

## Introduction

This document sets out responses to a range of technical questions about assessment arrangements for CCEA's GCSE, AS and A level qualifications in 2022/23 that have been presented to us since the beginning of this academic year.

For ease of use, we have provided responses to a number of general queries and further categorised questions under a number of broad areas: Advance Information, Special Consideration, GCSE, and AS and A Level. This version (Version 2) includes the information included in Version 1, published on 3 October 2022, and adds tables showing how the Summer 2022 alternative awarding arrangements will be phased out for GCSE (page 7) and AS and A level qualifications (page 9).

The responses provided in this document are based on the information available to us up to Wednesday 1 February 2023.

In addition to this document, we have further frequently asked questions on our [website](#) that are less technical in nature and are aimed more at students and parents.

We hope the questions that follow support and further explain the information provided in the subject-specific addendum documents issued on 1 September 2022.

## General

### 1. Can you set out for us the full range of measures CCEA has put in place to support schools and students as they prepare for Summer 2023?

There are four key elements in CCEA's package of measures in place to support schools and students:

- **Advance Information** – This is intended to communicate the broad focus of the content of the majority of the Summer 2023 examination papers prior to the start of the examination series. Its purpose is to support students' preparation and revision in the period leading up to public examinations. In GCSE Mathematics an examination aid will be provided, as in 2021/22.
- **Contingency arrangements** – Contingencies have been agreed to ensure as many students as possible cashing in CCEA qualifications in Summer 2023 can be awarded a qualification grade. This includes retaining the lower eligibility threshold of 25% to apply for a missed component calculation which was in place in 2021/22.
- **Coursework and controlled assessments** – Coursework and controlled assessment tasks from 2021/22 have been carried across to 2022/23 where these continue to remain valid and reliable.
- **November series for GCSE English Language and Mathematics** – The January examination series for GCSE English Language and GCSE Mathematics has been brought forward to November for a second year.

### 2. Why has CCEA not continued with the unit omissions approach that was in place in 2021/22?

The vast majority of CCEA qualifications are unitised. A feature of unitised qualifications is that they give schools a good degree of flexibility, with students taking different routes through a qualification and sitting assessments at different points. With public examinations cancelled in both Summer 2020 and Summer 2021, the vast majority of students entered for CCEA qualifications in 2021/22 were all at the same point in their course of study and had no prior attainment in these qualifications. This meant they could all be treated in the same way and each be given the option to omit the same unit of assessment in each qualification. This is not the case in 2022/23, where many students have unit level outcomes from the Summer 2022 examination series in a number of different units across a range of qualifications. Therefore, all students who are cashing in a qualification for the first time in Summer 2023 will be required to complete all units.

### 3. We continue to have concerns about students' capabilities in more practical subjects, where skills development has been impacted by the pandemic. How should we manage this?

Because of the disruption to teaching and learning since March 2020 caused by the pandemic, we still do not expect students to be performing at the same level in Summer 2023 as those students in pre-pandemic years. Subjects particularly affected may be those where opportunities to develop skills were restricted as a result of concerns about public health, such as Technology and Design, or where a practical unit had been identified for omission in 2021/22, such as GCSE, AS and A level science qualifications.

All of this will be taken into consideration next year when making decisions about grading in each assessment.

Even with concerns about skills deficits, it is vital that teachers continue to mark internally assessed units/components consistently across all centres. As with Summer 2022, we are asking teachers to continue to apply the assessment criteria to all coursework and controlled assessment tasks in line with previous examination series, as exemplified through Agreement Trials.

**4. Will the January 2023 series be available for GCSE English Language and GCSE Mathematics?**

As in the 2021/22 academic year, the January series of examinations will be brought forward. This is to mitigate, as far as possible, any deterioration in the public health situation. Examinations in GCSE English Language and GCSE Mathematics will therefore take place in late November or early December 2022 and will be a part of the GCSE November 2022 examination series. The November 2022 examinations timetable can be found [here](#). CCEA has provided [key dates](#) on our website for this examination series.

**5. Will Occupational Studies, all vocational qualifications and Certificate of Personal Effectiveness remain in the January 2023 series?**

There will be no January 2023 examination series for CCEA's non-general qualifications. Instead, CCEA will offer an assessment opportunity for Occupational Studies, Preparation for Adult Life (PAL), Performance Skills and Certificate of Personal Effectiveness (CoPE) specifications as part of the November 2022 examination series. The deadlines for submitting samples for non-general qualifications are:

- Tuesday 13 December 2022 for Occupational Studies
- Monday 12 December 2022 for PAL, Performance Skills and CoPE.

[Key dates](#) for this examination series are available on our website.

The issue of results date for Occupational Studies, PAL, Performance Skills and CoPE specifications from the November series will be Thursday 23 February 2023.

