



Wildern School

Centre Number 58243

Exam Guidance for Students and Parents

Summer Exam Season 2026

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Updated 7th October 2025

Introduction

It is the aim of Wildern School to make the examination experience as stress-free and successful as possible for all candidates.

Hopefully, this booklet will prove informative and be helpful for you and your parents. Please read it carefully and show it to your parents so that they are also aware of the examination regulations and the procedures to follow in the event of any problems occurring.

The awarding bodies (or examination boards) set down strict criteria which must be followed for the conduct of examinations and The Wildern School is required to follow them precisely. You should therefore pay particular attention to the JCQ Information for Candidates and Warning Notices included at the end of this booklet. If there is anything you do not understand please ask.

If you or your parents have any queries or need help or advice before, during or after the examinations please contact:

Examinations Officer

Mrs C Clilverd

01489 779455

exams@wildern.org

(Termtime Only)

Director of Progress and Achievement Year 11

Mr L Nash

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GCSE Exam Timetable – May/June 2026- Version 1 May/June 26

Morning session – 9.00am start	Date	Afternoon session – 2.00pm start
	Monday 27th April	
	Tuesday 28th April	
	Wednesday 29th April	
	Thursday 30th April	
BTEC Animal Care 2hrs	Friday 1st May	
BANK HOLIDAY	Monday 4th May	BANK HOLIDAY
Year 9 English	Tuesday 5th May	
Year 9 Maths	Wednesday 6th May	
Psychology P1 1hr 45	Thursday 7th May	German Listening 1hr 05, 50mins
Sports Studies 1hr 15	Friday 8th May	Drama 1hr 30
English Literature P1 1hr 45	Monday 11th May	Business Studies P1 1hr 45
Religious Studies P1 1hr 45	Tuesday 12th May	Biology 1hr 45 Combined Science Biology 1hr 15
Geography P1 1hr 30	Wednesday 13th May	Computer Science P1 1hr 30
Maths Non Calc 1hr 30	Thursday 14th May	German Reading 1hr, 45mins Psychology P2 1hr 45
History P1 2hrs	Friday 15th May	IT 1hr 30
Chemistry 1hr 45 Combined Science Chemistry 15	Monday 18th May	Media Studies P1 1hr 30
English Literature P2 2hrs 15 8.45 start	Tuesday 19th May	Computer Science P2 2hrs
French Listening 1hr 05, 50mins	Wednesday 20th May	Religious Studies P2 1hr 45
English Language P2 1hr 45	Thursday 21st May	Business Studies P2 1hr 45
Physical Education P1 1hr 30	Friday 22nd May	
Half Term	Half Term	Half Term
Physical Education P2 1hr 15	Monday 1st June	German Writing 1hr 20, 1hr 15
Physics 1hr 45	Tuesday 2nd June	Statistics P1 1hr 30 Media Studies P2 1hr 30
Combined Science Physics 1hr 15	Wednesday 3rd June	Geography P2 1hr 30
Maths P2 1hr 30	Thursday 4th June	French Reading 1hr, 45mins
History P2 2hrs	Friday 5th June	Music 1hr 30
English Language P2 1hr 45		
Biology 1hr 45	Monday 8th June	French Writing H/F 1hr 15, 1hr 20
Combined Science Biology 1hr 15	Tuesday 9th June	
Spanish Listening 1hr 05, 50mins	Wednesday 10th June	Design and Technology 1hr 45
Maths P3 1hr 30	Thursday 11th June	Food Prep and Nutrition 1hr 45 Extended Maths 1hr 15
Geography P3 1hr 30	Friday 12th June	Dance 1hr 30 Hospitality & Catering 1hr 20 Statistics P2 1hr 30
Chemistry 1hr 45 Combined Science Chemistry 1hr 15		
Physics 1hr 45	Monday 15th June	
Combined Science Physics 1hr 15	Tuesday 16th June	Extended Maths 1hr 15
Spanish Reading 1hr, 45mins	Wednesday 17th June	
Spanish Writing 1hr 20, 1hr 15	Thursday 18th June	
	Friday 19th June	
	Monday 22nd June	
	Tuesday 23rd June	
Contingency Day	Wednesday 24th June	Contingency Day

The designation of 'contingency days' within the common examination timetable is in the event of national or significant local disruption to examinations in the United Kingdom. It is part of the awarding bodies' standard contingency planning for examinations. Candidates must therefore remain available until Wednesday 24 June 2026 should an awarding body need to invoke its contingency plan.

Results Day 20th August 2026

Please be aware that this is a national timetable and therefore students can only take their exams at these times. (This is different to the practice exams when we use catch up sessions to ensure all students are able to complete their papers and receive feedback to help them progress.

Contingency day 2026

As you can see from the 2026 Exam timetable, the Exam Awarding bodies and JCQ (The Joint Council for Qualifications) have arranged two contingency days. This is for “GCSE and/or GCE examinations, should sustained national or local disruption arise during the June 2026 examination series”.

This decision has been made following the tragic events of summer 2017, namely the Manchester attacks and the Grenfell Tower Fire. JCQ has decided that there needs to be an option whereby an exam can be postponed in the event of an incident and rearranged for a later date to allow all students a fair and equal chance. The date that has been set aside as the 2026 Contingency Day is Wednesday 24th June All day.

This means that all exam candidates must be available to sit exams up to, and including, Wednesday 24th June 2026. This decision is not a school decision and applies to all candidates in all schools nationwide. Please make a note of this important date as it is common practice, and completely understandable, for many families to book holidays at the end of June and into July so as to take advantage of the lower prices available. However, it would be devastating for a student to miss out on a good grade, after working hard during the GCSE course, because they may be absent from a rearranged final exam.

