

# A GUIDE TO TEACHER ASSESSED A LEVEL GRADES AT READING SCHOOL

This guide is intended to give students and parents as much information as possible regarding final summer assessments, assessment criteria and weightings in each subject. Weightings are subject to change once summer assessments are completed – but will not be disproportionately changed. This element of flexibility is intentional and allows every department room to gauge the difficulty of the assessment they have set against those already completed, and adjust weightings slightly if necessary.

## **A Reminder about Weightings**

Every department has employed autonomy in establishing the weightings of the various data points related to their qualifications. Staff have used professional judgement in this process accommodating the widest possible data sets, and have balanced these against the assessment criteria established by examination boards. As a consequence, there is deliberate and intentional variance between subjects regarding the precise weightings of different components of each course.

## **A Reminder about elision of anomalous performance data**

To build ‘benefit of the doubt’ into grade recommendations, the single data point (or two data points in subjects where there are seven data points) which most negatively affect the overall grade profile of a student will be elided from draft recommendations.

The fundamental principle here is that a student who has produced consistently good work but performs inexplicably poorly in an assessment will not be disadvantaged. Through this method, a student who started a course slowly, or struggled with the return to school after the lockdown will not be dragged down by a negative score in a period of profound uncertainty. There are some key rules that apply to this process:

- i. As they are the two most robust measures in place, regardless of performance, at least one out of the mock and the summer assessment will be included in the final weighted recommendation.
- ii. Ofqual guidance makes it clear that the NEA component of the course *must* be taken into account in the awarding of grades. Where subjects have NEA obligations it is therefore not anticipated that this measure will be elided in any circumstance.
- iii. A student for whom one or more data point is missing will not have further marks elided from their data.
- iv. In case it is not clear already, students and parents should understand that it is the single mark with the greatest negative impact upon the grade recommendation that will be elided, not the single lowest mark (as these may not always be the same).

Importantly the process outlined above is of advantage to students whose attainment has been affected by the pandemic and is inconsistently distributed across a range of grades. It produces no net inflation of grades for students who have consistently performed within one grade boundary.

## **A Reminder Summer Assessments**

All students have now been given clear guidance about summer assessment content on Microsoft Teams. The information below is not intended to replace this, but is a brief summary for parents and carers.

## A LEVEL SUBJECTS

<b>Art A Level – Draft weightings and assessment content</b>		
September Collection	0%	
March Mock	0%	
Summer Assessment	0%	
Portfolio	100%	<p>Ofqual have given specific guidance that 100% of Art grades must be based on the final completed portfolio submitted by each student.</p> <p>In the Unit 1: Personal Investigation portfolio, students develop work based on an idea, issue, concept or theme leading to a finished outcome or a series of related finished outcomes. Practical elements should make connections with some aspect of contemporary or past practice of artist(s), designer(s), photographers or craftspeople and include written work of no less than 1000 and no more than 3000 words which supports the practical work.</p> <p>This non-exam assessment will measure how students have achieved the following assessment objectives:</p> <p>AO1: Develop ideas through sustained and focused investigations informed by contextual and other sources, demonstrating analytical and critical understanding.</p> <p>AO2: Explore and select appropriate resources, media, materials, techniques and processes, reviewing and refining ideas as work develops.</p> <p>AO3: Record ideas, observations and insights relevant to intentions, reflecting critically on work and progress.</p> <p>AO4: Present a personal and meaningful response that realises intentions and, where appropriate, makes connections between visual and other elements.</p>
Class Contributions	0%	
Interim Assessment	0%	
Other Standardised Work	0%	
How many of the above assessment criteria may be elided in the standardisation process? 0		

