

A GUIDE TO TEACHER ASSESSED GCSE 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.

YEAR 11 QUALIFICATIONS

Art GCSE– Draft weightings and assessment content		
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 <i>Unit 1: Portfolio</i> pupils develop responses to initial starting points, project briefs or specified tasks and realise intentions informed by research, the development and refinement of ideas and meaningful engagement with selected sources. Responses will include evidence of drawing for different purposes and needs and written annotation.</p> <p>The strongest evidence will be in the work produced in the second year of the GCSE course – the <i>Major Project</i> – when artists are best able to demonstrate the skills, knowledge, and understanding developed over the two years of the course. The standalone <i>Alphabet Project</i> and the <i>Major Project</i> with outcome are both required to be submitted to fulfil the unit requirements from the exam board, with assessment holistic in nature covering all work in the portfolio.</p> <p>This non-exam assessment will measure how pupils have achieved the following assessment objectives:</p> <p>AO1: Develop ideas through investigations, demonstrating critical understanding of sources. AO2: Refine work by exploring ideas, selecting and experimenting with appropriate media, materials, techniques and processes. AO3: Record ideas, observations and insights relevant to intentions as work progresses. AO4: Present a personal and meaningful response that realises intentions and demonstrates understanding of visual language.</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		

Ancient History GCSE– Draft weightings and assessment content		
September Collection	2%	
March Mock	25%	
Summer Assessment	45%	A 1 ¾ hour assessment covering the full course content on Alexander the Great and a complete Rome breadth paper.
NEA/ Other	0%	
Class Contributions	5%	Evidence of recall of appropriate factual content though tests, oral contributions and written work
Interim Assessment	5%	
Other Standardised Work	18%	Alexander the Great March 2020 assessment
How many of the above assessment criteria may be elided in the standardisation process? 1		

Biology GCSE– Draft weightings and assessment content		
September Collection	12%	
March Mock	35%	
Summer Assessment	35%	A 1 ½ hour assessment based on past OCR questions.
NEA/Other	0%	
Class Contributions	3%	Evidence from oral contributions/discussions. Competence in practical skills and application including practical questions.
Interim Assessment	5%	
Other Standardised Work	10%	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		

Chemistry GCSE – Draft weightings and assessment content		
September Collection	12%	
March Mock	35%	
Summer Assessment	35%	A 1 ½ hour assessment based on past OCR questions. The content covered by the assessment will be focused on the following modules C3.1, C4.2, C5, C6 Knowledge from modules C1 & 2 might be assumed for some of the questions.
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	10%	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		

Computer Science GCSE – Draft weightings and assessment content		
September Collection	10%	
March Mock	25%	
Summer Assessment	35%	A 1-hour assessment covering algorithms presented as either pseudocode or a flowchart, linear search algorithm, binary/hexadecimal/denary conversion and Binary addition, bitmap images, sound sampling and computer networks.
NEA	10%	GCSE level Programming assessment on the topic of sorting
Class Contributions	5%	Evidence of understanding accrued through discussion, class interactions and oral answers.
Interim Assessment	5%	
Other Standardised Work	10%	End of Unit tests
How many of the above assessment criteria may be elided in the standardisation process? 2		

Drama GCSE – Draft weightings and assessment content		
September Collection	0%	
March Mock	20%	
Summer Assessment	20%	A 50 minute assessment covering Section C, a single 32 mark essay.
NEA	40%	Completed and recorded NEA will be held in full, marked by the Head of Department and not moderated by the exam board.
Class Contributions	15%	Evidence accrued through preparation for scripted piece, range and depth of performance skills and group contributions.
Interim Assessment	0%	
Other Standardised Work	5%	Scripted piece delivered in class.
How many of the above assessment criteria may be elided in the standardisation process? 1		

Economics GCSE – Draft weightings and assessment content		
September Collection	15%	
March Mock	30%	
Summer Assessment	40%	1 ¼ hour assessment covering production, the labour market, price stability, supply side policies, limitations of markets
NEA/Other	0%	
Class Contributions	5%	Evidence using professional judgement of quality of class contributions and engagement.
Interim Assessment	5%	
Other Standardised Work	5%	Income inequality end of topic test.
How many of the above assessment criteria may be elided in the standardisation process? 1		