Written exams

When you receive your individual exam timetable it will show your own specific, timetabled examinations with your name, Unique Candidate Identifier (UCI), exam number and details of the date, time and duration of each exam. Check it carefully. If you think that something is wrong, please see Mrs Clilverd immediately. You may have already completed some practical components.

Coursework/controlled assessment/non-examination assessment

The JCQ notice about coursework, controlled assessments and non-examination assessments including plagiarism and the consequences is at the end of this booklet.

Candidates have a right to have their assessment marks reviewed. Subject Leaders will inform students of the window available for this if it needs to differ from the whole school deadlines shown below due to the external moderator involvement.

External NEA Deadlines 2025/26 - All Subject excluding GCSE PE

- All NEA assignments have to be marked and moderated by 3pm Thursday 19th March 2026.

- Results of these need to be shared with students by 3pm Thursday 26th March 2026.
- Students have a right to have their assessment marks reviewed and if a student wishes to appeal their marks they need to put this in writing to the subject leader by 3pm Thursday 16th April 2026

External NEA Deadlines 2026 - GCSE PE

Practical NEA

- All video evidence being used for GCSE PE assessment must be submitted by 3pm Friday 9th January 2026 with the exception of skiing/snowboarding footage which must be submitted by 3pm Friday 27th February 2026. This must be submitted via Google Drive directly to the class teacher.
- All practical assessments must have taken place before 3pm Friday 27th February. The PE moderation day will take place in March 2026 and if you are selected for this, it is mandatory to perform.
- Students will be informed of their practical NEA grades by 3pm Monday 2nd March 2026.

Written NEA

- The final deadline for written coursework submission is 3pm Friday 17th October 2025. Students will be informed of their written coursework grade by 3pm Friday 19th December 2025.

Students have a right to have their assessment marks reviewed and if a student wishes to appeal their marks they need to put this in writing to the subject leader by 3pm Friday 9th March 2026.

What to do if you identify you have two or more exam papers timetabled at the same time (an exam clash)

Occasionally some candidates will have a clash where two or more subjects are timetabled at the same time. This year, Media Studies and Sports Studies are scheduled for the same time. The school will make special timetable arrangements for candidates who take both these subjects, but the exams must be taken on the day, and in the same afternoon for most students. The times for these exams will be shown on your individual timetable. You will be supervised by an invigilator until you have finished all the exams scheduled for that day so you may also have to bring a packed lunch and a drink with you on that day as you will not be able to communicate with other students. A break of up to 20 minutes will be allowed between papers and you will not be allowed to revise in this time.

Where you will take your examinations

The exams will mainly take place in the Sports Hall, Main Hall and Wave but other venues have also been used. Please check your timetable so that you know where you will be for each of your exams.

What time your examinations will start and finish

Most morning exams start at 9:00am and the afternoon exams at 2:00pm. You must assemble outside your examination room 15 minutes before the start time.

It is not the school's policy to allow candidates to leave the exam room early, as this is disruptive to others, so please do not ask to leave but use the time to check through your answers thoroughly and to make sure that you have completed your personal details correctly.

Supervision during your exams

Senior members of staff will be present at the start of their relevant exams. The school employs external invigilators to conduct the examinations. They are members of staff. You will be expected to behave in a respectful manner towards them and follow their instructions at all times. Invigilators are in the examination rooms to supervise the conduct of the examination. They will distribute and collect the examination papers, tell you when to start and finish the examination, hand out extra paper if required and deal with any problems that occur during the examination. They cannot discuss the examination paper with you or read or explain the questions.

You may not leave the examination room without the permission of the invigilators. If you need to go to the toilet you will be escorted by an invigilator and you will not be allowed any extra time.

Toilets- Please go to the toilet before the exam. You will not be able to go to the toilet in the first hour or last 20 minutes of the exam time. These are JCQ exam regulations to avoid student contact with other potential candidates.

Any student who behaves in a disruptive or unacceptable manner will be removed from the examination room by invigilators. They will be escorted to the Examination Officer and their conduct will be reported to the Senior Leadership Team. A report will then be sent to the relevant examining body.

Exam conditions

Copies of the 'Information for Candidates' which is issued jointly by all the examination boards is included in this booklet. You must read these carefully and note that to break any of the examination rules or regulations could lead to disqualification from all subjects. The school must report any breach of regulations to the awarding body.

Listen carefully to instructions and notices read out by the invigilators — there may be amendments or corrections to the exam paper that you need to know about. Check you have the correct question paper — check the subject, paper and tier of entry.

Do not draw pictures, or write offensive comments on examination papers — if you do the examination board may refuse to accept your paper.

At the end of the examination all work must be handed in — remember to cross out any rough work. If you have used more than one answer book or loose sheets of paper, make sure all loose sheets are in the correct order and inserted inside the last page of the exam booklet.

Invigilators will collect your exam papers before you leave the room. Absolute silence must be maintained during this time. Remember you are still under examination conditions until you have left the room.

Question papers, answer booklets and additional paper must not be taken from the exam room. Remain seated in silence until told to leave the examination room. Please leave the room in silence and show consideration for other candidates who may still be working.

Where you will sit in the exam room

You will sit in candidate number order for each exam. A sticker with your name and number will be on the desk so you can find your seat.

What equipment you need to bring to your exams

Examination regulations are very strict regarding items that may be taken into the examination room. If you break these rules you will be disqualified from the examination.

All items of equipment (pens, pencils, mathematical instruments) should be visible to the invigilators at all times.