<b>Biology A Level– Draft weightings and assessment content</b>		
September Collection	8%	
March Mock	35%	
Summer Assessment	35%	2 hour assessment covering Paper 1 topics: i.e. modules 1,2,3 and 5.
Biology Olympiad	5%	
Class Contributions	3%	Evidence from oral contributions/discussions. Competence in practical skills and application including practical questions.
Interim Assessment	2%	
Other Standardised Work	12%	Evidence from in-class assessments which all groups have completed and which have been standardised.
How many of the above assessment criteria may be elided in the standardisation process? 1		

<b>Chemistry A Level– Draft weightings and assessment content</b>		
September Collection	10%	
March Mock	35%	
Summer Assessment	35%	2 hour organic Chemistry paper covering Modules 1,2,4 & 6.
NEA/Other	0%	
Class Contributions	3%	Evidence from oral contributions/discussions. Evidence of competence in practical skills and application including practical questions. Evidence from assignments and homework.
Interim Assessment	5%	
Other Standardised Work	12%	Evidence from end of topics tests and from the Year 12 end of year assessment.
How many of the above assessment criteria may be elided in the standardisation process? 1		

<b>Classical Civilisation A Level– Draft weightings and assessment content</b>		
September Collection	2%	
March Mock	35%	
Summer Assessment	35%	2 ¼ hour assessment covering papers 1 & 2. Imperial Image Essay from a Choice of 2 and Context Essay from a choice of 2.
Other	10%	assessed written pieces throughout the course covering Paper 2 'Imperial Image'.
Class Contributions	5%	Evidence concerning understanding of Paper 2 topics collated from factual content tests, oral contributions/ discussions and collaborative planning tasks.
Interim Assessment	4%	
Other Standardised Work	9%	Evidence from the Odyssey 20 mark and the 30 mark questions completed in June 2020.
How many of the above assessment criteria may be elided in the standardisation process? 2		

<b>Computer Science A Level– Draft weightings and assessment content</b>		
September Collection	10%	
March Mock	15%	
Summer Assessment	30%	2 ½ hour assessment of various aspects of the specification, including: logic, Boolean algebra, number bases, vectors, state transition diagrams, trace tables, client-server model, as well as extended answers on ethics and legislation of technology. Assessment is by a standardised mark scheme provided by the exam board.
NEA	20%	The coursework derived from a real-world programming project completed by students over several months. Assessment is by a standardised mark scheme provided by the exam board.
Class Contributions	5%	Evidence of understanding accrued through discussion, class interactions and oral answers.
Interim Assessment	5%	
Other Standardised Work	15%	Coursework / programming assessment.
How many of the above assessment criteria may be elided in the standardisation process? 2		

<b>Economics A Level– Draft weightings and assessment content</b>		
September Collection	15%	
March Mock	30%	
Summer Assessment	40%	2 hour assessment covering the following topics: Micro Economics- demand for labour, supply of labour, monopoly; Macro Economics- monetary policy, exchange rates, trade policies and negotiations.
NEA/Other	0%	
Class Contributions	5%	Understanding and knowledge evidenced through the quality of class contributions and engagement.
Interim Assessment	5%	
Other Standardised Work	5%	Evidence from the December 2020 Multiple Choice test.
How many of the above assessment criteria may be elided in the standardisation process? 1		

<b>English Literature A Level– Draft weightings and assessment content</b>		
September Collection	5%	
March Mock	30%	
Summer Assessment	35%	Two 75 minute assessments: one of them a Component One unseen Shakespeare extract question (30 minutes), and a Component One poetry / drama comparison question from a choice of six (45 minutes); the other a Component Two unseen USA prose extract question (75 minutes).
NEA	20%	<i>A 3,000 word folder comprising two essays (one shorter close text analysis of poetry, one longer comparison of a novel and a drama) prepared between June 2020 and April 2021, using</i>

		<i>standardised questions and mark schemes designed by the exam board.</i>
Class Contributions	2.5%	Evidence of understanding accumulated through oral contributions and practice paragraphs.
Interim Assessment	5%	
Other Standardised Work	2.5%	Evidence from exam questions assessed in class.
How many of the above assessment criteria may be elided in the standardisation process? 2		

