

19 October 2021
HHS Year 11 Exams Letter



**THE
HESSE
ACADEMY**

Penshurst Primary School

Winthorpe Road, First Lane,
Hessle, East Yorkshire HU13 9EX
Tel: 01482 648808
Email: ppsoffice@hessleacademy.com

**Hessle High School
& Sixth Form College**

Tranby House, Heads Lane,
Hessle, East Yorkshire HU13 0JQ
Tel: 01482 648604
Email: hhsoffice@hessleacademy.com
Website: www.thehessleacademy.co.uk

Dear Year 11 Student

As you know, the last two years have not given Year 11 students the opportunity to demonstrate their knowledge and skills in final GCSE examinations. This has been the cause of huge anxiety and frustration.

Thankfully, all indications are that you will not be affected in this way and will be able to sit GCSE examinations next summer. However, Ofqual (the organisation that oversees the exams process and the awarding of Grades) are aware that you have missed a great deal of education in the past eighteen months and therefore they have made some adjustments to exams in the interest of fairness.

This letter sets out what we know about these changes. Please read it carefully.

Advanced notice of content of exams

To help students revise, exam boards will provide advance information about the focus of exams for all subjects at GCSE, with the **exception** of:

- GCSE English Literature
- GCSE History
- GCSE Geography
- GCSE Art and Design

Ofqual and the DfE have decided that exam boards will publish advance information by **7 February 2022** or earlier if the impact of the pandemic worsens.

Optionality

Schools and colleges will be given some choice about the topics or content that students will be assessed on in the following qualifications only:

- GCSE English Literature
- GCSE History
- GCSE Geography

We can already confirm the options for GCSE English Literature and GCSE History.



Formulae sheets

Students will be given a formula sheet in GCSE Maths and a revised equations sheet in GCSE Physics and GCSE Combined Science covering all the equations required in the subject content.

We will make these sheets available to schools for use in teaching and so students can familiarise themselves with them. They will also be provided in the exams.

Practical work

There will be changes to the practical work requirements of some subjects:

- GCSE Art and Design students will only be assessed on their portfolio.
- GCSE Biology, Chemistry, Physics and Combined Science – teachers will have the opportunity to deliver practical science work by demonstration.

Non-exam assessment (NEA)

Ofqual published its decisions on arrangements for NEA in June, and we've already confirmed the NEA changes for most of our relevant qualifications.

GCSE Modern Foreign Languages (MFL)

- Exam boards will not have to include vocabulary that's not on the vocabulary lists for assessments in GCSE MFL.
- Exam boards will include an extra optional question in the writing assessment to help students to focus on fewer themes in their writing.
- Teachers and students should prepare for spoken language in 2022 to be assessed in the normal way, through formal speaking tests. There will be a contingency of using the published criteria to award an endorsed grade if it's not possible for the formal tests to go ahead as planned.

Arrangements still to be confirmed

These are the only general qualifications where there is still some information to come about the arrangements for 2022:

- **Optionality in GCSE Geography**
All exam boards are working together to finalise how the optionality will work.
- **Non-exam assessment (NEA) in GCSE PE**
Ofqual are planning for live moderation visits to go ahead as normal for summer 2022, and will be back in touch with more guidance in the next few weeks.

Grading in autumn 2021 and summer 2022

Ofqual has also confirmed its plans for grading standards for both autumn 2021 and summer 2022. In their blog they've explained that they'd like to get back quickly to the pre-pandemic standard, but in the interests of fairness this will be a gradual process.

Results days in summer 2022

The DfE and Ofqual have confirmed that the summer 2022 results days will be one week apart as usual. This means GCSEs will be released on Thursday 25 August.

You and everyone else in Year 11 have endured a very difficult period of your lives. The information above may seem daunting but we feel it is a fair approach to recognise the time you have had out of school. You do not need to worry about this or do anything immediately. Your teachers will ensure that the work you are given will prepare you for these amended assessments. Please continue to work hard, follow the guidance from your teachers and look forward to the summer with optimism.

Very best wishes.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'V Groak', written in a cursive style.

Mr V Groak
Headteacher