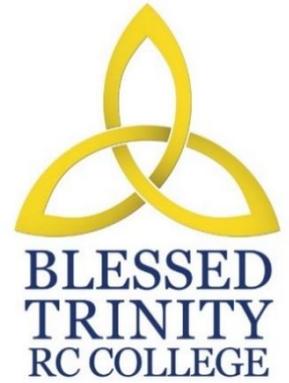


Our Ref: RS/GF
9st July 2020



Dear Parent

RE: Ofqual Consultation on Proposed Changes to the Assessment of GCSES in 2021

I am writing to you regarding the current set of proposals for changes to GCSE assessment in 2021. These were published on Thursday, 2nd July 2020 by Ofqual (The Office of Qualifications and Examinations Regulation).

We all share a concern about the impact of the extended period of school closure on our pupils, notably those in the current Year 10. The proposals reflect this and are designed to address the following issues:

- Free up teaching time and, in some instances, reduce what needs to be taught; and
- Take account of any public health restrictions relating to coronavirus (COVID19) that might be in place during the next academic year.

The consultation is a public one and your views as **pupils** or **parents of pupils in the current Year 10**, are of particular interest to Ofqual.

Here is the link to the full proposal. It is a lengthy document and so on the following pages of this letter, I have included a table summarising the proposed changes to each of the GCSE subjects we offer at Blessed Trinity. If you or your child do wish to respond then, there is an online link on the page below. The deadline for submitting view to Ofqual is on **Thursday, 16th July 2020**.

[Proposed Changes to the Assessment of GCSE in 2021](#) ← Please click here.

I hope that the information is useful to you and please do not hesitate to get in touch if you have any further questions about this or any other matter.

Yours faithfully



Mrs R Stevens
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Proposals for Each GCSE Subjects

This table summarises the current exam and assessment requirements for each GCSE subject and the exam and assessment arrangements proposed for summer 2021. These changes only apply to the students sitting qualifications in summer 2021.

GCSE subject	Current assessment arrangements	Proposed assessment arrangements for 2021
<p style="text-align: center;">Art and design</p>	<p>100% NEA - 60% portfolio, 40% externally set assignment.</p>	<p>100% NEA – portfolio only. Permit exam boards to carry out moderation by photographic / digital portfolio.</p> <p>Rationale: To reduce pressures on teaching time and on the use of specialist resources.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Triple science</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Biology ➤ Chemistry ➤ Physics 	<p>In each subject: 100% examination.</p> <p>At least 8 practical activities that cover required apparatus and techniques.</p>	<p>In each subject: 100% examination.</p> <p>Permit observation of demonstrations to cover required apparatus and techniques.</p> <p>Rationale: To reduce pressures on teaching time and to accommodate potential on-going public health restrictions.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Combined science</p>	<p>100% examination.</p> <p>At least 16 practical activities that cover required apparatus and techniques.</p>	<p>100% examination. Permit observation of demonstrations / simulations to cover required apparatus and techniques.</p> <p>Rationale: To reduce pressures on teaching time and to accommodate potential on-going public health restrictions.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Computer science</p>	<p>100% examination.</p> <p>Completion of a supervised programming project in 20 timetabled hours.</p>	<p>100% examination.</p> <p>Permit programming project to be done in unsupervised time.</p> <p>Rationale: To allow teachers to decide how best to use their teaching time. The project does not contribute directly towards the grade.</p>

GCSE subject	Current assessment arrangements	Proposed assessment arrangements for 2021
<p style="text-align: center;">Dance</p>	<p>40% examination, 60% NEA.</p> <p>Requirement to complete a Performance Assessment of 1 or more dances with a combined duration of at least 3.5 minutes.</p> <p>Requirement to complete a Choreography Assessment of either a complete solo dance of at least 2 minutes or a complete group dance of at least 3 minutes in response to an exam board set brief.</p> <p>Requirement for student to explain their choreographic intent and how that was developed.</p> <p>Both NEA components may be marked by the teacher and moderated by the exam board or marked directly by the exam board.</p>	<p>40% examination, 60% NEA.</p> <p>Reduce requirement to complete a Performance Assessment of 1 or more dances to a combined minimum duration of at least 1.5 minutes</p> <p>Reduce requirement to complete a Choreography Assessment to either a complete solo dance of at least 1.5 minutes in duration or a complete group dance of at least 2 minutes in duration, in response to an exam board set brief.</p> <p>For the Choreography Assessment, permit exam boards to accept a portfolio of evidence for the choreographed dance to illustrate the intended final piece, the choreographic intent and how that was developed.</p> <p>Both NEA components may be marked by the teacher and moderated by the exam board or marked directly by the exam board.</p> <p>Rationale: To reduce pressures on teaching time and to accommodate potential on-going public health restrictions</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Design and technology</p>	<p>50% examination, 50% NEA.</p> <p>NEA is a portfolio and prototype of an iteratively designed response to an exam board set brief.</p>	<p>50% examination, 50% NEA.</p> <p>Permit exam boards to accept mock-ups and/or clear/detailed intentions of prototypes.</p> <p>Permit demonstration of using machinery / tools / processes.</p> <p>Rationale: To reduce pressures on teaching time and to accommodate potential on-going public health restrictions.</p>