<b>French A Level– Draft weightings and assessment content</b>		
September Collection	5%	
March Mock	15%	
Summer Assessment	20%	1 ¼ hour assessment covering Paper 2 content: essay writing. 1 essay choice between 4 questions (film: themes and book: characters) rephrasing this slightly for parents might be helpful – same with German and Spanish
Other	30%	Paper 3: Speaking – oral exam (already completed)
Class Contributions	5%	Evidence accumulated through in-class tests
Interim Assessment	5%	
Other Standardised Work	20%	Standardised scores from assessments throughout the course
How many of the above assessment criteria may be elided in the standardisation process? 2		

<b>Geography A Level– Draft weightings and assessment content</b>		
September Collection	5%	
March Mock	30%	
Summer Assessment	30%	1 ½ hour assessment covering parts of the topics of Hazards and Resource Security.
NEA	20%	Submitted over the Easter holidays following normal course guidelines and weighting.
Class Contributions	5%	Through teacher assessment of oral answers, class discussion and class notes on Teams/books and folders (September 2020 to December 2020 only) based on standardised criteria for grading.
Interim Assessment	5%	
Other Standardised Work	5%	End of topic tests and similar essays
How many of the above assessment criteria may be elided in the standardisation process? 2		

<b>German A Level– Draft weightings and assessment content</b>		
September Collection	5%	
March Mock	15%	
Summer Assessment	20%	1 ¼ hour assessment covering Paper 2 content: Essay Writing 1 essay (choice between 2 questions on film: themes)
Other	30%	Paper 3: Speaking - oral exam
Class Contributions	5%	Paper 1 content completed in class including evidence accrued through summary, reading and

		translation exercises in January, February and March 2021
Interim Assessment	5%	
Other Standardised Work	20%	Standardised scores from assessments throughout the course
How many of the above assessment criteria may be elided in the standardisation process? 2		
<b>History A Level– Draft weightings and assessment content</b>		
September Collection	10%	
March Mock	25%	
Summer Assessment	30%	2 ½ hour assessment covering 1945-83 for Cold War; 1485-1558 for Tudors. Students will have 1 source/interpretations question they must answer in each paper. They will have a choice of 3 essays questions covering different time periods and they must answer one. Students have been made aware of the structure of their exams.
NEA	20%	4,500 word assessed piece of work incorporate essay, source and interpretation skills. The work has been submitted and was undertaken between June 2020 and March 2021. It will be assessed based on mark schemes designed by the exam board.
Class Contributions	5%	Evidence of understanding accrued through discussion, class interactions and oral answers.
Interim Assessment	5%	
Other Standardised Work	5%	Marked essays, class notes and evidence of understanding demonstrated in students' Teams/books and folders.
How many of the above assessment criteria may be elided in the standardisation process? 2		

<b>Latin A Level– Draft weightings and assessment content</b>		
September Collection	5%	
March Mock	35%	
Summer Assessment	35%	2 ¼ hour assessment to include Livy Translation, Cicero 15 mark question, Virgil 15 mark question and an essay with a choice of 1 out of 2 possible titles (1 being on Cicero and 1 on Virgil).
NEA/Other	0%	
Class Contributions	5%	Evidence produced through literature short answer work
Interim Assessment	5%	
Other Standardised Work	15%	Aggregated attainment from standardised work on Ovid and from Prose Composition Pieces.
How many of the above assessment criteria may be elided in the standardisation process? 1		

<b>Maths A Level– Draft weightings and assessment content for Mathematicians who are not also studying for Further Maths</b>		
September Collection	10%	
March Mock	30%	
Summer Assessment	40%	1.5 hours applied maths paper covering stats and mechanics, with compulsory questions covering Year 12 content for both sections and approximately four question on stats and mechanics from Year 13 content from which students can pick two. 1 hour pure paper covering all taught content, list can be found in each year 11 Teams page.
NEA/Other	0%	
Class Contributions	5%	Evidence of understanding derived through discussion, interaction and oral answers
Interim Assessment	5%	
Other Standardised Work	10%	Aggregated totals of tests taken in class, past papers completed, and other marked written answers. Evidence will vary between sets.
How many of the above assessment criteria may be elided in the standardisation process? 1		