**6. When will CCEA publish its examination timetables for the 2022/23 academic year?**

You can find final versions of these examination timetables on our website now:

- [GCSE Timetables for November 2022, March 2023 and Summer 2023](#); and
- [GCE Timetable for Summer 2023](#).

**7. The task requirements in a number of coursework and controlled assessment units were changed for 2021/22. If a student decides to resit in 2022/23, will these arrangements carry over?**

No, the reduced assessment requirements in place for a number of coursework and controlled assessment units to address public health concerns or align with policy

decisions were only in place for Summer 2022. If a student decides to resit an assessment unit in 2022/23 that had reduced assessment requirements in Summer 2022, they will be expected to meet the task requirements in place for that unit in a normal year.

## Advance Information

### 8. Why will Advance Information not be made available for the November 2022 and March 2023 examination series?

Before the arrangements were finalised, CCEA gave careful consideration to the development of Advance Information for students taking modular examinations in November/December 2022 and February 2023. In the interest of ensuring fairness and equality to all students and to support them in their preparations for the series in which most of their assessments will be taken, the provision of Advance Information will be limited to one examination series only, which will be Summer 2023. We will, however, take into consideration the absence of Advance Information in the November 2022 and March 2023 examination series when making decisions about grading.

### 9. Where will I be able to access Advance Information?

CCEA will make Advance Information publicly available on our website on 27 February 2023. Advance Information will only be available from the CCEA website. It will not be available from any other source.

### 10. Will Advance Information be made available in all subjects?

Advance Information will be made available in the majority of subjects; however, there are exceptions, either because of the nature of assessments in those subjects (assessment by coursework or controlled assessment or skills-focused examinations) or because of policy decisions.

### 11. Will Advance Information look the same for each subject?

No, the varying nature of subjects, and the characteristics and design of associated assessments, mean that different approaches to the provision of Advance Information will be taken in different subjects.

The subjects/units where Advance Information **will not** be provided are:

- GCSE, AS and A Level Art and Design
- AS and A Level Performing Arts
- GCSE Contemporary Crafts
- Unit 2 of GCSE Engineering and Manufacturing
- GCSE Mathematics (an examination aid will be provided)
- Practical Booklet A in AS and A Level Chemistry and Physics.

### 12. What are the specific arrangements for GCSE Mathematics?

In GCSE Mathematics, support will take the form of the examination aid that was provided in 2021/22. It will be made available in both the November 2022 and Summer 2023 examination series and can be downloaded from [here](#).

### **13. Why are you not releasing the Advance Information until 27 February 2023?**

CCEA gave careful consideration to the publication date for Advance Information, but a number of factors had to be considered, including the March 2023 series of examinations. In order to protect the integrity of examinations in this series CCEA selected the date of 27 February 2023, which is one working day after the final examination in the March series. This still allows time to support revision for the Summer 2023 examinations.

### **14. Will private candidates be able to see the Advance Information at the same time as schools and colleges?**

Yes, it is important that everyone preparing for Summer 2023 examinations has access to the Advance Information to aid revision. CCEA will therefore make Advance Information publicly available on our website so it can be accessed by schools, colleges and private candidates/tutors.

## **Special Consideration**

### **15. Will special consideration arrangements be in place for 2022/23?**

Yes, special consideration arrangements will be in place, and some specific details that were in place in 2021/22 have been carried across to ensure as many students as possible can be awarded a qualification grade in the 2022/23 academic year.

### **16. Will we be able to apply for special consideration in the November, March and Summer series?**

If a student sits an examination in the November, March or Summer series but is affected by temporary illness, temporary injury or some other event outside of their control at the time of the assessment, an application for special consideration can be made on the student's behalf. Please note, special consideration will not be applied as a result of lost teaching and learning time.

For further information on the special consideration process, please refer to the JCQ publication [A guide to the special consideration process](#) with effect from September 2022.

### **17. What is a missed component calculation?**

Also known as enhanced grading, there is an agreed process within the JCQ publication [A guide to the special consideration process](#) that is used every year to allow awarding organisations to award a qualification grade in cases where a student misses an examination for acceptable reasons, for example because of illness. To be eligible for a missed component calculation (enhanced grading), a student must have completed a certain percentage of the assessments in a qualification. Also, the application can only be made in the terminal series, i.e. the series in which they hope to obtain a qualification grade.

### **18. What are the eligibility criteria for missed component calculations in 2022/23?**

In a normal year, to be eligible for a missed component calculation in CCEA qualifications, students must have completed 40% of the assessments in the qualification. For 2022/23, the eligibility criteria for a missed component will be as follows:

- For CCEA GCE AS qualifications, 25% of the total AS qualification must have been completed.
- For CCEA GCE A level qualifications, 25% of the total A level qualification must have been completed, **with at least one A2 unit** completed.
- For CCEA GCSE qualifications\*, 25% of the GCSE qualification must have been completed.

