

February 2022 Update: Exams and assessment



- Exams and assessment information for all students sitting external exams and assessments during 2021-2022

11th February 2022

Summary of key points

- Summer exams and assessments for all qualifications are highly likely to proceed as normal.
- A-Level and GCSE students will sit 3 substantial internal exams throughout the Spring and Summer terms to provide evidence for Teacher Assessed Grades in the unlikely event summer exams and assessments are cancelled.
- Level 3 BTEC, Diploma, T-Level and Level 2 BTEC students are well on track to complete their coursework components.
- Depending upon the course, Level 3 BTEC, Diploma, T-Level and Level 2 BTEC students may sit internal exams during the Spring and Summer term to provide evidence for Teacher Assessed Grade in the unlikely event summer exams and assessments are cancelled.

Dear students, parents and carers,

I last wrote in mid-December ([link here](#)) outlining the Department for Education's (DfE) intentions around examinations and assessment this coming summer. The DfE's position has not changed since December and on the 7th February 2022 they published the following statement:

"The Government is fully committed to exams going ahead this summer and does not expect that to change except in the very unlikely case of a public health emergency which would prevent students being able to physically sit exams".

However, in the unlikely event that exams do not proceed this summer, teachers will revert to awarding Teacher Assessed Grades (TAGs). TAGs will be determined by considering evidence produced by students at key points during their courses.

Teachers and students are therefore working with two plans in parallel:

- **Plan A:** Preparation for normal summer exams and assessments
- **Plan B:** Gathering of evidence for TAGs if summer exams and assessments do not proceed as normal

Fortunately, as both plans involve completion of the same (or similar) NEA and preparation for exams these plans are not working against each other. Of course, the uncertainty over whether plan A or B will be followed may cause some anxiety.

The following information is for students who will be completing their courses or certificating this summer. These students include:

- A-Level students in the second year of their course
- Level 3 BTEC and Diploma students in the second year of their course
- T-Level students in the second year of their course
- GCSE students
- Some Level 3 BTEC / Diploma / T-Level first year students
- Level 2 BTEC students

Plan A: A-Levels and GCSEs

On Monday 7th February, exam boards released advance information for A-Level and GCSE subjects. The advance information identifies the major focus of the content of the summer 2022 exams. It is provided to help support teachers and students with revision. However, it is important to note that the aim of the DfE and exam boards is that all specification content is covered in teaching and learning. Additionally, content not listed on the advance information may appear on the question paper.

This all may appear as a contradiction: the major focus of the exam has now been given, but content from outside of the focus may also be examined, begging the question: what is the point of the advance information? Past paper practice is one of, if not *the* most important components of thorough revision. In preparing for summer exams, students guided by teachers, will be able to practise using past papers covering content from the entire specification, whilst emphasising practise of questions on content identified in the advance information. There certainly is worth to the advance information.

Details of the advance information will be placed on subject SharePoint sites and discussed with students during lesson time. The structured revision programmes that will begin for each subject after the February half term will take this advance information into account.

Further information provided by the DfE can be found [here](#).

Plan B: A-Levels and GCSEs

A-Level

For students in their final year of A-Levels (2nd year students) non-examined assessment (NEA / coursework) will proceed as normal. If evidence is required for TAGs, NEA will form approximately the same percentage of the final TAG as it would in a normally assessed year.

Students will sit a total of 3 internally assessed, marked, and moderated exams. These exams will draw on past paper questions, will be marked using exam board mark schemes and be of approximately 2 hours in length. All internal exams will be sat in the same manner as normal exams i.e., in our larger exam spaces and with exam access arrangements (e.g., extra time, separate room, reader etc.) in place for students who have these concessions.

These exams will happen during the following weeks:

- **Internal exam 1:** Mid-Year Exam: week beginning 24th January 2022 – **COMPLETED**
- **Internal exam 2:** week beginning 28th of March 2022 – please see exam schedule at the end of this letter. **Internal exam 2 will proceed regardless of whether summer exams run.** Students will be off-timetable during this week, except in the following cases: students following a mixed programme of A-Level and Level 3 BTEC courses should attend their Level 3 BTEC lessons as usual unless in an A-Level exam; a small number of A-Level subjects where access to studio time might otherwise impact the completion of coursework will also hold lessons during this week (these arrangements will be confirmed by teachers).
- **Internal exam 3:** week beginning 16th of May 2022. **If summer exams do go ahead as expected, Internal Exam 3 will be cancelled.** Subjects will still want to complete mock exams with students during class time in the first half of the summer term, and in cancelling Internal Exam 3 these mocks can take place earlier and therefore be more useful in directing the final stages of revision.

Students will be able to see details of the dates and times of their internal exams on the Exams tab of their MyProgress pages in good time prior to the exam.