- You must either use a transparent pencil case or clear plastic bag.
- You must use a black pen. No ink erasers or correction pens are allowed.
- Calculators - You must be aware of JCQ awarding body instructions regarding the use of calculators in your exams which state:

"Candidates may use a calculator in an examination unless prohibited by the awarding body's specification. Where the use of a calculator is allowed, candidates are responsible for making sure that their calculators meet the awarding bodies' regulations.

- pencil, rubber, ruler
- Maths equipment

Calculators must be:

- of a size suitable for use on the desk;
- either battery or solar powered;
- free of lids, cases and covers which have printed instructions or formulae.

Calculators must not:

- be designed or adapted to offer any of these facilities:
 - language translators;
 - symbolic algebra manipulation;
 - symbolic differentiation or integration;
 - communication with other machines or the internet;
- be borrowed from another candidate during an examination for any reason;
- have retrievable information stored in them. This includes:
 - databanks;
 - dictionaries;
 - mathematical formulae;
 - text.

The candidate is responsible for the following:

- the calculator's power supply;
- the calculator's working condition;
- clearing anything stored in the calculator

What you should not bring into the exam room

Only material that is listed on question papers is permitted in the examination room and students who are found to have any material with them that is not allowed will be reported to the appropriate examination board. In such circumstances, a student would normally be disqualified from the paper or the subject concerned.

Mobile phones, smartwatches, wrist watches and wireless headphones must not be brought into the exam room. Being in possession of any electronic communication device in the exam room is regarded as cheating and is subject to severe penalty from the awarding bodies. The school must report any such incident whether or not the device was used and the awarding body will decide the penalty.

Any of the above devices brought into the examination room must be switched off and handed to an invigilator before the start of the exam. All watches must be removed and handed in with mobile phones.

Food and drink in exam rooms

No food or drink (except a small clear plastic bottle of water, label removed) is allowed in the examination rooms.

What you should wear for your exams

Full School Uniform must be worn by all students attending school for examinations.

Where your personal belongings will be stored during your exam

Bags and coats are to be left in the designated area in your examination room. Do not bring any valuables into school with you during the exam period.

What to do if you arrive late for an examination

If you arrive less than one hour after the published starting time of the examination, it may still be possible for you to sit the paper. Report to the exam office as soon as you can; A member of exams staff will then escort you to the exam room as after an examination has begun you must not enter the examination room without permission from an invigilator or the Exams Officer.

You should also be aware that if you start the exam more than one hour after the published starting time the school must inform the exam board who may decide not to accept your work. Please ensure that you allow enough time to get to school so that if you are delayed you will still arrive on time.

What to do if you are ill on the day of an examination

If you are ill on the day of an examination, please contact the school as soon as possible so we can help or advise you. In the case of an accident that means you are unable to write, it may be possible to provide you with a scribe to write your answers, but we will need as much prior notice as you can give.

You will need to obtain written medical evidence from your GP or hospital if you wish the school to make an application for Special Consideration on your behalf.

Special Consideration

Special Consideration is an adjustment to the marks or grades of a candidate who has sat the exam but has been disadvantaged in some way because of 'exceptional circumstances'.

Candidates will only be eligible for Special Consideration if they have been fully prepared and covered the whole course but performance in the examination is affected by adverse circumstances beyond their control. Examples of such circumstances may be illness, accident or injury, bereavement or a domestic crisis at the time. The Examinations Officer must be informed immediately so that the necessary paperwork can be sent to the board and the candidate will be required to provide written evidence to support the application. **This must be received no later than 5 days after the examination date.**

Parents should be aware that the decision to apply any adjustment is made by the examining body. It is likely to be small (maximum of 5% for an immediate family bereavement) and no feedback is ever provided.

What happens if you are absent from an exam

If you miss an exam without informing the school of the reason your parents/guardians will be charged the entry fee for the exam. Please note that misreading the timetable will not be accepted as a satisfactory explanation of absence.

JCQ says that “when a candidate has missed a timetabled component/unit for acceptable reasons and the centre is prepared to support an application for special consideration, an adjustment may be made to the terminal grade. However, the component/unit must have been missed in the terminal series, candidates must have covered the whole course and a minimum of 25% of the total assessment must have been completed”.

If this happens, the exam board will approximate a grade for the component missed using the students' other components/papers' results that they were able to sit. (NOT PRACTISE EXAMS OR ANY INTERNAL ASSESSMENTS) They will compare these to how other candidates nationally have achieved on the missing component in relation to the completed papers/components.

What will happen in the event of an emergency in the exam room

If the fire alarm sounds during an examination the examination invigilators will tell you what to do. Don't panic. If you have to evacuate the room you will be asked to leave in the order in which you are sitting. You will be escorted to a designated assembly point. Leave everything on your desk. You must not attempt to communicate with anyone else during the evacuation and absolute silence must be maintained at all times.

When you return to the exam room do not start writing until the invigilator tells you to. You will be allowed the full working time for the examination and a report will be sent to the awarding body detailing the incident.

Suspected malpractice

Wildern School adheres to the JCQ Policies and Procedures for Suspected Malpractice in Examinations and Assessments which can be found on the School website.

Candidates with access arrangements

If you have approved exam access arrangements check your timetables carefully so you know where you are going for each exam. Please wait outside the venue 10 minutes before the start time of the exam. If you are unsure about any of the arrangements, ask the Learning Support staff.

Access arrangements are designed to allow students who may otherwise be disadvantaged by a recognised learning need and who may require some support in an examination. This may include extra time awarded on a subject by subject basis, a prompt, rest breaks, a reader, a scribe or modified papers etc (the list is not exhaustive). Access arrangements are usually applied for at the start of Year 10; some exceptional cases where a new learning need has been identified will be considered after this date. Urgent cases will always be considered (e.g. broken writing hand/arm where a scribe or word processor can be provided).

