



Cardiff High School



Ysgol Uwchradd Caerdydd

***GCSE Assessment Adaptations
Update for Year 11
October 2021***

October 2021

Dear Parent/ Carer,

As you will hopefully all be aware, we are working very hard to welcome our students back to school. We are dedicated to supporting them to settle back into formal education and help prepare them for the year ahead. We are anticipating little disruption to learning this academic year and, at the time of writing, students will sit formal exams in the summer of 2022.

We are acutely aware that this has been a very anxious time for students who were in year 10 last year as we experienced significant disruption to 'normal' school life. Through our blended learning provision, their education continued despite the challenges, and our students are in a strong position to achieve as they now start year 11. All students have completed their first mathematics qualification and, in many subjects, students have been working on or already completed significant pieces of controlled assessments.

Further information has now been released about adaptations which have been made to GCSE subject specifications for awarding in Summer 2022. These changes relate both to the actual content which will be examined and also to the method of assessment. The changes vary according to subject and have been designed by exam boards in order to reflect the impact of school closures specifically on this cohort of students.

In Cardiff High School we are committed to helping students and parents or carers understand these changes and to offer support and advice at this challenging time. This document aims to clearly explain these changes for both you and the students and to address any questions or concerns that you may have.

Subject specialists have provided the following information:

- *Specific details about what has changed in their subject area and what this means for students*
- *Subject specific advice detailing the key approaches students should adopt in order to support their progress at this time*

If you have any questions that are not answered in this document, please don't hesitate to contact us.

Finally, I'd just like to comment on two events that will be very important in supporting your child in their GCSE examinations.

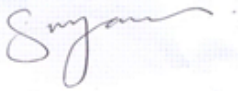
Firstly, can I take this opportunity to remind you that Year 11 Virtual Parents Evening takes place on Wednesday 20th and Thursday 21st of October. Details of the evening and how to make appointments can be found in a letter which has been sent via ParentPay and is also available on the school website.

Secondly, we are acutely aware of the potential anxiety for our students, due to a lack of experience sitting formal exams over the past two years. We are therefore planning to hold formal mock exams this December, not only to provide students with an opportunity to experience exams in a large venue, exactly as they will be in the Summer, but also to inform us exactly where their current understanding is in their subjects.

In the very unlikely event that the Summer exams are once again cancelled, the mock exams results could be used as part of a school based grading system, so it is imperative that students approach them seriously. Students and yourselves will receive details and follow up guidance regarding their mock exam performance in a full written report in January.

Ahead of the mock exam series in December, we will be providing students with a comprehensive package of support, to ensure that they are fully prepared and get the most out of this opportunity. We will circulate further details of both the practicalities of the mock exams and the preparation package in due course.

Kind Regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Stephen Jones".

Mr. Stephen Jones

Headteacher

English Language: Changes to GCSE for Assessment in Summer 2022

Summary of Changes. What does this mean for students?

- No group speaking and listening assessment.
- No narrative written task option in unit 2 examination.
- The Unit 3 exam has been shortened to 1.5 hours in length; only one written task to be completed instead of two.

Subject Specific Advice for Students

In class, we are honing our reading and writing skills, as well as examination techniques. I would advise everyone to purchase a copy of the revision guide sold by the department for £2.50. Remember that the examinations are based on unseen texts so you cannot revise in the same way as you do for English Literature. Reading extensively outside of class will help prepare you for the summer. This can take the form of reading and discussing articles from newspapers, magazines, novels, graphic novels, help guides, leaflets, etc. In the exams, you will analyse these unseen texts and then be asked to write creatively. The more exposure you have (to all different types of writing and language) the better.

English Literature: Changes to GCSE for Assessment in Summer 2022

Summary of Changes. What does this mean for students?

- There is no unit two examination
- Students will sit unit one (Of Mice and Men / Unseen poetry) in the summer of 2022
- Both pieces of controlled assessment are still to be completed

Subject Specific Advice for Students

Everyone will study the tragedy Romeo and Juliet for their second piece of controlled assessment. There are plenty of films readily available and there are lots of study websites (BBC Bitesize, SparkNotes, LitCharts, etc.) that can help you as we study the play closely in class. Everyone in the year group will sit unit one. Once all the controlled assessment has been completed, we will revise Of Mice and Men and unseen poetry, ready for the Unit 1 exam in the summer.

