



21 October 2021

Rachel Hutchinson  
**Principal**

Dear Parent/Carer

## **Re: Qualifications 2022 Update**

I am writing to provide you with an update regarding Qualifications 2022.

The COVID-19 pandemic has disrupted the learning of all students. As a result, the arrangements for examinations and assessments in 2022 have been under consultation. Ofqual, the examinations regulator, have now released some updates regarding GCSE, AS and A Level qualifications in 2022.

In considering their approach to examinations and assessments in 2021 to 2022, Ofqual are being guided by the principles of fairness, flexibility, and certainty. In particular, the government's specific policy objectives with regard to examinations and assessments are that:

- students can progress successfully to the next stage of their education or to employment,
- every effort should be made to maintain the standard and rigour of the qualifications, to the extent this is possible given the circumstances,
- the subject content, specified by the Department for Education, which forms the foundation of the qualifications should not be changed.

As a result of the consultation:

- Adaptations have been made to the *content* of some qualifications, namely GCSE English Literature, History and Geography and, as such, centres have some choice regarding topics and content. At Ivybridge Community College, we have made our decisions based on what we believe will be best for our students given our curriculum planning in each subject. What this means for our students is outlined in the table attached and will be communicated to all students by their teachers.
- Practical work in GCSE Sciences can be delivered via demonstrations if necessary.
- A minimum number of Common Practical Assessments (PAGs) in A Level Sciences will be allowed for students to demonstrate their competence.
- GCSE and A Level Art and Design will be assessed on portfolio only.
- Students will be provided with a formula sheet for GCSE Mathematics.
- Students will be given a revised equation sheet for GCSE Physics and Combined Science, covering all the equations required in the subject content.

For all GCSE, AS and A Level subjects which have examinations in summer 2022, except for those with *optional* content as listed above, each awarding organisation will provide **advance information** on the focus of the content of summer 2022 examinations. The policy intention of providing advance information is that it will support students' revision and will enable teachers to plan to adapt their teaching in the second half of the spring term if necessary, in the time before the examination, in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic which has disrupted the education of students sitting examinations in summer 2022. This approach, and precisely how it will be used by all centres, will vary across subjects to best reflect the qualification structure.

In line with the DfE's policy decision in England, all examination boards will make advance information available on their public websites at the same time by 7 February 2022 at the latest. Schools and Colleges will not receive this information internally any earlier than when it is

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published online. The DfE has also decided to retain the flexibility for advance information to be deployed at other points ahead of 7 February 2022 if circumstances require. At least a week's notice will be given if it is decided that advance information will be released earlier than 7 February 2022.

The advanced information materials may be used at any point from the date of release; however, they cannot be brought into the actual examinations.

In some subjects, changes have already been made by the government to non-examination assessment (NEA) and fieldwork requirements. A summary of these changes for our courses at Ivybridge Community College can be found in the attached table.

All updates outlined on this letter have been announced by Ofqual and are designed to mitigate the impacts of the disruption that students have faced during the pandemic without undermining the value of their qualifications and their ability to progress successfully to further study.

A summary of any optional changes in the context of Ivybridge Community College and updates to NEA/fieldwork have been outlined in the attached table.

It is important to point out that at the current time, the government intends for the summer examinations to take place as planned. In the event that examinations are cancelled and grades are determined via teacher assessment, then it is likely that student performance in upcoming November mock examinations *could* form part of the evidence used; however, should this be necessary, the particular context and conditions of these assessments would be taken into account.

Ivybridge Community College is an effort driven College where we believe that with hard work every day there are no limits to a student's potential or any secrets to success. We know that the COVID-19 pandemic has been challenging for all students in different ways and disruption to learning has continued for some students this year. All staff at the College are committed to supporting our students to achieve their very best grades in their qualifications this summer.

In the meantime, please do not hesitate to contact the College using our usual lines of communication via the Tutor or subject specialist staff if you require further information or support in order that we can best support your child throughout this important period of their education.

A recorded version of the detail in this letter can be found [here](#).

Yours faithfully

Heather Lilley  
**Deputy Principal**

## IVYBRIDGE COMMUNITY COLLEGE



### Updates: Proposed Changes to Summer 2022 Examinations

Subject	Level (GCSE or A Level)	Updates to specification directed by Ofqual	Ivybridge Community College specific details (where applicable)
Art, Photography and Fashion and Textiles	GCSE	The externally set assignment (examination) has been removed from the qualification. Students will solely be assessed on their coursework submission.	Students will use the time gained from not sitting the examination to complete practical coursework elements missed as a result of the impact of COVID-19 and where time allows consolidate and improve coursework already completed.
Art, Photography and Fashion and Textiles	A Level	The externally set assignment (examination) has been removed from the qualification. Students will solely be assessed on the coursework element: Component 1 – Personal Investigation.	Students will use the time gained from not sitting the examination to complete practical coursework elements missed as a result of the impact of COVID-19 and where time allows consolidate and improve coursework already completed.
Creative iMedia	Level 2 (GCSE)	Two coursework units and one examination instead of three coursework units and one examination.	We will not submit R085 in Summer 2022
Design and Technology	GCSE	There are changes to parts of the NEA. The 'Realising Design Ideas' section has been reduced from 20 to 10 marks - students will no longer be assessed on the skill of making. The 'Analysing and Evaluating' section has been reduced from 20 to 15 marks - students are no longer expected to test a final made prototype.	
Drama	GCSE and A Level	Components 1 and 2 (practical) - Monologues permitted. Component 2 – external visiting examiner still in consultation. Component 3 A Level – text allocation for Sections A and B are now known ahead of the examination.	All Components are still assessed Some specific allowances as detailed