<b>Maths A Level– Draft weightings and assessment content for Mathematicians who are also studying for Further Maths</b>		
September Collection	25%	
March Mock	10%	
Summer Assessment	40%	1.5 hours applied maths paper covering stats and mechanics, with compulsory questions covering Year 12 content for both sections and approximately four question on stats and mechanics from Year 13 content from which students can pick two. 1 hour pure paper covering all taught content, this list of topics has been published in each Year 13 Teams page.
NEA/Other	0%	
Class Contributions	5%	Evidence of understanding derived through discussion, interaction and oral answers
Interim Assessment	5%	June 2020 online assessment data
Other Standardised Work	15%	Aggregated totals of tests taken in class, past papers completed, and other marked written answers. Evidence will vary between sets.
How many of the above assessment criteria may be elided in the standardisation process? 1		

<b>Further Maths A Level– Draft weightings and assessment content</b>		
September Collection	0%	
March Mock	30%	
Summer Assessment	40%	1 ½ hour assessment covering Further Mechanics. All content compulsory and exploring all taught topics in further mechanics. 1 hour paper covering options including Pure Further Maths, Further statistics and one decision maths question. Topics have been shared through the class Teams page where this is being given.
NEA/Other	0%	
Class Contributions	5%	Evidence of understanding derived through discussion, interaction and oral answers
Interim Assessment	5%	June 2020 online assessment data
Other Standardised Work	15%	Aggregated totals of tests taken in class, past papers completed, and other marked written answers. Evidence will vary between sets.
How many of the above assessment criteria may be elided in the standardisation process? 1		

<b>Music A Level– Draft weightings and assessment content</b>		
September Collection	0%	
March Mock	25%	
Summer Assessment	35%	Two opportunities to complete performance recordings – one undertaken in afternoons up until May 17 <sup>th</sup> and a 'second chance' live recital
NEA/Other	25%	Assessment of composition materials.
Class Contributions	5%	Evidence of understanding accumulated through oral contributions and through past papers and questions worked on in class relating to the Jazz unit.
Interim Assessment	0%	
Other Standardised Work	10%	Evidence of standardised assessment undertaken in partnership with Queen Anne's.
How many of the above assessment criteria may be elided in the standardisation process? 1		

<b>Physics A Level– Draft weightings and assessment content</b>		
September Collection	10%	
March Mock	35%	
Summer Assessment	35%	A 2 hour assessment focusing on the following A-level topics in the specification: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 3.6 Further Mechanics and thermal physics</li> <li>• 3.7 Fields and their consequences</li> <li>• 3.8 Nuclear physics</li> <li>• 3.12 Turning points in physics</li> <li>• Practical skills</li> </ul>
NEA/Other	0%	
Class Contributions	3%	Evidence of competence in practical skills and application including practical questions.
Interim Assessment	5%	
Other Standardised Work	12%	Aggregated attainment from end of topic tests.
How many of the above assessment criteria may be elided in the standardisation process? 1		

<b>Spanish – draft weightings and content being assessed</b>		
September Collection	5%	
March Mock	15%	
Summer Assessment	20%	1 ¼ hour assessment covering Paper 2 content: Essay Writing. 1 essay to be completed with a choice between 2 questions on film: themes and book: characters.
Other	30%	Paper 3: Speaking - oral exam
Class Contributions	5%	Paper 2 essay undertaken in January 2021
Interim Assessment	5%	
Other Standardised Work	20%	Standardised scores from assessments throughout the course
How many of the above assessment criteria may be elided in the standardisation process? 2		