Students are monitored throughout their learning at Wildern School and any concerns affecting assessments and examinations are reported to Learning Support. Evidence is then gathered and if supporting the need for it, students are assessed for access arrangements. If there is sufficient evidence an access arrangement is applied for.

Students with medical needs or severe anxiety

As with access arrangements, support can be offered for students who are undergoing treatment at the time of examinations. This may include rest breaks, prompts, different seats or on occasion smaller rooms. These can only be arranged for students who are receiving treatment from a level 3 practitioner (ie Hospital consultant, CAMHS) and with medical evidence to support an application. JCQ state that a GP letter is insufficient.

To have some exam nerves is normal and most students do feel anxious around examinations. Students who are suffering severe exam anxiety but are not under CAMHS can be seated at the back/side of the hall/sports hall. This decision is made by the Director of Progress and Achievement, the Exams Officer and the SENCo.

Results

Results will be available for Year 11 students to collect on Thursday 20th August between 10:00am and 11:00am. If you would like anyone else to collect your results, students should please write a letter and sign it for the person collecting your results. Your nominated person must bring this letter and a form of photographic ID on results day.

Alternatively, a stamped and self-addressed envelope of A5 size or bigger can be left with the exams office for results to be posted. Adequate postage is required and we would suggest postage for a 'large letter'. Results will not be given out by telephone or emailed under any circumstances. Results not collected by candidates or a representative will be held securely in the exams office until collected at a later date.

If you need post-results advice, staff will be available during the morning on Results Day. The examinations office will be open for enquiries on Thursday, 20th or Friday, 21st August (9am - Noon). From Friday, 4th September 2026, subject specialist staff will be available for advice. All emails received after results day will be responded to once all staff have returned to school in September.

Post-results services

If you feel strongly that it is necessary to make an enquiry about your result you should contact the exams officer on exams@wildern.org. All emails received after results day will be responded to once all staff have returned to school in September.

Examiner marking is a specific skill with extensive training. Subject staff do not necessarily have this training and therefore cannot 'mark' papers themselves to give advice on reviews. You should also be aware that your mark could go down, up or

stay the same, the latter being the most likely outcome. There is a review fee and it is refunded only if there is a change of the overall grade following the review.

If you decide to go ahead with a review, please complete the Enquiries about Results Form which will be included in the students results pack and return it to the School Exam Office form with the correct payment (cash or cheque) by Friday 11th September 2026.

Fees for Exam Reviews

Correct fees for any Enquiries about Results are released by exam boards in Spring of that year. The correct fees for reviews in 2026 will be included in the information pack that accompany your results in August. For guidance fees in 2025 cost up to £65.25 a paper, this is likely to have increased. Further information about this will be included in the pack with the results.

Service	Type	GCSE
1	Clerical check	AQA: £9.40 Edexcel: £14.00 OCR: £11.50
2	Review of marking	AQA: £43.50 Edexcel: £50.00 OCR: £65.25
3	Access to scripts (original)	AQA: £3 Edexcel: £3 OCR: £13

Certificates

Certificates will be available for collection in November. A letter inviting you to collect these will be sent to you and your parents/guardians with full details nearer the time. Any certificates not collected will be held securely until December 31st 2027. After this date they will be destroyed. To replace certificates from exam boards costs from £43 per qualification (depending on the examination board) so it is highly recommended students collect these on the day specified and keep them safe.

Coursework/non-examination assessments can be collected at this time as well.



WHAT ARE ACCESS ARRANGEMENTS?

- Access arrangements allow students with specific needs, such as special educational needs or disabilities, to access an exam.
- They allow students to show what they know and can do without changing the demands of the exam.



HOW WILL THE PROCESS START?

- Parents and carers should let the SENCo know as soon as possible if their child has additional needs. Good and open communication is important.
- Students in further education should record their additional needs on the college's enrolment form.
- The SENCo will work with teachers and the student to identify possible arrangements.
- Various access arrangements are available. For example, support for students who have difficulties with reading, writing, speed of working or concentration.
- Not all students with additional needs will require access arrangements. This depends on whether their difficulty affects their access to exams. Additional needs or a diagnosis alone do not entitle a student to access arrangements.



WHO WILL MAKE THE ASSESSMENT?

- If a student has learning difficulties, the school or college's appointed assessor must conduct the assessment to determine the need for access arrangements, such as 25% extra time.
- If an external assessor diagnoses a learning difficulty (for example, dyslexia or dyscalculia), the assessment can only be used as evidence for access arrangements if the assessor has liaised with the school or college and received the necessary access arrangements paperwork in advance of the assessment taking place.
- Specialists (for example, a medical consultant or a psychiatrist) are responsible for providing a formal diagnosis. They are **not** responsible for decisions about access arrangements.
- The school or college must decide which access arrangements a student has for their exams.
- Teachers must give evidence to show that an access arrangement is needed. The school or college will record how effective the arrangement is in the classroom, in internal tests or in mock exams.



WHAT ELSE NEEDS TO BE DONE?

- The school or college will have to apply for some arrangements.
- If a student has complex needs, a school or college can discuss their needs with the exam board.

FINALLY

Schools and colleges **must** follow the rules. They are inspected and if they are found to be breaking the rules, this will be malpractice.

If you have any questions about access arrangements, please speak to the school, college or SENCo.

Information for candidates Coursework assessments ©JCQ 2024

With effect from 1 September 2025

This document tells you about some things that you must and must not do when you are completing coursework.

When you submit your work for marking, you will be asked to sign an authentication statement confirming that you have read and followed these regulations.

If there is anything that you do not understand, you must ask your teacher.