Maths: Changes to GCSE for Assessment in Summer 2022

Summary of Changes. What does this mean for students?

Some topics have been removed from the specification for the summer 2021 exam series. Students will not be taught these topics. The exams will be modified to reflect these changes and will be slightly shorter in length and contain fewer marks overall. Because all Maths teachers will be teaching the revised specification, students will be taught exactly what they need to know for the summer 2021 exam series. However, students should be aware of which topics have been removed because when revising and completing past exam papers they need to be able to identify which topics are not needed. Maths teachers will help with this and a list of removed topics has been placed on the Year 11 Google Classroom area.

Subject Specific Advice for Students

Students should pay particular attention to making good quality notes and completing all homework that is set in lessons. Topic checklists and resources are on the Year 11 Google Classroom area. The websites MyMaths and CorbettMaths are excellent sources of video explanations, worked examples and questions. Past exam paper homeworks will begin in the new year.

Dual Award Science: Changes to GCSE for Assessment in Summer 2021

Summary of Changes. What does this mean for students?

There are no changes to the content of the course. Pupils will not have to sit exams on their previous Y10 content. They are only required to sit exams on their current Y11 content. Practical work has been reinstated but there will not be a practical exam in January like in previous years.

Subject Specific Advice for Students

- Pupils should print (from their Google Classroom) or purchase a revision guide for each of the Sciences (from each department) to aid their understanding
- Pupils should print (from their Google Classroom) or purchase a Science Surgery booklet to practise exam style questions. These will be available after half term.
- Pupils should ensure that they are still familiar with the specified practicals completed in lessons, as these can be assessed in the theory exams in the summer (along with other practical analysis skills).

Triple Award Science: Changes to GCSE for Assessment in Summer 2021

Summary of Changes. What does this mean for students?

There are no changes to the content of the course, but the practical exam (Jan/Feb) has been cancelled and all practical content will now be taught by demo/video/simulations. Pupils will not have to sit exams on their previous Y10 content. They are only required to sit exams on their current Y11 content.

Subject Specific Advice for Students

- Pupils should print (from their Google Classroom) or purchase a revision guide for each of the Sciences (from each department) to aid their understanding
- Pupils should print (from their Google Classroom) or purchase a Science Surgery booklet to practise exam style questions. These will be available after half term.
- Pupils should ensure that they are still familiar with the specified practicals completed in lessons, as these can be assessed in the theory exams in the summer (along with other practical analysis skills).

Art: Changes to GCSE for Assessment in Summer 2022

Summary of Changes. What does this mean for students?

Usually in December of Year 11, GCSE students would submit a coursework unit of work which is worth 60%. They would then complete an externally set assignment which is worth 40%. This year students will not complete the externally set assignment. Instead they have additional time to complete a coursework unit. In order to ensure all pupils have a fully developed project that builds on the skills that they learnt in year 10, we have issued pupils with 8 themes. Pupils will use one of these themes as starting point for a new coursework project that they will complete throughout year 11. The work that has been produced in year 10 will be submitted alongside the new coursework unit for assessment. The project will be assessed against the four assessment objectives. The mark scheme and project outline booklet are available on Google Classroom.

Subject Specific Advice for Students

- Adhere to the structure and deadlines that will be set out by your class teacher to ensure that each of the assessment objectives is met fully.
- Spend adequate time researching your ideas, use the websites and links given in class to enhance your contextual understanding.
- Use catch up on Tuesdays 3.10pm to 4pm for extra support

Business: Changes to GCSE for Assessment in Summer 2022

Summary of Changes. What does this mean for students?

- The content for GCSE Business will be streamlined. The time removed is representative of the reduced learning time.
- Students are still required to study 6 units in the GCSE Business course however the following topics have been removed: Franchising (1. Business Activity); Pricing strategies (2. Marketing); Recruitment and Motivation (3. Human Resources); Cash-flow forecast (4. Finance); Supply chain (5. Business Operations); The European Union and the European single market (6. Influences on Business).
- Please see handout that has been made and is available on google classrooms.
- Students will still have two examinations papers in the summer 2021: Paper 1 – There are no changes to the assessment for this unit; Paper 2 – Students answer questions on one case study and corresponding set of questions rather than the usual two, with reduced length of the examination from 90 minutes to 45 minutes.

