

Information from OFQUAL for Students, Parents & Carers

Arrangements for GCSE Exams and Assessments in 2023

OFQUAL have announced that as last year, students will be given formulae and equation sheets in GCSE mathematics, physics, and combined science exams.

Exam boards have recently published their exam timetables for summer 2023 and there remains a greater gap between exams in the same subject than was the case pre-pandemic.

This is to help students' revision between papers and create additional time for teaching and revision or support from you. Exam boards have also included contingency sessions on the afternoons of 8 and 15 June, and on 28 June. These days would be used in the unlikely event that exams had to be moved because they could not take place when planned.

Grading for GCSE in 2023

In 2023, the return to pre-pandemic grading will be the next step in moving towards normality. However, we recognise that the 2023 cohort still deserves some protection against the impact of the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic. We are, therefore, putting in place the same protection given to the first cohorts of students taking reformed GCSEs from 2017 onwards.

Broadly speaking this means that a typical student who would have achieved, for example, an A grade in a subject before the pandemic will be just as likely to get an A next summer, even if their performance in the assessments is a little weaker in 2023 than it would have been before the pandemic.

We expect that overall results in 2023 will be much closer to pre-pandemic years than results since 2020. That means results in 2023 will be lower than in 2022.

I also want to take this opportunity to stress that there is no pre-determined 'quota' of grades. Nor does our country's grading system require that any students fail. Grade boundaries are not set until after students have taken exams and marking is complete, so that it is fair to students if papers are harder or easier from year to year.