English Literature GCSE – Draft weightings and assessment content		
September Collection	10%	
March Mock	35%	
Summer Assessment	30%	A one hour assessment of a Component One "The War Of The Worlds" extract task
NEA/Other	0%	
Class Contributions	5%	Depth of understanding evident in oral responses and quality of paragraph preparation against Assessment Objectives.
Interim Assessment	5%	
Other Standardised Work	15%	Evidence from exam questions assessed in class.
How many of the above assessment criteria may be elided in the standardisation process? 1		

English Language GCSE – Draft weightings and assessment content		
June 2020 Mock	15%	
November 2020 Mock	30%	
Summer Assessment	30%	A one hour assessment of a Section B writing task, from a choice of two Component One tasks and two Component Two tasks.
NEA/Other	0%	
Class Contributions	5%	Depth of understanding evident in oral responses and quality of individual questions preparation against Assessment Objectives.
Interim Assessment	0%	
Other Standardised Work	20%	Evidence from exam questions assessed in class.
How many of the above assessment criteria may be elided in the standardisation process? 1		

French GCSE– Draft weightings and assessment content		
September Collection	5%	
March Mock	20%	
Summer Assessment	30%	50 minute writing paper including a 150 word task. There will be a choice between 4 topics: Technology, Free-time, Global issues or Travel/Holiday.
Other	15%	Listening assessment already completed.
Class Contributions	5%	
Interim Assessment	5%	
Other Standardised Work	20%	Listening, Reading and Writing assessments completed throughout the course
How many of the above assessment criteria may be elided in the standardisation process? 1		

Geography GCSE– Draft weightings and assessment content		
September Collection	5%	
March Mock	40%	
Summer Assessment	40%	45 minute assessment covering the topics of 'changing economic world' and 'resource management'. Topics from Paper 2: Human Geography
NEA	0%	
Class Contributions	5%	Following standardised criteria, teachers grade students based on oral answers, class discussion and class notes on Teams/books/folders (Sept 2020-Dec 2020 when students were in school)
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? 1		

German GCSE– Draft weightings and assessment content		
September Collection	5%	
March Mock	20%	
Summer Assessment	30%	50 minute Writing Paper including 150 word task. There will be a choice between 2 essay titles on School and Future Plans/Family and Young People, Travel and Holiday/Global Issues.
Other	15%	Listening assessment already completed.
Class Contributions	5%	
Interim Assessment	5%	
Other Standardised Work	20%	End of unit tests undertaken throughout the course and evidence accumulated through written work throughout the course.
How many of the above assessment criteria may be elided in the standardisation process? 1		

History GCSE– Draft weightings and assessment content		
September Collection	15%	
March Mock	32.5%	
Summer Assessment	37.5%	1 hour assessment covering Conflict and tension module. The exam will be made up of 3 questions. There will be 2 source-based question and one essay to be answered. Pupils will have a choice of 3 essays questions in the exam and must only complete one of these. They have been made aware of the structure of the assessment.
NEA/ Other	0%	
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? 1		

Latin GCSE– Draft weightings and assessment content		
September Collection	5%	
March Mock	30%	
Summer Assessment	30%	70 minute assessment covering set text (students should prepare either for the Prose or the Verse paper – they can choose which they want to do).
NEA/Other	0%	
Class Contributions	5%	
Interim Assessment	5%	
Other Standardised Work	25%	The Prose Literature Mock sat in December 2020.
How many of the above assessment criteria may be elided in the standardisation process? 1		

Maths GCSE– Draft weightings and assessment content		
September Collection	20%	
March Mock	25%	
Summer Assessment	35%	1 ½ hour calculator paper covering all topics. Details have been published 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%	In class tests, homeworks and marked answers for all students. Calculator GCSE paper from mock also included for those who were committed to not doing Ad Maths by the time of the mock.
How many of the above assessment criteria may be elided in the standardisation process? 1		