Subject Specific Advice for Students

- Make sure that you have joined the 'Yr11 Business Revision Resources' classroom on Google Classrooms. Code: j36ilya
- Revision for your GCSE Business exam should begin now as you have already completed half of the course. We advise that you undertake 1 hour a week of independent study. This could include: making your own revision notes; completing the blank revision mats; using flash cards and knowledge organisers to test your knowledge; using the past paper packs for each topic to build exam technique.
- Please speak to your teacher or a member of the Business and Economics department if you require additional support. (Miss Marlow, Mr Williams, Miss Jones and Mrs Rees).

Economics : Changes to GCSE for Assessment in Summer 2022

Summary of Changes. What does this mean for students?

- Currently, OCR have not made any changes to the GCSE Economics course.
- Students are therefore required to study all of the content from Part 1: Introduction to economics; Part 2: The role of markets and money; Part 3: Economic objectives and the role of government and Part 4: International trade and the global economy.
- We will continue to monitor the situation and will update you with any new information.

Subject Specific Advice for Students

Revision for your GCSE Economics exam should begin now as you have already completed half of the course. We advise that you undertake 1 hour a week of independent study. This could include: making your own revision notes; completing the blank revision mats; using flash cards and knowledge organisers to test your knowledge; using the past paper packs for each topic to build exam technique. Please speak to Miss Marlow should you require any additional support.

Computer Science: Changes to GCSE for Assessment in Summer 2022

Summary of Changes. What does this mean for students?

The grade will now be entirely based on the theory and practical (on-screen) exams that the pupils should be sitting at the end of the year. The controlled assessment/non-exam assessment (NEA) task that pupils started in year 10 is no longer being counted towards the final GCSE grade.

Subject Specific Advice for Students

- If you have not done so already, it is highly recommended that you purchase a copy of the "My Revision Notes" textbook from Amazon, a link to which can be found on the homepage of the Computer Science resources website
- Another step you can take is to make sure that you have Greenfoot installed and working at home so that you can practise the necessary code for the simple game scenarios
- It is recommended that you spend time after practical lessons going back over the coding content - the more you are able to practise it, the better you will understand it
- Revise the theory work given in class on Google Classroom
- Use the WJEC website to practise exam questions

Design Technology: Changes to GCSE for Assessment in Summer 2021

Summary of Changes. What does this mean for students?

The GCSE still comprises of Unit 1: Exam (50%) and Unit 2: NEA (50%). The exam board have stated which theory topics that will not be examined this academic year and this information will be shared with students. There have been some changes to the Unit 2: NEA project. Previously, pupils would have manufactured and evaluated a product, however, a mock-up/model will be expected, and the formal end evaluation has been removed. Pupils will not be at liberty to submit the finished product in the usual manner if they wish to do so.

Subject Specific Advice for Students

- We have moved towards a digital approach for the NEA in conjunction with their traditional sketchbook. Pupils should be uploading scans of their sketchbook to their Digital Sketchbook on Google Classroom.
- Check Google Classroom regularly for advice and resources to ensure you are meeting each deadline.
- Utilise after-school sessions and attend them for extra support and time to complete your NEA.
- Compulsory intervention runs after-school every Wednesday in F34.
- Practise the exam style questions that your teacher will be setting throughout the year to prepare you for upcoming assessments and the exam.
- Continue to build on your theory knowledge by completing theory tasks that are being set via Google Classroom.

Drama: Changes to GCSE for Assessment in Summer 2021

Summary of Changes. What does this mean for students?

Unit 1: Devising Theatre- The minimum number of people within a group has also been reduced to one. The minimum times of the performances have been shortened to recognise any breaks from rehearsal periods and preparing for the piece itself. Design candidates are also expected to produce fewer design aspects for their chosen specialism for the same reasons as above.

Unit 2: Performing Theatre- Like with Unit 1, the minimum number of people within a group has also been reduced to 1. Similarly, minimum performance times have been reduced. Learners are only expected to perform from one 10-15 minute extract, rather than two.

