

Exams and Grades 2021-2022

Preparing for GCSE assessments in a 'normal' year.

*A journey of a
thousand miles begins
with a single step.*



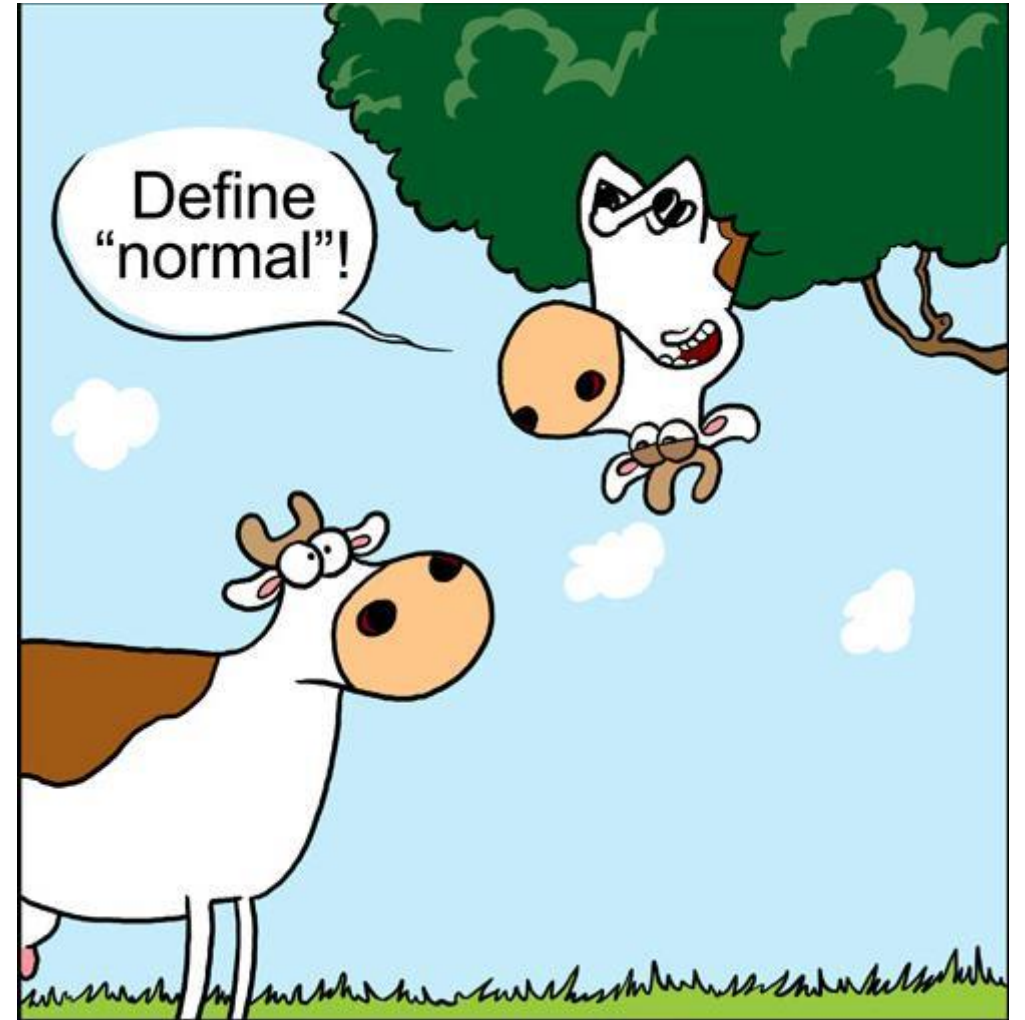
What do exams look like this year?

Well, it's not 2019...

- pre-pandemic and pre-covid
- external exams for all subjects

And it's not 2021...

- disruption to exams due to covid
- no external exams,
instead 100% based on evidence in school



You can expect **external exams**, but with a twist:

- Teachers will have choice of topics in some subjects
(Literature, History and Geography)
- Advance information on the content of exams for all other subjects
- Changes to assessment requirements in Art
- Support materials for Maths, Physics and Combined Science

And there's a backup plan.

If exams cannot go ahead,

Teacher Assessed Grades will be used.