In some subjects you will have an opportunity to do some independent research into a topic. The research you do may involve looking for information in published sources, such as textbooks, encyclopedias, journals, TV, radio and on the internet.

You can demonstrate your knowledge and understanding of a subject by using information from sources, or generated from sources, which may include the internet and AI. Remember, though, information from these sources may be incorrect or biased. You must take care how you use this material - you cannot copy it and claim it as your own work.

The regulations state that: 'the work which you submit for assessment must be your own';

'you must not copy from someone else or allow another candidate to copy from you'.

If you use the same wording as a published source, you must place quotation marks around the passage and state where it came from. This is called 'referencing'. You must make sure that you give detailed references for everything in your work which is not in your own words. A reference from a printed book or journal should show the name of the author, the year of publication and the page number. For example: (Morrison, 2000, p29)

. For material taken from the internet, your reference should show the date when the material was downloaded and must show the precise web page, not the search engine used to locate it. This can be copied from the address line. For example: http://news.bbc.co.uk/onthistoday/hi/dates/stories/october/28/newsid_2621000/2621915.stm, downloaded 5 February 2026.

You should also reference the sources used by the AI tool in generating the content.

You must retain a copy of the question(s) and computer-generated content for reference and authentication purposes in a non-editable format (such as a screenshot) and provide a brief explanation of how you used it. This must be submitted with your work for final assessment so that your teacher can review the work, the AI-generated content and how it has been used.

You may be required to produce a bibliography at the end of your work. This must list the full details of publications you have used in your research, even where these are not directly referred to. For example: Curran, J. Mass Media and Society (Hodder Arnold, 2005).

If you copy the words, ideas or outputs of others and do not show your sources in references and a bibliography, this will be considered as cheating.

Preparing your coursework – good practice

If you receive help and guidance from someone other than your teacher, you must tell your teacher who will then record the nature of the assistance given to you.

Your parent/carer may provide you with access to resource materials and discuss your coursework with you. However, they must not give you direct advice on what should or should not be included.

If you worked as part of a group on an assignment, you must each write up your own account of the assignment. Even if the data you have is the same, the description of how that data was obtained and the conclusions you draw from it should be in your own words.

You must meet the deadlines that your teacher gives you. Remember – your teachers are there to guide you. Although they cannot give you direct assistance, they can help you to sort out any problems before it is too late.

Take care of your work and keep it safe. Don't leave it lying around where your classmates can find it or share it with anyone, including posting it on social media. You must always keep your coursework secure and confidential whilst you are preparing it; do not share it with your classmates. If it is stored on the computer network, keep your password secure. Collect all copies from the printer and destroy those you do not need.

Don't be tempted to use any pre-prepared or generated online solutions and try to pass them off as your own work – this is cheating. Electronic tools used by awarding bodies can detect this sort of copying.

You must not write inappropriate, offensive or obscene material.

Plagiarism

Plagiarism involves taking someone else's words, thoughts, ideas or outputs and trying to pass them off as your own. It is a form of cheating which is taken very seriously.

Don't think you won't be caught; there are many ways to detect plagiarism.

– Markers can spot changes in the style of writing and use of language.

– Markers are highly experienced subject specialists who are very familiar with work on the topic concerned– they may have read the source you are using, or even marked the work you have copied from!

– Internet search engines and specialised computer software can be used to match phrases or pieces of text with original sources and to detect changes in the grammar and style of writing or punctuation.

Sanctions for breaking the regulations

If your work is submitted and it is discovered that you have broken the regulations, one of the following sanctions will be applied:

– you will be awarded zero marks for your work;

- you will be disqualified from that unit for that examination series;
- you will be disqualified from the whole subject for that examination series;
- you will be disqualified from all subjects and barred from entering again for a period of time.

The awarding body will decide which sanction is appropriate

REMEMBER – IT'S YOUR QUALIFICATION SO IT NEEDS TO BE YOUR OWN WORK

Information for candidates Non-examination assessments ©JCQ 2024

With effect from 1 September 2025

This document tells you about some things that you must and must not do when you are completing your work.

When you submit your work for marking, the awarding body will normally require you to sign an authentication statement confirming that you have read and followed the regulations.

If there is anything that you do not understand, you must ask your teacher.

Preparing your work — good practice

If you receive help and guidance from someone other than your teacher, you must tell your teacher. They will then record the assistance given to you.

If you worked as part of a group on an assignment, for example undertaking field research, you must write up your own account of the assignment. Even if the information you have is the same, you must describe in your own words how that information was obtained. You must draw your own conclusions from the data.

You must meet the deadlines that your teacher gives you. Remember – your teachers are there to guide you. Although they cannot give you direct assistance, they can help you to sort out any problems before it is too late.

Take care of your work and keep it safe. Do not leave it lying around where your classmates can find it. Do not share it with anyone, including posting it on social media. You must always keep your work secure and confidential. If it is stored on the computer network, keep your password secure. Collect all copies from the printer and destroy those you do not need.

Do not be tempted to use any prepared or generated online solutions and try to pass them off as your own work – this is cheating. Electronic tools used by awarding bodies can detect this sort of copying.

You must not write inappropriate, offensive or obscene material.

Research and using references

In some subjects you will have an opportunity to do some independent research into a topic.

The research you do may involve looking for information in published sources such as textbooks, encyclopaedias, journals, TV, radio and on the internet.

You can demonstrate your knowledge and understanding of a subject by using information from sources or generated from sources which may include the internet and AI. Remember though, you must take care how you use this material - you cannot copy it and claim it as your own work.

Using information from published sources (including the internet) as the basis for your assignment is a good way to demonstrate your knowledge and understanding of a subject. You must take care how you use this material though – you cannot copy it and claim it as your own work.