GCSE subject	Current assessment arrangements	Proposed assessment arrangements for 2021
English language	<p>100% examination.</p> <p>Separate reported grade for spoken language.</p> <p>Requirement for spoken language statement.</p> <p>Requirement for teacher to submit sample of audio-visual recordings of spoken language assessment for exam board monitoring.</p> <p>Spoken language assessment to take place before an audience.</p>	<p>100% examination.</p> <p>Separate reported grade for spoken language.</p> <p>Requirement for spoken language statement.</p> <p>No requirement for teacher to submit sample of audio-visual recordings of spoken language assessment for exam board monitoring.</p> <p>Spoken language assessment permitted to take place before a single teacher</p> <p>Rationale: To ensure flexibility for teachers and to free up the time that would normally be spent by teachers recording student presentations. To accommodate potential on-going public health restrictions.</p>
English literature	100% examination.	100% examination.
Geography	<p>100% examination</p> <p>Fieldwork statement confirming fieldwork has been carried out on at least 2 occasions outside the classroom and school grounds.</p>	<p>100% examination.</p> <p>Removal of requirement to undertake fieldwork and to answer questions in the exam relating to fieldwork</p> <p>Rationale: Content sampling to reduce pressures on teaching time and to accommodate potential on-going public health restrictions.</p>
History	100% examination.	<p>100% examination.</p> <p>Choice of topics on which students have to answer questions.</p> <p>Rationale: Content sampling to reduce pressures on teaching time.</p>

GCSE subject	Current assessment arrangements	Proposed assessment arrangements for 2021
Maths	100% examination. 2 calculator papers, 1 non- calculator paper	100% examination.
Modern foreign languages	75% examination (listening, reading, writing). 25% NEA (speaking). Some exam paper instructions in assessed language. Requirement for words to be used outside of the vocabulary lists.	100% examination (listening, reading, writing). Make the spoken language assessment an endorsement (the outcome of the spoken language assessment will be reported alongside the 9 to 1 grade). Remove requirement to use words outside of vocabulary lists. (No change to the grammatical knowledge required nor to the level of accuracy needed for the highest grades.) Rationale: To reduce pressures on teaching time by relaxing the spoken language assessment requirements
Religious studies	100% examination.	100% examination.
Sociology	100% examination.	100% examination.
Physical education	60% examination, 40% NEA. NEA is performance assessment 3 activities: 1 individual, 1 team, 3 rd can be either team or individual. Also, a written performance analysis task. Visiting moderation of activities that can be done in centres	60% examination, 40% NEA. Permit exam boards to reduce requirement to 2 activities and allow both to be individual. Permit remote moderation using videoed evidence for all activities. Rationale: To accommodate potential on-going public health restrictions.

GCSE subject	Current assessment arrangements	Proposed assessment arrangements for 2021
Music	<p>40% examination, 60% NEA.</p> <p>Requirement to complete a Performance Assessment of at least 2 pieces of music At least 1 minute must be performed as part of an ensemble.</p> <p>Requirement to complete a Composition Assessment of at least 2 separate pieces of music with a combined duration of at least 3 minutes.</p> <p>For the Composition Assessment, requirement to submit complete recording of each composition with a score, lead sheet or written account of the composition</p> <p>Both NEA components may be marked by the teacher and moderated by the exam board or assessed directly by the exam board.</p>	<p>40% examination, 60% NEA.</p> <p>Reduce requirement to complete a Performance Assessment to 1 or more pieces of music No requirement to perform as part of an ensemble.</p> <p>Reduce requirement to complete a Composition Assessment to 1 or more pieces of music with a combined duration of at least 2 minutes.</p> <p>For the Composition Assessment, requirement to submit complete recording of each composition with a score, lead sheet or written account of the composition, produced by the student. The recording(s) may be computer generated.</p> <p>Both NEA components may be marked by the teacher and moderated by the exam board or marked directly by the exam board.</p> <p>Rationale: To reduce pressures on teaching time and to accommodate potential on-going public health restrictions.</p>