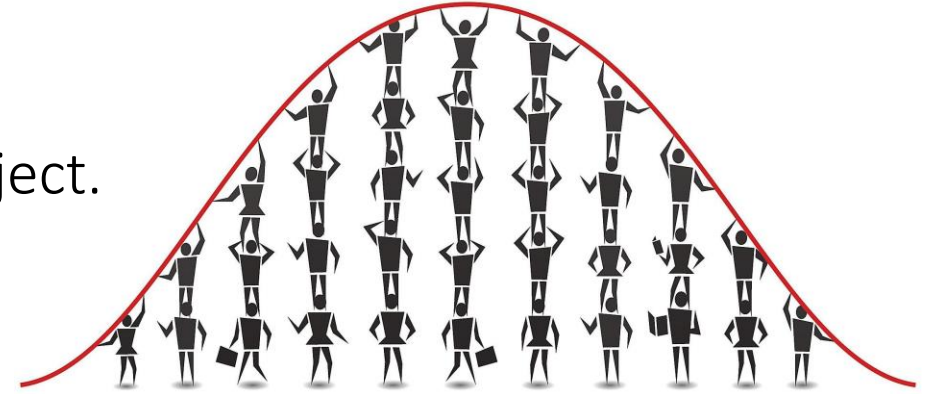
This means:

- Teachers will determine your grades based on evidence.
- Assessments, NEA, home learning, etc could make up the evidence base.
- We will communicate to you what would or would not be used for evidence.
- Your mock exams certainly would be used as evidence.

Will it be easier or harder to earn a grade this year?

Well, it's not 2019...

- Exam boards normally use statistics to set grade boundaries to meet expected standards in each subject.
- Outcomes at each grade level are kept consistent from year to year.



And it's not 2021...

- Teachers and schools determined grades based on evidence and grade descriptors. There were processes to check that achievement was broadly in line with expectations.
- Outcomes were higher than normal because 'holistic' judgements were made.

Will it be easier or harder to earn a grade this year?

“In 2022 exam boards will set grade boundaries so that more students get higher grades in 2022 than when exams were taken before the pandemic.”

“As in any other year, exam boards will use statistics as a starting point, to align their standards in a subject. Those statistics in 2022 will be based on an average of 2019 and 2021 results (the midpoint between the two years).”

-ofqual

What's happening with mock exams?

Why do we do them in the first place?

1. A diagnostic tool. What are your current strengths? What do you need to work on?
2. A contributor to estimated grades sent with college applications.
3. To practice the routines around formal exams.

Some of the details:

- 8 days of assessments (9th November to 18th November TBC)
- Usually one or two assessments per day
- An assessment in each subject
- In the hall for most students
- Full exam conditions
- Finalised timetable on the way

Example

YEAR 11 EXAMINATION TIMETABLE (2021)

All examinations in Sports Hall

(Access arrangements students will be in rooms 19 & 20)

	Period 1 8.50 – 9.50	Break 9.50 – 10.10	Period 2 10.10 – 11.10	Break 10.50 – 11.10	Period 3 11.10 – 12.10	Lunch 12.10 – 1.00	Period 4 & 5 1.00 – 3.00
Monday 1 November	Normal Lessons				Normal Lessons		Normal Lessons
Tuesday 2 November	English Language 2hrs (ET 2hrs 30mins) 8.50 – 10.50 (ET 11.20)				Normal Lessons (ET Students break 11.20 – 11.30)		Maths Paper 1 – no calculator 1hr 30mins (ET 1hr 53mins) 1.20 – 2.50 (ET 1.00 – 2.53)
Wednesday 3 November	MFL Listening French H 45mins 9.00 – 9.45		MFL Listening French F 35mins 10.15 – 10.50 Spanish F 35mins 10.55 – 11.30 Spanish H 45mins 11.35 – 12.20				Normal Lessons
Thursday, 4 November	Physics Trilogy 1hr 15mins 9.00 – 10.15 (ET 1hr 34mins) (8.45 – 10.19) Triple 1hr 45mins 9.00 – 10.45 (ET 2hrs 11mins) (8.45 – 10.56)				Normal Lesson		<u>Option C</u> Dance Drama Geography History RS DT 1hr 30mins (ET 1hr 53mins) 1.20 – 2.50 (ET 1.00 – 2.53) Spanish Reading F 45mins H 60mins (ET F 56mins H 1hr 15mins) F 1.20 – 2.05 H 1.20 – 2.35 (ET F 1.20 – 2.16) (ET H 1.20 – 2.35) No Art Exam – normal lesson

Q&A

What about times when I don't have an assessment?