### **19. One of my students, who was absent due to COVID-19, wishes to apply for a missed component calculation. What process do I follow?**

Where a student misses an examination through no fault of their own, as per normal process, evidence signed by a member of the senior leadership team must be held in the centre to support the application. An application can then be made as normal. The Head of Centre must complete a declaration with each application for special consideration confirming they are satisfied the information provided to the awarding organisation is accurate and that they fully support the application.

For quality assurance purposes, CCEA will sample a proportion of cases where candidates are absent from examinations for acceptable reasons. Information on this can be found in the [JCQ special consideration arrangements](#).

### **20. Can a student apply for a missed component calculation for an internally assessed unit (coursework or controlled assessment) where no portfolio of evidence or an incomplete portfolio of evidence has been produced?**

A missed component calculation will normally only apply where a student misses a timetabled examination for acceptable reasons. For information on special arrangements for internally assessed units, please refer to Section 5 of the [JCQ special consideration arrangements](#).

### **21. At what point should an application be made on behalf of a student?**

An application for a missed component calculation can only be made after the date of the examination that has been missed.

### **22. Are missed component calculations only in place for students who are absent for COVID-related reasons?**

No, this facility will be open to all students who miss an examination in Summer 2023 for valid, verifiable reasons.

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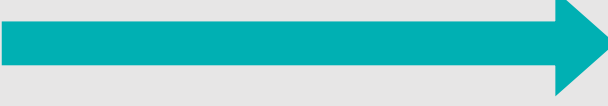
\* The terminal rule will be waived for GCSE students who are unable to complete, for acceptable reasons, 40% of assessments in the series in which they request certification, as per [JCQ special consideration arrangements](#).

**23. There may be a small number of students who do not meet the eligibility threshold in a qualification to allow them to apply for a missed component calculation. What options are available to them?**

If a student has not met the eligibility threshold in the qualification taken, they can sit the assessment at the next available opportunity in the 2023/24 academic year. In a normal year, this would be the case where a student, for whatever reason, has been unable to complete 40% of the assessments in a qualification.

## GCSE

The table below sets out CCEA’s roadmap for phasing out the alternative awarding arrangements in place for GCSE qualifications in Summer 2022.

Level	Cohort	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25
GCSE	Summer 2022 Examination Series Cash-ins	Final <b>resit</b> opportunity to achieve a qualification grade under alternative awarding arrangements.	Students are expected to meet the full requirements of the specification to be awarded a qualification grade.	
	Summer 2023 Examination Series Cash-ins	Students are expected to meet the full requirements of the specification to be awarded a qualification grade.		

**24. When is the final opportunity for resitting GCSE students to be awarded a qualification grade under the alternative arrangements in place in Summer 2022?**

The final opportunity for resitting GCSE students to be awarded a qualification grade under alternative arrangements will be Summer 2023. This is only open to those students who cashed in in Summer 2022 or those who had a cash-in in Summer 2022 but were unable to complete their assessments for acceptable reasons, as per [JCQ special consideration arrangements](#).

Those students who began their course of study in September 2021 and only have unit entries from Summer 2022 will be expected to complete all units.

**25. Will the terminal rule apply for GCSE qualifications taken in 2022/23?**

Students hoping to achieve a GCSE qualification grade in 2022/23 for the first time will have to meet the requirements of the terminal rule. This means they will have to complete 40% of the assessment in the terminal series in which they request certification.\*

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\* The terminal rule will be waived for GCSE students who are unable to complete, for acceptable reasons, 40% of assessments in the series in which they request certification, as per [JCQ special consideration arrangements](#).

For students resitting, the assessment arrangements in place in 2021/22 will carry over, meaning they will not be required to meet the terminal rule.


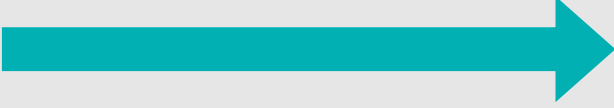

**26. For resit purposes, will the controlled assessment tasks made available in GCSE Religious Studies, Statistics, and Government and Politics be made available again in Summer 2023?**

Yes, the controlled assessment tasks in GCSE Religious Studies, Statistics, and Government and Politics will be made available in Summer 2023.



## AS and A Level

The table below sets out CCEA’s roadmap for phasing out the alternative awarding arrangements in place for AS and A level qualifications in Summer 2022.

