
Professional Business Services	AS Unit 1 external assessment (12%) Unit 2 internal assessment (16%) Unit 3 external assessment (12%) A2 Unit 1 external assessment (18%) Unit 2 external assessment (18%) Unit 3 internal assessment (24%)	N/A
Religious Studies	AS All externally assessed (20% per unit) A2 All externally assessed (30% per unit)	N/A
Software Systems Development	AS Unit 1 external assessment (20%) Unit 2 internal assessment (20%) A2 Unit 1 external assessment (30%) Unit 2 internal assessment (30%)	N/A
Spanish	AS Unit 1 visiting external assessment (12%) Unit 2 external assessment (16%) Unit 3 externally assessed (12%) A2 Unit 1 visiting external assessment (18%) Unit 2 external assessment (24%) Unit 3 externally assessed (18%)	N/A

Subject	Current arrangements	Specification omissions
Sports Science and the Active Leisure Industry	AS Unit 1 internal assessment (24%) Unit 2 external assessment (16%) A2 Unit 1 internal assessment (36%) Unit 2 external assessment (24%)	AS Unit 1 Working with a 'client' may not be possible. Amend specification to include option of a personal training plan. A2 Unit 1 Traditional face-to-face event could not run. Adapt to running a 'virtual event'.
Technology and Design	AS Unit 1 external assessment (20%) Unit 2 internal assessment (20%) A2 Unit 1 external assessment (30%) Unit 2 internal assessment (30%)	For Unit 2 at AS and A2 students complete the design folder as far as the development section in both AS and A2. Marks will be added to the development section at both levels to allow for evaluation of outcomes of modelling to take place. The manufacture, testing and evaluation sections have been removed at both AS and A2 level. Visiting Moderation will be removed and replaced by product-based moderation.

Summary of Changes since First Issue

(Most recent changes are indicated by a green line on the latest version.)

Revision History Number	Date of Change	Page Number/s	Change Made
Version 1	N/A	N/A	First Issue
Version 2	9 November 2020	4, 5, 8 and 9	Changes made to the Additional Amendments column
	16 November 2020	7	Change made to the Additional Amendments column for Physical Education