- You must bring materials so that you can revise independently.

How do I know what to revise?

- We will tell you about the exams you're sitting and what to revise.

Routines



1. At the time of each exam, queue up in the ECR.
2. You'll be called to enter the hall by teaching group.
3. You'll walk through the sports bar to drop your coat and bag, and then proceed into the hall.
4. You'll be directed where to sit.
5. You must be silent at all times when in the hall.
6. At the end of the exam, you will be dismissed row by row.



Information for candidates

Written examinations

With effect from 1 September 2021

A. Regulations – Make sure you understand the rules

1 **Be on time** for all your exams. If you are late, your work might not be accepted.

2 Do not become involved in any unfair or **dishonest practice** during the exam.

3 If you try to **cheat**, or break the rules in any way, you could be disqualified from all your subjects.

4 You must not take into the exam room:

(a) **notes**;

(b) an iPod, **a mobile phone**, a MP3/4 player or similar device, **or a watch**.

Any **pencil cases** taken into the exam room must be see-through.

Remember: possession of unauthorised material is breaking the rules, even if you do not intend to use it, and you will be subject to penalty and possible disqualification.

A. Regulations – Make sure you understand the rules

5 If you have a watch, the invigilator will ask you to hand it to them.

6 Do not use correcting pens, fluid or tape, erasable pens, highlighters or gel pens in your answers.

7 Do not talk to or try to communicate with, or disturb other candidates once the exam has started.

8 You must not write inappropriate, obscene or offensive material.

9 If you leave the exam room unaccompanied by an invigilator before the exam has finished, you will not be allowed to return.

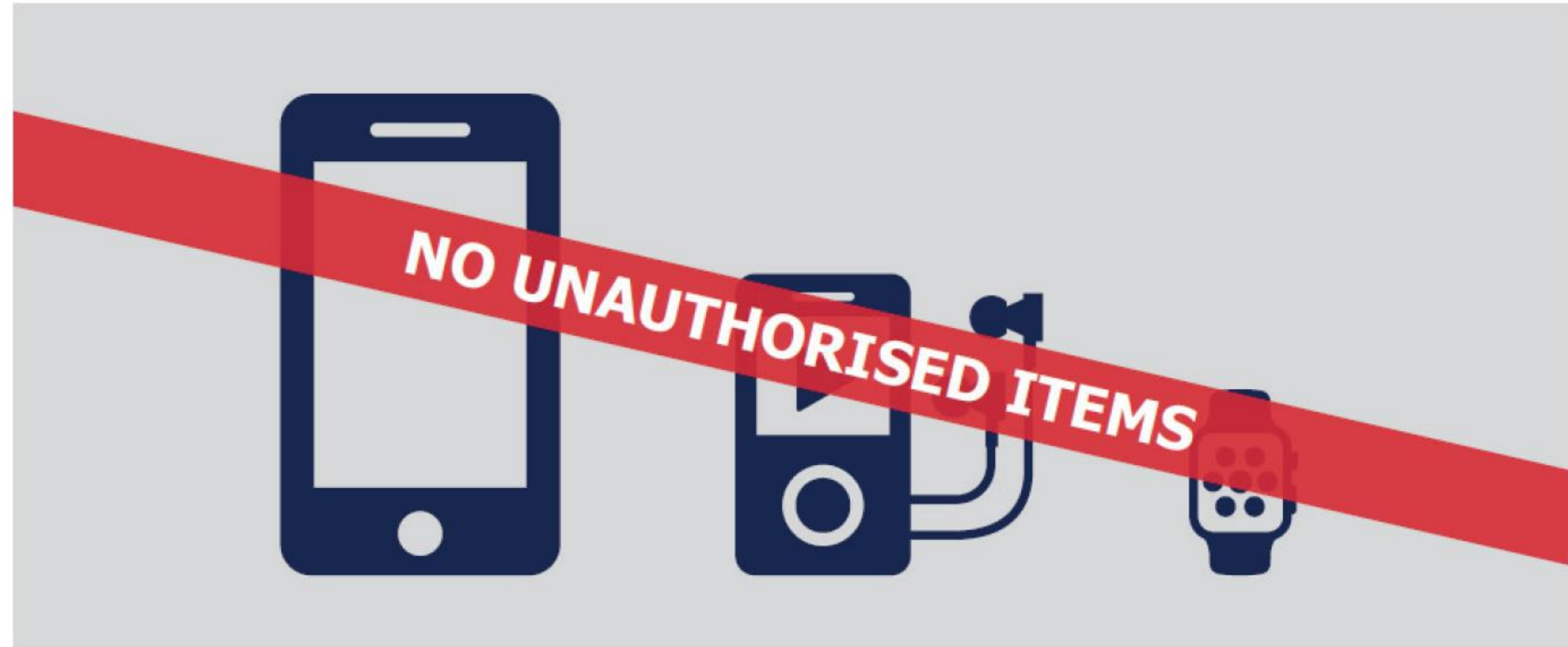
10 Do not borrow anything from another candidate during the exam.