Unit 3: Interpreting Theatre- The WJEC will provide advance notice of the examination extract for Section A. Details of extended extracts for each of the five texts would be released to centres in September 2021, from which a smaller extract would be chosen as the specified extract within the examination. At the same time, advance notice will also be given regarding the topic of the wider knowledge question within Section A.

Subject Specific Advice for Students

Due to the nature of the subject, specific advice will be provided in lessons

French: Changes to GCSE for Assessment in Summer 2022

Summary of Changes. What does this mean for students?

To support pupils, there have been several changes made to the CONTENT and the EXAMINATION of the GCSE in French. Pupils have been given a detailed overview which they have stuck into their exercise book.

- a) The photocard part of the oral exam has been removed – Foundation will now last 5-7 mins. Higher will now last 7-9 minutes
- b) Pupils can now pre-choose a sub-sub theme for Conversation 1 of the oral exam
- c) 5 sub-sub themes have been removed from the Role-Play and Conversation 2 of the oral exam
- d) The same 5 sub-sub themes have been removed from the WRITING exam
- e) The translation into French has been removed from the Writing exam

This year, we will assess pupils in Writing, Reading and Listening via short exam-style tasks in class and we hope that pupils will also get an opportunity to do a Mock Oral Exam before Christmas.

Subject Specific Advice for Students

We have set up a dual-track learning schedule for our pupils this year. We have done this to help pupils get back on track with their learning, to rebuild confidence and to revise those specific building blocks from Year 10 that they need to make good progress in this year's themes and content. This means that our pupils will undertake new learning of the Year 11 themes in class and will at the same time, at home, be working on a weekly revision package we have devised based around last year's themes and the Year 11 themes which will be examined in the Reading and Listening papers only. Pupils are already being set the materials and tasks on Google Classroom on a weekly basis. The package includes a range of videos, exam-style tasks, practice drills and quizlet sets that will help them retrieve vital skills and knowledge from last year's themes. It is essential that pupils engage fully with each of the tasks and take the initiative to come to class and ask any questions that may have arisen from their revision.

German: Changes to GCSE for Assessment in Summer 2022

Summary of Changes. What does this mean for students?

- Speaking exam (25%): This will consist of a roleplay and two conversations. There will be no photocard. For the first conversation, students will be permitted to select a topic of their choice. This must be agreed with the teacher and the WJEC informed two weeks prior to the examination. The second conversation will be directed by the examination board.
- The following topics will not be assessed in either the roleplay or the second conversation or in the written exam:
- Technology and social media; ii) Festivals and celebrations iii) Local and regional features and characteristics of Germany and German-speaking countries; iv) Social issues v) Post-16 study
- Written examination (25%): The translation requirement has been removed
- Listening (25%) & Reading (25%) : There are no changes to these units.

Subject Specific Advice for Students

- Complete the Home and Locality booklet. This was our final Unit in year 10 and will be assessed in the GCSE in the summer of 2022. Revise the first three Units (Lifestyle, School and Healthy Living), learning topic specific vocabulary. You can test yourself and submit work by either a) completing reading tasks in the relevant work booklets b) writing essays on the topics studied. Submit work to your teacher for correction and feedback. These will also be assessed in subsequent mock examinations and in-class assessments. We advise also redoing marked pieces to reinforce grammar and vocabulary.
- Revise grammar. Focus on accuracy of the present, past and future tenses, modal verbs and the conditional tense. Focus also on learning word order rules in German. This can be found in your exercise and work booklets.
- Practise your listening skills by using BBC Bitesize or Slow German on Youtube (topics suggested by teacher).
- Use Google Classrooms. Work, assignments and materials are updated regularly in the classwork section

Geography: Changes to GCSE for Assessment in Summer 2022

Summary of Changes. What does this mean for students?

There has been some content taken out of the GCSE, some of which has already been covered. This means that for your exams in the Summer of 2022 you will not have to look over and revise:

- **Unit 1** - 1.1.2 How physical landscapes in Wales affect human activity? 1.1.3 How can landscapes in Snowdonia be managed? 2.3.1 What are the global patterns of urbanisation? 2.3.2 What are the consequences of urbanisation on Cardiff and Mumbai? How are global cities connected?
- **Unit 2** – 5.2.1 What are the causes and consequences of two weather hazards (drought and hurricanes)? 6.3.1 How and why is demand for water changing? 6.3.2 Are water sources being sustainably managed?

