

GCSE Bulletin



The examination boards, OFQUAL and the Government are starting to release information regarding changes to summer 2021 examinations. We will be sending these updates out as we get them and explain how we at SET Saxmundham School are implementing these changes.

We are also supporting our students with additional small group English and Maths interventions during some optional block time. Our tutoring scheme is already under way in Maths and Science and we are excited to be launching 1:1 tutoring internet sessions with MyTutor after half term. We are planning further support also in the coming term following the mock examinations in November.

The recent announcement that most GCSE examinations, with the exception of one English paper and one Mathematics paper, will now start the first week after the Trinity half term break means that our Year 11 students will be with us for an extra three weeks this year.

Our weekly family bulletins will aim to keep you updated with all the latest news.

3D Design

Students are to complete component 1 only. This is the portfolio work that students have been working on (The paper project).

This means that students won't need to complete component 2, and the exam papers for 2021 will not be released in January as in previous years.

Any further questions please email Mrs Gibson: vgibson@seckfordeducation.org.uk

Art and Design

Students are to complete component 1 only. This is the portfolio work that students have been working on.

This means that students won't need to complete component 2, and the exam papers for 2021 will not be released in January as in previous years.

Any further questions please email Mrs Gibson: vgibson@seckfordeducation.org.uk

Design and Technology

This is still in consultation but we should hear by the end of the month.

Any further questions please email Mrs Gibson: vgibson@seckfordeducation.org.uk

Drama

Students taking OCR GCSE Drama in summer 2021 will have a reduction in NEA requirements:

- The minimum duration time of performances for Devising Drama and Presenting and Performing Texts will be reduced;
- In both NEA components students will be allowed to present monologues for performance where group performances are not possible;
- There will be no change to the written paper Performance and Response;
- There will be no visiting examiner for Presenting and Performing Texts. Performance recordings will be submitted instead;
- The Evaluation of Live Theatre will, as currently, be allowed to be on a recorded/streamed/digital performance.

Any further questions please email Mrs Gibson: vgibson@seckfordeducation.org.uk

English

Edexcel have announced that for the 2021 English Literature GCSE students must complete:

Paper 1: Shakespeare and post 1914 text – compulsory

Paper 2: 19th century novel OR poetry

Year 11 students at SET Saxmundham will no longer be studying poetry in preparation for their 2021 English Literature GCSE. Students will:

- Continue to study their Shakespeare text;
- Study either 'Blood Brothers' by Willy Russell, or 'An Inspector Calls' by J.B. Priestley;
- Study either 'A Christmas Carol' by Charles Dickens, or 'A Strange Case of Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde' by Robert Louis Stevenson.

Any further questions please email Miss Mellor: amellor@seckfordeducation.org.uk

French

Below are the proposed changes to the MFL GCSE examination.

The changes have not yet been finalised and are awaiting approval from OFQUAL.

- Remove requirement for assessments to use words outside of vocabulary lists;
- Make the spoken language assessment an endorsement reported on a 3-point scale (pass, merit and distinction). This will be assessed by teachers during the year;
- The inclusion of an additional optional question in the writing assessment. For example, students will have a choice to answer one question from three questions rather than two.

More detail can be found here: https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/906173/Consultation_decisions_proposed_changes_to_the_assessment_of_GCSEs__AS_and_A_levels_in_2021.pdf

Information regarding the qualification can be found on the AQA website: <https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/languages/gcse>

Any further questions please email Mrs Hodes: rhodes@seckfordeducation.org.uk

Geography

The requirement to carry out two pieces of fieldwork has been removed from the specification and the questions that ask students to refer to their own fieldwork experience have been removed from the Paper 3 exam. This exam will however still examine the students on fieldwork skills and techniques so the full specification will need to be taught.

More detail can be found here: <https://wjecwebsitelive.blob.core.windows.net/media/g5yp0rwo/eduqas-gcse-geography-b-adaptations-summary.pdf?sv=2019-07-07&sr=b&sig=ZlIG4TLwP8HXsCzO9Mkj9BTyHrWAlw02O4ZILBt5I4Q%3D&se=2020-09-17T20%3A56%3A41Z&sp=r>

Any further questions please email Mr Woolven: jwoolven@seckfordeducation.org.uk

Health and Fitness

No changes. Students will sit their V-Cert Paper 1 in November 2020.

Any further questions please email Mr Renwick: drenwick@seckfordeducation.org.uk

History

The History specification has been reduced from four units to three. Therefore we are dropping the Henry VIII unit (which was going to be taught after Christmas). The teaching time that is gained from doing this will be used to revisit the Cold War unit that students covered during the lockdown.

More detail can be found here: <https://qualifications.pearson.com/content/dam/pdf/GCSE/History/2016/Teaching%20and%20learning%20materials/gcse-history-summer-2021-assessment-arrangements.pdf>

Any further questions please email Mr Woolven: jwoolven@seckfordeducation.org.uk

Mathematics and Statistics

Currently there is no change to the 2021 GCSE assessment.

Any further questions please email: cedmunds@seckfordeducation.org.uk

Music

Performance Assessment:

Require students to perform one or more pieces of music with a combined duration of at least 1.5 minutes (if all solo performance) or 2 minutes (if including performance as part of an ensemble). No requirement to perform as part of an ensemble. Requirement to submit complete and unedited recording of the live performance and, where available, the score or lead sheet for that performance.

Composition Assessment:

Require students to compose one or more pieces of music with a combined duration of at least 2 minutes. Compositions may be in response to an exam board set brief and/or be freely composed, with no requirement to do both. Exam boards to provide clarification about their requirements for students who compose more than one piece. Requirement to submit complete recording of each composition with a score, lead sheet or written account of the composition, produced by the student. NB: The student does not have to perform their own composition(s). The recording(s) may be computer generated.

Both NEA components: Permit both NEA components to be marked by the teacher and moderated by the exam board or to be marked directly by the exam board. Exam boards to provide clarification about their requirements.

Any further questions please email Mrs Gibson: vgibson@seckfordeducation.org.uk

Physical Education

Students will be recorded doing 2 not 3 practical sports now and we send the recordings to be moderated rather than having an external moderator.

More detail can be found here: https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/906173/Consultation_decisions_-_proposed_changes_to_the_assessment_of_GCSEs__AS_and_A_levels_in_2021.pdf

Any further questions please email Mr Renwick: drenwick@seckfordeducation.org.uk

Science

Within science the exams have changed very little. There has been clarifications with diagrams within the paper itself. AQA have also changed the combine exam to have more shared fundamentals across paper 1 and 2 focused in biology and chemistry papers. Please see the link for exact details.

<https://store.aqa.org.uk/resources/science/AQA-GCSE-SCIENCE-SOC-2019.PDF>

Any further questions please email Mr Mynott: lmynott@seckfordeducation.org.uk