The regulations state that: ‘the work which you submit for assessment must be your own’;

‘you must not copy from someone else or allow another candidate to copy from you’.

When producing a piece of work, if you use the same wording as a published source, you must place quotation marks around the passage and state where it came from. This is called ‘referencing’. You must make sure that you give detailed references for everything in your work which is not in your own words. A reference from a printed book or journal should show the name of the author, the year of publication and the page number, for example: Morrison, 2000, p29.

For material taken from the internet, your reference should show the date when the material was downloaded and must show the precise web page, not the search engine used to locate it. This can be copied from the address line. For example: http://news.bbc.co.uk/onthistday/hi/dates/stories/october/28/newsid_2621000/2621915.stm, downloaded 5 February 2025.

Where computer-generated content has been used (such as an AI Chatbot), your reference must show the name of the AI bot used and should show the date the content was generated. For example: ChatGPT 3.5 (<https://openai.com/blog/chatgpt/>), 25/01/2025. You should retain a copy of the computer-generated content for reference and authentication purposes

You may be required to include a bibliography at the end of your piece of written work. Your teacher will tell you whether a bibliography is necessary. Where required, your bibliography must list the full details of publications you have used in your research, even where these are not directly referred to, for example: Curran, J. Mass Media and Society (Hodder Arnold, 2005).

If you copy the words or ideas of others and do not show your sources in references and a bibliography, this will be considered as cheating.

Plagiarism

Plagiarism involves taking someone else’s words, thoughts or ideas and trying to pass them off as your own. It is a form of cheating which is taken very seriously.

Don’t think you won’t be caught; there are many ways to detect plagiarism.

- Markers can spot changes in the style of writing and use of language.
- Markers are highly experienced subject specialists who are very familiar with work on the topic concerned— they may have read the source you are using, or even marked the work you have copied from!

– Internet search engines and specialised computer software can be used to match phrases or pieces of text with original sources and to detect changes in the grammar and style of writing or punctuation.

Sanctions for breaking the regulations

If it is discovered that you have broken the regulations, one of the following sanctions will be applied:

- you will be awarded zero marks for your work;
- you will be disqualified from that component for the examination series in question;
- you will be disqualified from the whole subject for that examination series;
- you will be disqualified from all subjects and barred from entering again for a period of time.

The awarding body will decide which sanction is appropriate.

REMEMBER – IT’S YOUR QUALIFICATION SO IT NEEDS TO BE YOUR OWN WORK



Information for candidates On-screen tests With effect from 1 September 2025

This document has been written to help you.

Read it carefully and follow the instructions.

If there is anything you do not understand, ask your teacher.

A. Regulations – Make sure you understand the rules

- 1 Be on time for your on-screen test(s). If you are late, your work might not be accepted.
- 2 Do not become involved in any unfair or dishonest practice during the on-screen test.
- 3 If you try to cheat, or break the rules in any way, you could be disqualified from all your exams.
- 4 Only take into the exam room the materials and equipment which are allowed for that exam.
- 5 You must not take into the exam room any unauthorised material including:

(a) notes;

(b) earphones or earbuds (e.g. AirPods), mobile phones, MP3/4 players or similar devices, smart glasses, tablets (e.g. iPads or iPods);

(c) a watch

Unless you are told otherwise, you must not have access to:

(d) AI tools, email, graphics packages or computer aided design software, portable storage media, e.g. floppy disks, CDs, memory sticks, social media sites, spreadsheets or the internet;

(e) prepared templates.

Bringing unauthorised material into the exam room is breaking the rules, whether you intend to use it or not. You will be subject to sanctions and possible disqualification

6 Do not talk to, try to communicate with or disturb other candidates once you have entered the exam room.

7 If you leave the exam room unaccompanied by an invigilator before the on-screen test has finished, you will not be allowed to return.

8 Do not borrow anything from another candidate during the on-screen test.

B. Information – Make sure you attend your on-screen test and bring what you need

1 Know the date and time of your on-screen test(s). Arrive at least ten minutes before the start of your on-screen test.

2 If you arrive late for an on-screen test, report to the invigilator running the test.

3 If you arrive more than one hour after the published starting time for the on-screen test, you may not be allowed to take it.

4 Your centre will inform you

C. Calculators, dictionaries and computer spell-checkers

1 You may use a calculator unless you are told otherwise.

2 If you use a calculator:

(a) make sure it works properly; check that the batteries are working properly;

(b) clear anything stored in it;

(c) remove any parts such as cases, lids or covers which have printed instructions or formulae;

(d) do not bring into the examination room any operating instructions or prepared programs.

3 Do not use a dictionary or computer spell checker unless you are told otherwise.

D. Instructions during the on-screen test

1 Always listen to the invigilator. Always follow their instructions.

2 Tell the invigilator at once if:

- (a) you have been entered for the wrong on-screen test;
- (b) the on-screen test is in another candidate's name;
- (c) you experience system delays or any other IT issues;
- (d) your access to the on-screen test has not been set up correctly;
- (e) adjustments to the on-screen test have not been made for you, e.g. additional time has not been added, computer reading software or speech recognition software has not been uploaded.

3 You may be given a question paper or the instructions may be on screen. In either case, read carefully and follow the instructions. Do not open the question paper until you are told that the exam has begun.

E. Advice and assistance

1 If, on the day of the on-screen test, you feel that your work may be affected by ill health or any other reason, tell the invigilator.

2 Put up your hand during the on-screen test if:

- (a) you have a problem with your computer and are not sure what you should do;
- (b) you do not feel well.