Controlled Assessment

- **Unit 3** – Students will complete one local fieldwork in order to carry out their controlled assessment. Previously students carried out two field trips and two investigations. The one controlled assessment will be worth 20% of their final GCSE. Students will be working towards their controlled assessment during the first half term and complete the final assessment in November.

Classroom teachers will ensure students are aware of content that has been removed, but students will need to consider this when completing any independent revision and past paper questions, in order to ensure they focus on the topics being assessed.

Subject Specific Advice for Students

- Make sure booklets completed so far during the GCSE are complete
- Make revision notes on topics covered so far
- Listen to GCSEPod revision podcasts & practise past paper questions
- Attend/watch revision sessions or webinars when informed of when they are to take place.
- Ask questions when unsure on anything

History: Changes to GCSE for Assessment in Summer 2021

Summary of Changes. What does this mean for students?

Students were meant to sit the USA exam in June 2021, however this exam was cancelled. Since then, WJEC have offered adaptations to the History GCSE course which are as follows. All students are now required to sit two of the three examined units as well as completing 2 pieces of NEA.

What does that mean for CHS History Yr 11 students?

We will be sitting the USA paper (Unit 2) and the Depression, War and Recovery paper (Unit 1) in May/June 2022, the content of these have already been covered. Students will also be completing both pieces of their NEA during this academic year.

Subject Specific Advice for Students

- Ensure all work completed work on Depression, War and Recovery has been handed into your teacher to be checked
- Use your knowledge organiser for both units - knowledge is key to both exams
- Look over the exam advice booklets - ask your teacher if you are unsure
- Use BBC bitesize and HWB as they have quizzes to test your knowledge

ICT: Changes to GCSE for Assessment in Summer 2022

Summary of Changes. What does this mean for students?

The grade will be based on Unit 3 (theory) and Unit 4 (controlled assessment). There is a slight change to Year 11 controlled assessment. You will be expected to complete the controlled assessment in class with the flexibility to complete tasks at home if directed by the teacher. There is no change in the theory exam as this will be done in the summer.

Subject Specific Advice for Students

- If you have not done so already, it is highly recommended that you purchase a copy of the "My Revision Notes WJEC ICT for GCSE 2nd Edition Paperback" textbook from Amazon. Develop your Website/PowerPoint skills to complete the controlled assessment
- Come to the lesson prepared and ready to give 100%
- Revise the theory work given in class on Google Classroom
- Use the WJEC website to practise exam questions

Media: Changes to GCSE for Assessment in Summer 2022

Summary of Changes. What does this mean for students?

There are no changes to Unit 1 Exploring the Media. However, in Unit 2 learners need to complete one section of the paper only. Hollywood Film is the topic that will be covered in lessons and so it is section B - the film section that will be completed in the exam. With the magazine production project there has been a small change. The research, planning and critical reflection elements still need to be completed however only one production piece needs to be completed as a finished 'best' piece. So, this means that the production piece from your planning could be one of the following: the magazine cover, the contents page, or the article.

Subject Specific Advice for Students

- All topics from Unit 1 need to be revisited and revised: advertising, newspapers, video games and the music industry
- All elements of the magazine project must be completed to the highest standard as it contributes significantly to the GCSE.
- The coursework elements must be submitted by the deadlines set
- Google classroom must be used to submit assignments and as a platform where resources can be accessed and shared

Music: Changes to GCSE for Assessment in Summer 2021

Summary of Changes. What does this mean for students?

Pupils will still complete work in all three areas of study for music: Performance, Composing and Listening Exam but there are some changes in the amount of work to be completed.

- Unit 1 Performance: The minimum performance time is reduced to 2 Minutes. Pieces can be individual performance or group ensemble performance. Pupils can play one or two pieces. A written programme note on one piece is also submitted.
- Unit 2 Composition: Only one composition is required of between 1.5 to 3 minutes in duration. Topic and style are free for the pupils to decide in liaison with the teacher.
- Unit 3 Listening Exam: No changes to this aspect of the course. Exam expected in the Summer of Yr. 11.