Free Standing Additional Maths Qualification– Draft weightings and assessment content		
September Collection	0%	
March Mock	40%	
Summer Assessment	30%	1 hour calculator paper covering all topics. Details have been published in each Year 11 Teams page.
Other	10%	The aggregate score of all the units assessed for the Maths GCSE course.
Class Contributions	5%	Evidence of understanding derived through discussion, interaction and oral answers
Interim Assessment	5%	
Other Standardised Work	10%	In class tests, homeworks and marked answers for all students. Calculator GCSE paper from mock also included for those who were committed to doing Ad Maths by the time of the mock.
How many of the above assessment criteria may be elided in the standardisation process? 1		

Music GCSE– Draft weightings and assessment content		
September Collection	10%	
March Mock	20%	
Summer Assessment	30%	Two opportunities to complete performance recordings – one undertaken in afternoons up until May 17 th and a ‘second chance’ live recital.
NEA/Other	40%	Assessment of composition materials.
Class Contributions	15%	Evidence demonstrated through 1. depth of understanding shown in oral contributions, 2. use of tier three subject specific vocabulary 3. breadth of understanding of the four Assessment Objectives
Interim Assessment	5%	
Other Standardised Work	0%	
How many of the above assessment criteria may be elided in the standardisation process? 1		

Philosophy AS – draft weightings and content being assessed		
September Collection	15%	
March Mock	30%	
Summer Assessment	35%	1 ½ hour paper covering the ethics components of the course (which is normally 50% of the AS), with one Epistemology question included as an option out of three possible questions.
NEA/Other	0%	
Class Contributions	10%	Evidence accumulated throughout Year 11 with particular focus on: 1. Use of logic in oral contributions, 2. Frequency of extension questions asked, 3. Depth of understanding evinced through notes or answers.
Interim Assessment	5%	
Other Standardised Work	5%	Summer 2019 Epistemology Exam
How many of the above assessment criteria may be elided in the standardisation process? 1		

Physical Education GCSE– Draft weightings and assessment content		
September Collection	10%	
March Mock	25%	
Summer Assessment	30%	A 1 hour assessment covering Paper 2 content: chapter 4, 5 & 6.
NEA	20%	The NEA has already been completed and assesses the 2 sports that they have been graded in, one individual and one team with both equally weighted.
Class Contributions	5%	Evidence of competence and understanding accumulated through discussion, interaction and oral answer.
Interim Assessment	5%	
Other Standardised Work	0%	
How many of the above assessment criteria may be elided in the standardisation process? 1		

Physics GCSE– Draft weightings and assessment content		
September Collection	10%	
March Mock	35%	
Summer Assessment	35%	1 ½ hour assessment in the ‘Paper 4’ style focusing on the following GCSE topics in the attached specification: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • P5 Waves in Matter • P6 Radioactivity • P7 Energy • P8 Global Challenges • Practical skills
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		

Religious Studies short course GCSE – draft weightings and content being assessed		
September Collection	0%	
March Mock	30%	
Summer Assessment	40%	1 hour assessment covering the Christianity paper, and one theme (relationships and families).
NEA/Other	0%	
Class Contributions	10%	Evidence accumulated throughout Year 10 and 11 with particular focus on: 1. Use of relevant vocabulary in oral contributions and, 2. Breadth of understanding evidenced through notes or answers in class.
Interim Assessment	10%	
Other Standardised Work	10%	All other written work.
How many of the above assessment criteria may be elided in the standardisation process? 1		

Spanish GCSE – draft weightings and content being assessed		
September Collection	5%	
March Mock	20%	
Summer Assessment	30%	50 minute writing paper including a 150 word task. Choice between 4 topics: Technology, Free-time, Global issues or Travel/Holiday.
Other	15%	Listening assessment already completed.
Class Contributions	5%	
Interim Assessment	5%	
Other Standardised Work	20%	Listening, Reading and Writing assessments completed throughout the course
How many of the above assessment criteria may be elided in the standardisation process? 1		