Level	Cohort	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25
AS	Summer 2022 Examination Series Cash-ins	Final <b>resit</b> opportunity to achieve a qualification grade under alternative awarding arrangements.	Students are expected to meet the full requirements of the specification to be awarded a qualification grade.	
	Summer 2023 Examination Series Cash-ins	Students are expected to meet the full requirements of the specification to be awarded a qualification grade.		
A level	Summer 2022 Examination Series Cash-ins	Final <b>resit</b> opportunity to achieve a qualification grade under alternative awarding arrangements.	Students are expected to meet the full requirements of the specification to be awarded a qualification grade.	
	Summer 2023 Examination Series Cash-ins	Students expecting to achieve a qualification grade will be awarded this on the basis of alternative awarding arrangements for AS in Summer 2022, plus completion of all A2 units in 2023.	Final opportunity for students who <b>re-entered</b> for AS in Summer 2023 to be awarded an A level qualification grade on the basis of the alternative awarding arrangements in place for AS in Summer 2022, plus completion of all A2 units in 2024.	Students are expected to meet the full requirements of the specification to be awarded a qualification grade.

### 27. When is the final opportunity for resitting AS students to be awarded a qualification grade under the alternative arrangements in place in Summer 2022?

The final opportunity for resitting AS students to be awarded a qualification grade under alternative arrangements will be Summer 2023. This is only open to those who have a unit entry in Summer 2022, or those who had an entry in Summer 2022 but were unable to complete their assessments for acceptable reasons, as per the [JCQ special consideration arrangements](#). The requirement to demonstrate a unit entry only (and not a cash-in) differs from arrangements at GCSE and A level, reflecting entry behaviours at AS level, for example some centres cash in their AS and A level qualifications together at the end of the GCE course.

**28. When is the final opportunity for resitting A2 students to be awarded a qualification grade under the alternative arrangements in place in Summer 2022?**

The final opportunity for resitting A2 students to be awarded a qualification grade under alternative arrangements will be Summer 2023. This is only open to those who have a cash-in in Summer 2022, or those who had an entry in Summer 2022 but were unable to complete their assessments for acceptable reasons, as per the [JCQ special consideration arrangements](#).

**29. If a student wishes to resit their A2 qualification in Summer 2023, will the option of a unit omission continue to apply?**

Yes, students who cashed in their GCE qualification in Summer 2022 will be able to avail of the omission in Summer 2023 if they decide to resit. If they also decide to sit the assessment unit available for omission, they will be awarded the better grade from their performance in the mandatory unit(s) or across all units.

**30. I have a student who is resitting their AS year. How will their A level qualification grade be arrived at in Summer 2024?**

As indicated above, the final opportunity for resitting AS students to be awarded a qualification grade under alternative arrangements will be Summer 2023. If they progress to A level in 2024, the qualification grade awarded will be based on alternative arrangements under which they took their AS assessments alongside completion of all A2 units.

**31. In Summer 2022 we didn't cash in our students at AS level. Will CCEA be able to determine whether these AS students entered in 2022 but resitting in 2023 can be graded under the alternative arrangements in place in Summer 2022?**

Yes, when grading students at AS and A level in 2023, CCEA will check whether the students entered have an AS unit level entry in Summer 2022. If so, any AS students resitting will be graded under alternative arrangements. This means they can continue to avail of any unit omission that was in place and if they do decide to take all units, they will be awarded the higher grade from each route through the qualifications.

If you continue to have concerns about the impact your entries in Summer 2022 may have on the awarding process in Summer 2023, please contact [entries@ccea.org.uk](mailto:entries@ccea.org.uk)

**32. My students omitted a unit of assessment at AS level in Summer 2022. How will their uniform mark at subject level be arrived at in order to contribute to their A level grade in Summer 2023?**

The percentage of uniform marks awarded at AS level in Summer 2022 was determined by performance in the mandatory unit(s), if the optional unit was omitted. This percentage was then replicated at subject level to arrive at a total AS level uniform mark. For example, if your student achieved 75% of the uniform marks in the mandatory unit(s), they were awarded 75% of the uniform marks at subject level. In Summer 2023, the AS subject level uniform marks achieved in 2022 will be added to those achieved at A2 as normal to arrive at a total uniform mark for GCE.

**33. I have an A2 student who has an AS unit level award from Summer 2019. Can these marks contribute to their final grade in Summer 2023?**

Yes, prior attainment from previous series, in the form of uniform marks, can be used to contribute to the final A level grade issued in Summer 2023.

**34. I have a student who was awarded an AS centre determined grade in Summer 2021 and wants to come back to complete their A level. What units are they expected to complete?**

If a student has been awarded an AS centre determined grade from 2021 or centre assessment grade from 2020, they will be expected to sit all A2 units.

**35. I have a student who was awarded an AS level centre assessment grade in 2020 and an A level centre determined grade in Summer 2021 and wishes to improve their grade. What units are they expected to complete?**

If a student has been awarded an AS centre assessment grade in 2020 and an A level centre determined grade in 2021, they will not be required to sit AS units. However, they will be expected to sit all A2 units.

## Summary of Changes since First Issue

Version 2: 1 February 2023

A green line in the margin indicates new or amended text.