3 You must not ask for, and will not be given, any explanation of the questions.

F. At the end of the on-screen test

1 Ensure that the software closes at the end of the on-screen test.

2 If you are required to print off work outside the time allowed for the on-screen test, ensure that you collect your own work. You must not share your work with other candidates. Make sure that another candidate does not collect your printout(s).

- 3 Do not leave the exam room until told to do so by the invigilator.
- 4 Do not take any stationery from the exam room. This includes rough work, printouts or any other materials provided for the on-screen test.

Information for candidates Written examinations

With effect from 1 September 2025

This document has been written to help you.

Read it carefully and follow the instructions.

If there is anything you do not understand, especially which calculator you may use, ask your teacher.

A. Regulations – Make sure you understand the rules

- 1 Be on time for all your exams. If you are late, your work might not be accepted.
- 2 Do not become involved in any unfair or dishonest practice during the exam.
- 3 If you try to cheat or break the rules in any way, you could be disqualified from all your exams.
- 4 You must not take into the exam room any unauthorised material, including:
 - (a) notes;
 - (b) earphones or earbuds (e.g. AirPods), mobile phones, MP3/4 players or similar devices, smart glasses, tablets (e.g. iPads or iPods);
 - (c) watches.

Any pencil cases taken into the exam room must be see-through.

Remember: possession of unauthorised material is breaking the rules, even if you do not intend to use it, and you will be subject to sanctions and possible disqualification.

- 5 Do not use correcting pens, fluid or tape, erasable pens, highlighters or gel pens in your answers.
- 6 Do not talk to or try to communicate with or disturb other candidates once you have entered the exam room.
- 7 You must not write inappropriate, obscene or offensive material.
- 8 If you leave the exam room unaccompanied by an invigilator before the exam has finished, you will not be allowed to return.
- 9 Do not borrow anything from another candidate during the exam

B. Information – Make sure you attend your exams and bring what you need

- 1 Know the dates and times of all your exams. Arrive at least ten minutes before the start of each exam.
- 2 If you arrive late for an exam, report to the invigilator running the exam.
- 3 If you arrive more than one hour after the published starting time for the exam, you may not be allowed to take it.
- 4 Only take into the exam room the pens, pencils, erasers and any other permitted equipment needed for the exam.
- 5 You must write clearly and in black ink. Coloured pencils or inks may be used only for diagrams, maps, charts, etc, unless the instructions printed on the front of the question paper state otherwise.

C. Calculators, dictionaries and computer spell-checkers

- 1 You may use a calculator unless you are told otherwise.
- 2 If you use a calculator:
 - (a) make sure it works properly; check that the batteries are working properly;
 - (b) clear anything stored in its memory;
 - (c) remove any parts such as cases, lids or covers which have printed instructions or formulae;
 - (d) do not bring into the exam room any operating instructions or prepared programs.
- 3 Do not use a dictionary or computer spellchecker unless you are told otherwise.

D. Instructions during the exam

- 1 Always listen to the invigilator. Always follow their instructions.
- 2 Tell the invigilator at once if:
 - (a) you think you have not been given the right question paper or all of the materials listed on the front of the paper;
 - (b) the question paper is incomplete or badly printed;
 - (c) you think you have not been given the expected access arrangement(s).
- 3 Read carefully and follow the instructions printed on the question paper and/or on the answer booklet.
- 4 Do not start writing anything until the invigilator tells you to fill in all the details required on the front of the question paper and/or the answer booklet. Do not open the question paper until you are told that the exam has begun.

5 Remember to write your answers within the designated sections of the answer booklet.

6 Do your rough work on the proper exam stationery. Cross it through and hand it in with your answers. Make sure you add your candidate details to any additional answer sheets that you use, including those used for rough work..

E. Advice and assistance

1 If, on the day of the exam, you feel that your work may be affected by ill health or any other reason, tell the invigilator.

2 Put up your hand during the exam if:

(a) you have a problem and are not sure what you should do;

(b) you do not feel well;

(c) you need more paper.

3 You must not ask for, and will not be given, any explanation of the questions

F. At the end of the exam

1 If you have used more than one answer booklet and/or any supplementary answer sheets, place them in the correct order. Place any loose additional answer sheets inside your answer booklet. Make sure you add your candidate details to any additional answer sheets that you use. For CCEA examinations, any loose additional answer sheets should be placed behind your script.

2 Do not leave the exam room until told to do so by the invigilator.

3 Do not take any stationery from the exam room. This includes the question paper, answer booklets (used or unused), rough work or any other materials provided for the exam.

Information for Candidates Information About You and How We Use It

You have entered general or vocational qualifications such as GCSE, A-level, functional skills qualifications etc with one or more of the awarding bodies listed above. In order to be able to provide examinations and assessments, the awarding body needs to collect and use information about you. This notice provides you with a high level summary of the information the awarding body is required by law to give you about what happens to that information. For more detail see each awarding body's full Privacy Notice:

AQA <https://www.aqa.org.uk/about-us/privacy-notice>

CCEA <https://ccea.org.uk/legal/privacy-notice>

City & Guilds <https://www.cityandguilds.com/help/help-for-learners/learner-policy>

NCFE <https://www.ncfe.org.uk/legal-information>

OCR <https://www.ocr.org.uk/about/our-policies/website-policies/privacy-policy/>

Pearson <https://qualifications.pearson.com/en/about-us/qualification-brands/gdpr.html>

WJEC <https://www.wjec.co.uk/home/privacy-policy/>

Who we are and how to contact us

Each awarding body is a separate organisation. Your school or examination centre will be able to confirm to you which awarding body is delivering each qualification you are undertaking and you will receive a statement confirming what qualifications you have been entered for and which awarding body. You will find links to each awarding body's website and information on how to contact them here:

<https://www.jcq.org.uk/contact-our-members/>

Information about you and from where it is obtained

Each awarding body whose qualifications you enter will need to use a variety of information about you. This includes obvious identification details such as your name, address, date of birth and your school or examination centre. It also includes information about your gender, race and health, where appropriate. This information is provided by you or your parents/guardians and/or by your school or examination centre.

