

# Consultation on an additional GCSE, AS and A level exam series in autumn 2020

## Your data and rights

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## Which qualifications are you interested in?

Please select which qualifications and/or subjects you are interested in
All qualifications (GCSEs, AS, A levels, EPQs, AEsAs)
All GCSEs
All AS or A level

## Consultation questions

Q1. To what extent do you agree or disagree that we should require exam boards to offer exams for all of the GCSE, AS and A level qualifications this autumn they had intended to offer in the summer?
Strongly agree
Q2. To what extent do you agree or disagree that an exam board that receives no entries for a qualification by its entry deadline can withdraw the exams for that qualification from the exam timetable?
Strongly agree

Q3. Do you have any comments on our proposal to require the exam boards to offer exams in every GCSE, AS and A level subject in autumn 2020?

It is important as some deaf candidates may not have had confidence that the grading in summer would have fully taken into account their accessibility requirements.

Q4. To what extent do you agree or disagree that for the autumn series the same number of exams should be taken by students as they would have taken if the summer exams had not been cancelled?

Strongly agree

Q5. To what extent do you agree or disagree that the exams taken in the autumn series should be in the same form for each qualification as those normally taken in the summer series?

Strongly agree

Q6. Do you have any comments on our proposal that students taking the autumn exams should take the same number of exams in each subject as they would have taken if the summer exams had not been cancelled and that the exams should be in the same form as the ones they would have taken in the summer?

Candidates are already destabilised by the cancellation of the summer exams. It would be essential to minimise any further disruption eg by changing the format of the examinations.

## NEA

Q7. To what extent do you agree or disagree that, with the exception of art and design, grades for GCSE, AS and A level awarded in the autumn should be based only on students' performance in their exams, with no non-exam assessment?

Neither agree nor disagree

Q8. Do you have any comments on our proposed approach to basing grades for the autumn on students' exam performance only?

Whilst we recognise that there are strong reasons for this decision we are concerned that it will have a negative impact on deaf candidates many of whom show what they know and can do much better in non-exam assessments as equality impact assessment submissions from BATOD and other organisations have often stated.

## GCSE, AS and A level art and design

Q9. To what extent do you agree or disagree that grades for GCSE, AS and A level art and design awarded in the autumn should be based on a new task completed under supervised conditions?

Agree

Q10. To what extent do you agree or disagree that the new task for GCSE, AS and A level art and design should be set and marked by the exam board?

Agree

Q11. Do you have any comments on our proposed approach to the assessment of GCSE, AS and A level art and design in the autumn 2020 series?

It will be essential as with any examination to ensure that appropriate access arrangements are in place for deaf candidates for this new assessment. Exam boards need to be aware of this when they are marking the tasks.

## A level biology, chemistry, physics and geology

Q12. To what extent do you agree or disagree that exam boards should carry forward the outcome of the practical skills assessments for students who takes exams in A level biology, chemistry, physics and/or geology in the autumn?

Agree

Q13. Do you have any comments on our proposed approach to A level biology, chemistry, physics and geology practical skills assessment outcomes for the autumn?

This is a sensible solution as long as the skills assessment was carried out with appropriate access arrangements in place.

## GCSE English language

Q14. To what extent do you agree or disagree that exam boards should carry forward the outcome of the GCSE English language spoken language assessment for students who take exams in the qualification in the autumn, as in any other year?

Agree

Q15. Do you have any comments on our proposed approach to the GCSE English language spoken language assessment outcomes for the autumn?

No further comments as long as we can assume that the assessment was undertaken with appropriate specialist support and access arrangements as necessary.

## Consultation questions

Q16. To what extent do you agree or disagree that we should put in place provisions that allow the exam boards to offer exams from October 2020, with the exact start and finish dates being confirmed by us when the position on the re-opening of schools and colleges is clearer?

Agree

Q17. To what extent do you agree or disagree that we should build some flexibility into our regulatory framework to enable us to vary the start and finish dates of the series if that is necessary because of the public health situation?

Strongly agree

Q18. Do you have any comments on the preferred timing of the autumn exam series?

On balance we would prefer a later date for GCSEs certainly to give more time for preparation following the lockdown especially for those pupils who have not been in school at all.

Q19. To what extent do you agree or disagree that the normal review of marking and appeal arrangements should apply to the autumn exam series?

Agree

Q20. Do you have any comments on our proposal that the normal reviews of marking and appeals arrangements should apply and, if needed, the normal reviews of moderation arrangements?

Not at this time

Q21. To what extent do you agree or disagree that we should amend our rules to allow an exam board to issue a replacement certificate to a student to show either their calculated grade or their grade from the autumn exam series, but not require them to do so?

Disagree

Q22. Do you have any comments on our proposal to allow exam boards to issue replacement certificates to students?

They should be required to do so in the interests of fairness.

## Extended Project Qualifications (EPQs)

Q23. To what extent do you agree or disagree that we should not impose any additional requirements on the exams boards that award the EPQs?

Neither agree nor disagree

Q24. Do you have any comments on our proposal that we should not impose any additional requirements on the exams boards that award the EPQs?

No comment

## Advanced Extension Award

Q25. To what extent do you agree or disagree that we should not impose any additional requirements on the exam board that offers the Advanced Extension Award?

Neither agree nor disagree

Q26. Do you have any comments on our proposal that we should not impose any additional requirements on the exam board that offers the Advanced Extension Award?

No comment

## Impact assessments

Q28. We would welcome your views on how any potential negative impacts on particular groups of students could be mitigated.

Make it clear in communications with centres and exam boards that all access arrangements need to be in place before the Autumn series of examinations begins including those which might have expired.

Q29. Are there additional activities associated with the delivery of an additional exam series in the autumn that we have not identified above? What are they?

no comment

Q30. What additional costs do you expect you will incur as a result of an autumn exam series?

no comment

Q31. We would welcome your views on any suggestions for alternative approaches that could reduce burden and costs.

no comment

## Feedback

We want to write clearly and effectively, putting the reader first. How easy to read did you find this consultation?

1 2 3 4 5

Very hard to read

X Very easy to read

Do you have any comments or suggestions about the style of writing?

It was fine

## Your details

Which nation or country are you based in?

England

Q32. How did you find out about this consultation?

Other (please specify):  
Direct invitation from Ofqual

Is this the official response from your organisation or your own, personal response?

This is the official response from my organisation

### Your details (official response)

Q34. Which of these options best describes your organisation?

Other representative or interest group

### Your details (representative group)

Type of representative or interest group

School, college or teacher representative group

### Confidentiality

Do you wish any part of your response to remain confidential?

No