Subject Specific Advice for Students

As two-thirds of the course is Non-Examined Assessment [course work] consistent practice and work is essential this year. Pupils are in a good position as they have already been working at solo performance and some composing in Yr 10 and this work can be carried forward. We will provide all of the notes and revision and past paper practice needed for the written component. The Yr. 11 music classes can all attend an after-school coursework support session weekly in G7 and G8 to receive additional support with the completion of Performing and Composing tasks. Please come to these sessions every Tuesday lunch.

PE: Changes to GCSE for Assessment in Summer 2022

Summary of Changes. What does this mean for students?

- The theory aspect of the course remains the same, one 2-hour paper in the Summer of 2022 on all topics studied across Y10-11 covered.
- The practical aspect has changed, the PFP (coursework) has been removed from the assessment. Pupils will now only be assessed in 2 activities, rather than 3, with no specific requirement to be assessed in a team or individual activity. This means pupils can be assessed in any combination for their 2 activities.

Subject Specific Advice for Students

- Ensure you're participating regularly in your activities, although given the current situation, we appreciate this might be difficult.
- Attend extra-curricular clubs to develop skills and understanding.
- If you're competing in an off-site activity, ensure you have sufficient video evidence uploaded to google classroom.

RS: Changes to GCSE for Assessment in Summer 2022

Summary of Changes. What does this mean for students?

Pupils will choose three out of four of the questions on both papers. In Units 1 and 2 the Christianity module will not be examined. This means that pupils will complete the following modules:

Unit 1: Islam, Issues of Life and Death and Good and evil

Unit 2: Islam, Human Rights and Relationships

This will reduce the content covered in lessons, as well as the topics for revision.

Subject Specific Advice for Students

- Useful resources and exercises were shared during lock down on google classroom, revisit these as revision opportunities
- If pupils were unable to complete the work during lockdown (or would like to recap the topics covered), they should attend the after school catch up sessions
- Start preparing for revision by producing mind maps, flash cards, lotus diagrams etc on the topics we have already covered
- Practise exam questions to develop your confidence and writing skills - see Mrs James for examples of these

Welsh: Changes to GCSE for Assessment in Summer 2022

Summary of Changes. What does this mean for students?

The Welsh GCSE used to consist of 2 speaking units and 2 reading/writing units. The exam board has eliminated one of the two speaking units (Unit 1 at CHS) and therefore the students do not need to respond to a short dvd on a random topic. The Unit 2 group speaking will be held at the start of April 2022.

Subject Specific Advice for Students

- Complete a section from the past paper homework booklet every fortnight
- Focus fully in lessons and make the best use of that contact time with their teacher
- Ensure that they read over/make revision notes on the booklets and power points from year 10 based on Wales and Employment.
- Use google classroom – all power points and booklets from years 10 and 11 are available there.
- Subscribe to the free welsh magazine for learners called law! - This can be done through www.urdd.org website to improve their vocabulary and Welsh understanding. This is a Welsh Government initiative.
- Try to meet up with a friend either via social media or in person in order to speak Welsh with each other

Q+: Changes to GCSE for Assessment in Summer 2021

Course Update

The ICT qualification is a Level 2 Extended Certificate in IT User Skills in Open Systems and Enterprise (ITQ). This qualification is entirely coursework based and is graded as a 'pass' once complete. A pass is equivalent to 2 B grades at GCSE.

The finance qualification is a Level 2 Certificate in Financial Capability and Careers Development (CeFCCD). This qualification involves pupils studying 4 units and completing online multiple choice exams after each. Finance is equivalent to 1 GCSE graded A* - C (depending on the overall marks for all tests).

At this point, pupils have completed either ITQ or Finance, and they are continuing to work on the completion of the second qualification.

Subject Specific Advice for Students

- Ensure that you focus and participate fully in every lesson
- Listen carefully to the advice of your individual teachers
- Ensure that you finish any outstanding exams or coursework

ASDAN (COPE): Changes to GCSE for Assessment in Summer 2021

Course Update

The ASDAN qualification has not been amended

Subject Specific Advice for Students

- Ensure that you focus and participate fully in every lesson
- Listen carefully to the advice of your individual teachers
- Ensure that you finish any outstanding coursework