Students will receive results via MyProgress for their Mid-Year Exams by Wednesday 16th of February, and for their Internal Exam 2 by Friday 29th of April. Whilst these grades may be indicative of a student's final TAG grade, the final TAG grade may be higher or lower. TAG grades will always be the teachers most accurate and fair judgement of the student's ability.

GCSE

Students following GCSE English, Maths and Biology will sit 3 internal exams. These exams will be substantial and between 1 – 2 hours in length. These exams will be sat either in one of our larger exam spaces and all students who are eligible will receive their exam access arrangements as usual.

GCSE internal exams will happen at the following times:

Subject	Internal exam 1	Internal exam 2	Internal exam 3
English	7 th February	w/b 28 th March	w/b 16 th May
Maths	6 th April	4 th May	18 th May
Biology	w/b 28 th February	w/b 28 th March	w/b 16 th May

Students will be able to see details of the dates and times of their exams on the Exams tab of their MyProgress pages.

Plan A: Level 3 BTEC, Diplomas, T-Level and Level 2 BTEC

As with A-Levels and GCSEs, the DfE is committed to exams and assessments proceeding as normal this summer for vocational and technical Level 3 and Level 2 courses. Therefore, Collyer's students on the following courses should expect exams and assessments to take place as normal:

- Level 3 BTEC
- Level 2 BTEC
- Level 3 Diplomas
- T-Level

Our vocational and technical courses comprise of both coursework and more traditional examinations. Fortunately, through the hard work of students and teachers all vocational and technical courses are well on track to complete their coursework components.

Encouragingly our January exam series for vocational and technical courses proceeded very successfully in person without any major COVID related interruption, boding very well for normal summer exams.

Information regarding exam preparation will be provided in class by teachers.

Plan B: Level 3 BTEC, Diplomas, T-Level and Level 2 BTEC

In most cases, students have already sat most, if not all exams for their vocational or technical qualifications during the January 2022 public exam season. Where students have not yet sat all exams or are retaking exams, teachers will gather evidence for the examined components of these courses by holding in class exams during the Spring and Summer terms. This evidence will be used to determine Teacher Assessed Grades in the unlikely event summer exams do not proceed as normal.

Due to the range of vocational and technical qualifications offered at Collyer's it is not possible to communicate the contingency plans for gathering evidence for Teacher Assessed Grades in this letter. Instead, students will receive information directly from their teachers during lesson time.

Once again, staff at Collyer's including myself could not be prouder of how our students have equipped themselves over the past two years. Despite the challenges faced, our students have been so very impressive in their positivity and commitment to their studies.

All staff wish our students the very best of luck as they enter the final stages of their courses at Collyer's.

Yours sincerely,

Rob Hussey

Vice Principal: Curriculum

Key dates

Date	Course type	Event
Wednesday 16 th February	A-Level	2A Mid-Year Exam results release deadline
w/b 28 th February	GCSE Biology	Internal Exam 1
w/b 28 th March	A-Level, GCSE English, GCSE Biology	Internal Exam 2
Wednesday 6 th April	GCSE Maths	Internal Exam 1
Wednesday 4 th May	GCSE Maths	Internal Exam 2
w/b 16 th May	A-Level, GCSE English, GCSE Biology	Internal Exam 3 (will be cancelled in the very likely event that summer exams go ahead)
Tuesday 17 th May	All 1A students	Study Leave from 16:15
Friday 20 th May	All 2A students	Study Leave from 16:15

Internal Exam 2 Schedule: for second year A-Level students and GCSE students

Date	Time	Subject	Time	Subject
Monday 28 th March	9:30AM	Psychology (A-Level)	2:00PM	English Literature (A-Level)
		French - Listening (A-Level)		History (A-Level)
		Geology (A-Level)		GCSE English
Tuesday 29 th March	9:30AM	Business (A-Level)	2:00PM	Geography (A-Level)
		Philosophy (A-Level)		English Lang. & Lit. (A-Level)
		Computer Science (A-Level)		Law
		Film Studies (A-Level)		
Wednesday 30 th March	9:30AM	Electronics (A-Level)	2:00PM	Biology (A-Level)
		Economics (A-Level)		DT Product Design (A-Level)
		Sociology (A-Level)		Politics (A-Level)
Thursday 31 st March	9:30AM	Maths – Single and Double (A-Level)	2:00PM	Spanish – Listening (A-Level)
		Music (A-Level)		Physics (A-Level)
				German – Listening (A-Level)
Friday 1 st April	9:30AM	Chemistry (A-Level)	2:00PM	Environmental Science (A-Level)
		Physical Education (A-Level)		Maths – Double (A-Level)
				Media Studies (A-Level)
				Further Maths (AS-Level)