Each awarding body will create certain information about you such as a candidate number, examination results and certificates. You will find further information about this in the awarding bodies' full Privacy Notice (see links above) or by contacting the awarding body (see above).

What happens to the information about you

The awarding bodies use the information about you to deliver the examinations and assessments which you have entered. This includes making a variety of arrangements for you to sit the examinations or assessments, marking, providing you and your school or centre with results and certificates. The awarding bodies also use some of the information about you for equality monitoring and other statistical analysis. The awarding bodies may share information about your results with official bodies such as the Department for Education and the examinations regulators (e.g. Ofqual in England) and also relevant local authorities and the Universities and Colleges Admissions Service (UCAS). An awarding body may also use information about you to investigate cheating and other examination malpractice and will share information about malpractice with other awarding bodies. The awarding bodies take the security of the information about you that they hold seriously. You will find further, technical information about what the awarding bodies do with information about you, why and the legal basis in the awarding bodies' full Privacy Notice, which can be accessed here (see links on page one) or by contacting the awarding body (see above).

Your rights

The law gives you a number of rights in relation to the information about you that the awarding bodies hold. Those rights are: Access – you are entitled to ask each awarding body about the information it holds about you. Rectification – you are entitled to ask each awarding body to correct any errors in the information that it holds about you. Erasure – in certain circumstances you are entitled to ask each awarding body to erase the information about you that it holds. Object to or restrict processing – in certain circumstances you are entitled to ask each awarding body to stop using information about you in

certain ways. Complain – you are entitled to complain to the Information Commissioner (the body regulating the use of personal information) about what each awarding body does with information about you. You will find further information about your rights in relation to information about you in the awarding bodies' full Privacy Notice, which can be accessed here (see links on page one) or by contacting the awarding body (see above).

How long the information about you is held

Each awarding body retains information about you only for as long as it is needed. Some of the information is needed only during the period in which you are undertaking the examination or assessment and is securely destroyed a short while afterwards. Other information about you, such as your name, gender, address, qualification and subjects entered and the results, are held indefinitely and for at least 40 years.

Each awarding body has its own retention policy that sets out what information it retains, how it is retained and for how long. You can find out more about retention policies by contacting each awarding body (see above).

How to find out more about the information about you that the awarding bodies use

To find out more about the information about you that the awarding bodies collect and use, including what happens to that information and why, you can review the awarding bodies' full Privacy Notice, which can be accessed here (see links on page one) or contact the awarding body. You will find links to each awarding body's website and information on how to contact them here:

<https://www.jcq.org.uk/contact-our-members/>.

Please note

It is important to note that this notice concerns only how the awarding bodies use information about you (called your "personal data"). Complaints about how an awarding body handles your personal data can be made to the Information Commissioner (www.ico.org.uk). Information about the examinations and assessments themselves, including the rules about assessments, can be found on the JCQ Exams Office pages (www.jcq.org.uk/exams-office). The awarding bodies are regulated by Ofqual (<https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/ofqual>) in England; Qualifications Wales (www.qualificationswales.org) in Wales, and the Council for the Curriculum, Examinations and Assessment (<http://ccea.org.uk/regulation>) in Northern Ireland.

While we like to share our experiences online, when it comes to exams, we have to be careful.

- Sharing ideas online can be helpful when you're studying or revising
- However, sharing certain information (see information on the right) can break the rules and could affect your results
- If you're not sure what you can and can't discuss online, check with your teacher
- If you receive exam content on social media, you must tell your teacher
- Don't be caught out by scammers selling fake exam papers



Things to do on social media:

- Have fun
- Be responsible
- Report any exam content you see to your teacher



Things not to do on social media:

- Buy/ask for/share exam content
- Pass on rumours of what's in exams
- Share your work
- Work with others so that your coursework is not your own independent work



If you do any of the above activities, you may:

- ! Receive a written warning
- ! Lose marks
- ! Be disqualified from a part of or all of your qualifications
- ! Be banned from taking assessments for a number of years



Please take the time to familiarise yourself with the JCQ rules:
jcq.org.uk/exams-office/information-for-candidates-documents

NO MOBILE PHONES NO WATCHES

**NO TECHNOLOGICAL OR WEB-ENABLED
POTENTIAL SOURCES OF INFORMATION**



Possession of unauthorised items, such as a mobile phone
or any watch, is a serious offence and could result in

DISQUALIFICATION

from your examination and your overall qualification.

This poster must be displayed in a prominent place outside each examination room.

Warning to candidates



 AQA	 City & Guilds	 CCEA	 NCFE	 OCR	 Pearson	 WJEC
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1

You **must** be on time for all your examinations.

2

Possession of a mobile phone or other unauthorised material **is not allowed** even if you do not intend to use it. You will be subject to penalty and possible disqualification from the examination or qualification.

3

You **must not** talk to, attempt to communicate with or disturb other candidates once you have entered the examination room.

4

You **must** follow the instructions of the invigilator.

5

You **must not** sit an examination in the name of another candidate.

6

You **must not** become involved in any unfair or dishonest practice in any part of the examination.

7

If you are confused about anything, only speak to an invigilator.

The Warning to candidates must be displayed in a prominent place outside each examination room. This may be a hard copy A3 paper version or an image of the poster projected onto a wall or screen for all candidates to see.