

Changes to GCSE and Vocational Examinations in 2021

Course	Information on changes
Art	Students will only be completing Unit 1 -the portfolio component. We will continue with this unit until the end of the course and students will not be required to start the examination unit in January.
Business Studies	No changes.
Computer Science	No changes other than the previous decision of allowing Year 11s to work on their programming project at home.
English Language	No Changes
English Literature	We have been allowed to drop one text and so as a department we have taken the decision that students will not have to answer a question on the <i>Power and Conflict</i> poetry unit.
Food and Nutrition	NEA 1 has been removed by the exam board, so pupils will now only complete NEA2 which has already been released. This one piece is now worth 50% of the marks. The content of NEA 1 will still be assessed on the exam paper.
French	There will not be a formal speaking exam. Instead students will be assessed by teachers during class time and a certificate will be issued for this skill with either pass, merit or distinction specified.
Geography	No topic content has been removed from the geography. The six topics for paper 1 (physical geography) and paper 2 (human geography) will all be expected to be answered in the final papers. The only change to the course is that there is no longer a requirement to take students on a fieldtrip. However, they will still be required to answer questions on 'fieldwork in an unfamiliar context' and do the issue evaluation in paper 3.
Health & Social Care	Changes to be confirmed as course is vocational.
History	AQA History have used Ofqual's decision to reduce their four papers to three. This means we will not be teaching the second half of paper 2, which would have been Restoration Britain. All GCSE candidates for entry this year will have three individual 1 hour exams for a paper on the following - Germany 1918 - 1945, Conflict and Tension between East and West 1945 - 1972 and Britain, Migration & Empire from 790 to 2016.
Creative iMedia	Changes to be confirmed as course is vocational.
Maths	No changes
Music	Changes to the NEA - Performance: minimum time reduced to 1.5 minutes; minimum of one piece; no ensemble requirement Composition: minimum time reduced to 2 minutes; only one composition; can choose to create a free composition or a set brief composition.

PE	Students will now have practical assessments on 2 sports rather than 3.
Philosophy & Ethics	No changes.
Product Design	The assessment for Design and Technology (both Product Design and Textiles) has remained the same with 50% based on the NEA and the other 50% on the exam. The NEA mark scheme has been adapted slightly and it is now not necessary for the students to achieve such a high-quality finish on their final products as in previous years. We still intend to do as much making as possible but if there are further disruptions, we have reassurance that well-made prototypes will be accepted by the exam board.
Russian	There will not be a formal speaking exam. Instead students will be assessed by teachers during class time and a certificate will be issued for this skill with either pass, merit or distinction specified.
Science	No changes.
Spanish	There will not be a formal speaking exam. Instead students will be assessed by teachers during class time and a certificate will be issued for this skill with either pass, merit or distinction specified.
Textiles	The assessment for Design and Technology (both Product Design and Textiles) has remained the same with 50% based on the NEA and the other 50% on the exam. The NEA mark scheme has been adapted slightly and it is now not necessary for the students to achieve such a high-quality finish on their final products as in previous years. We still intend to do as much making as possible but if there are further disruptions, we have reassurance that well-made prototypes will be accepted by the exam board.
Drama	As this is an IGCSE changes may still occur. At the moment the advice from the exam board is to complete as much of the content as possible.