English Literature	GCSE	Optional content for examination	We will not teach (and not examine) one text (An Inspector Calls).
Food Preparation and Nutrition	GCSE	<p>There are changes to parts of the NEA.</p> <p>NEA 1: Food Investigation has been removed from the qualification.</p> <p>NEA 2: (Section B) Demonstrating technical skills – students will need to showcase their technical skills when making a maximum of three dishes.</p> <p>NEA 2: (Section D) Making the final dishes, students are required to complete two dishes within the single three-hour time slot.</p>	
Geography	GCSE	<p>Paper 1: Physical Geography - there is no change from previous years. Students must answer two of the three questions in Section C</p> <p>Paper 2: There is now optionality. Students get to choose between answering Section B the Economic World or Section C Resources. There are more details and the format of the examination is to be released.</p> <p>Paper 3: There are now no questions on the student's own fieldwork. Students answer the questions on the unseen fieldwork and the pre-release material which is released at Easter.</p>	<p>Paper 1: Students answer Rivers and Coasts but not Glaciers.</p> <p>Students will answer the Resources questions section (C) and not the Economic World questions section (B).</p>
History	GCSE	Move to four modules.	We will not teach or be examined on the History Around Us module (Barbican)
Mathematics	GCSE	Students will be given a formulae sheet as an extra sheet when they enter the examination.	Once we are aware of what is included, we will ensure that the students are made aware and we will use the sheet within Year 11 lessons for familiarity.
Media Studies and Film Studies	GCSE and A Level	<p>COMPONENT 3 NEA</p> <p>Students can submit the actual physical products <b>or</b> mock-ups with supporting evidence <b>or</b> part</p>	After the mock examinations, we will go through with the students what these mock-ups look like. We would encourage students to

		completion of actual products and mock-up material combined.	complete the actual products where possible but would emphasise that completion of mock-ups would in no way harm their final grade. Our encouragement to complete the product is purely down to giving the students the fullest experience possible.
MFL	GCSE	<p>Advance information about the focus of content for examinations.</p> <p>Examination boards will not have to include vocabulary from outside the GCSE vocabulary list. Where this cannot be avoided the words will be glossed. This applies to the reading and listening examinations.</p> <p>Optionality – an additional 40-50 word task will be included in Foundation writing paper to give a choice of theme. Five minutes will be added to the paper to account for this.</p> <p>Questions with no optionality in the writing papers (Q1 - photo description- and 4 – translation- at Foundation and Q3 – translation- at higher) will not cover theme 5 (International and Global Dimension).</p> <p>Formal speaking examinations will return for 2022.</p>	All skills and themes will still be assessed.
Music	GCSE	<p>The practical component is being removed.</p> <p>The integrated portfolio will remain.</p> <p>Only one performance piece (30%) and one composition (30%) are now required as part of the integrated portfolio.</p> <p>There will no longer be a requirement for an ensemble performance piece, although they may still be submitted.</p> <p>The minimum durations will be reduced for both performance and composition.</p>	Some specific allowances as detailed.

Physical Education	GCSE	<p>Changes to part of the NEA</p> <p>Component 3 – NEA practical will now only assess in two sports rather than three. The weighting will be adjusted to reflect this change however the % of the overall grade will remain the same.</p> <p>Live moderations are still planned to go ahead, and video evidence of performers will be requested.</p> <p>Coursework will remain the same and will be moderated in accordance with the normal structure.</p>	<p>All examination Components 1 and 2 will remain the same.</p> <p>All students encouraged to continue with collating video evidence of performance in sport.</p>
Physical Education	A Level	<p>No changes currently.</p> <p>NEA live moderation to go ahead.</p>	
Physical Education	NCFE	No changes – Final examination November 2021	Examination November 2021 revision day information to be communicated to students and parents/carers.
Product Design	A Level	<p>There are changes to parts of the NEA.</p> <p>The 'Development of Design Prototype' section has been reduced from 25 to 15 marks - students will no longer be assessed on the skill of making.</p> <p>The 'Analysing and Evaluating' section has been reduced from 20 to 15 marks - students are no longer expected to test a final made prototype.</p>	
All Sciences	GCSE	<p>We will give students all the Physics formulae on a sheet.</p> <p>There will be advance information on what examinations will cover, sometime in February (no more information than that so far).</p> <p>Required Practicals can be demonstrated.</p>	Required Practicals can be demonstrated, but we still endeavour to have the students complete them all.
Biology, Chemistry, Physics	A Level	There are a number of Practicals (PAGs) that need to be completed, but only a minimum number must be completed this year.	We will still endeavour to have the students complete all of the PAGs we have in our Schemes of Learning.