NO MOBILE PHONES

NO WATCHES

NO MP3/4 PLAYERS

NO POTENTIAL TECHNOLOGICAL/WEB ENABLED SOURCES OF INFORMATION



Possession of unauthorised items, such as a mobile phone, is a serious offence and could result in **DISQUALIFICATION** from your examination and your overall qualification.

B. Information – Make sure you attend your exams and bring what you need

- 1 Know the dates and times of all your exams. Arrive at least ten minutes before the start of each exam.
- 2 If you arrive late for an exam, report to the invigilator running the exam.
- 3 If you arrive more than one hour after the published starting time for the exam, you may not be allowed to take it.
- 4 Only take into the exam room the pens, pencils, erasers and any other equipment which you need for the exam.
- 5 You must write clearly and in black ink. Coloured pencils or inks may only be used for diagrams, maps, charts, etc. unless the instructions printed on the front of the question paper state otherwise.

C. Calculators, dictionaries and computer spell-checkers

1 You may use a calculator unless you are told otherwise.

2 If you use a calculator:

(a) make sure it works properly; check that the batteries are working properly;

(b) clear anything stored in it;

(c) remove any parts such as cases, lids or covers which have printed instructions or formulae;

(d) do not bring into the exam room any operating instructions or prepared programs.

3 Do not use a dictionary or computer spell checker unless you are told otherwise.

D. Instructions during the exam

- 1 Always listen to the invigilator. Always follow their instructions.
- 2 Tell the invigilator at once if:
 - (a) you think you have not been given the right question paper or all of the materials listed on the front of the paper;
 - (b) the question paper is incomplete or badly printed.
- 3 Read carefully and follow the instructions printed on the question paper and/or on the answer booklet.
- 4 Do not start writing anything until the invigilator tells you to fill in all the details required on the front of the question paper and/ or the answer booklet before you start the exam.

D. Instructions during the exam

5 Remember to write your answers within the designated sections of the answer booklet.

6 Do your rough work on the proper exam stationery. Cross it through and hand it in with your answers.

Make sure you add your candidate details to any additional answer sheets that you use, including those used for rough work.

E. Advice and assistance

- 1 If on the day of the exam you feel that your work may be affected by ill health or any other reason, tell the invigilator.
- 2 Put up your hand during the exam if:
 - (a) you have a problem and are in doubt about what you should do;
 - (b) you do not feel well;
 - (c) you need more paper.
- 3 You must not ask for, and will not be given, any explanation of the questions.

F. At the end of the exam

1 If you have used more than one answer booklet and/or any supplementary answer sheets, place them in the correct order.

Place any loose additional answer sheets inside your answer booklet. Make sure you add your candidate details to any additional answer sheets that you use.

2 Do not leave the exam room until told to do so by the invigilator.

3 Do not take from the exam room any stationery. This includes the question paper, answer booklets used or unused, rough work or any other materials provided for the exam.

The
Exams Office

Instructions for candidates
