

Consultation on proposed changes to the assessment of GCSEs, AS and A levels in 2021

Your data and rights

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Consultation questions

Q1. To what extent do you agree or disagree that the 2021 exams should not include more optional questions than usual?
Strongly agree
Q2. Do you have any comments on the use of optional exam questions in the 2021 exams?
For the reasons you put forward BATOD agrees that such a move would not be to the advantage of deaf candidates.
Q3. To what extent do you agree or disagree that the number of exams taken for each subject in 2021 should be the same as usual?
Strongly agree
Q4. Do you have any comments on the number of exams taken for each subject in 2021?
As above we agree with the reasons you put forward

Q5. To what extent do you agree or disagree that the exams taken in 2021 should not be longer than usual?

Strongly agree

Q6. Do you have any comments on the length of exams in 2021?

Many deaf candidates already have extra time and any extension would make them unmanageable and stressful

Q7. To what extent do you agree or disagree that the GCSE timetable should start after half term in 2021 if results can still be released on 26 August 2021?

Strongly agree

Q8. To what extent do you agree or disagree that the GCSE timetable should start after half term in 2021 even if this necessitates a delay in the release of results?

Strongly agree

Q9. What would be the advantages and disadvantages of delaying the start of GCSE exams in 2021?

Any proposal which would allow more teaching time would be welcome

Q10. To what extent do you agree or disagree that the A level and AS timetable should start after half term in 2021 if results can still be released on 19 August 2021?

Strongly agree

Q11. To what extent do you agree or disagree that the A level and AS timetable should start after half term in 2021 even if this necessitates a delay in the release of results?

Strongly agree

Q12. What would be the advantages and disadvantages of delaying the start of A level and AS exams in 2021?

Any proposal which would allow more teaching time would be welcome

Which subjects are you interested in?

Q13. We know that some respondents to this consultation will have specific interests in different qualifications and/or subjects. This consultation includes proposals on a subject-by-subject basis. Please use the list below to select the subjects about which you would like to answer questions. If you do not select a subject the survey will take you directly to the section on impact assessments.

I do not want to respond about individual subjects

Please select which subjects you are interested in
Biology
Chemistry
Combined science (double award)
Design and technology
English language
English language and literature
Food preparation and nutrition
Geology
Modern foreign languages
Physics

Biology

Q31. To what extent do you agree or disagree with the proposed assessment arrangements for GCSE biology in 2021?
Agree

Q32. Do you have any comments on the proposed assessment arrangements for GCSE biology in 2021?
<p>It will be necessary to ensure that deaf candidates and others have suitable access arrangements in place where video demonstrations are used – for deaf candidates this will necessitate appropriate captioning and BSL interpretation where the candidate requires it</p> <p>If new examination text is being produced it is essential to ensure that the usual scrutiny of language takes place and that suitably qualified BATOD-accredited language modifiers are involved</p>

Q33. To what extent do you agree or disagree with the proposed assessment arrangements for AS biology in 2021?
Agree

Q34. Do you have any comments on the proposed assessment arrangements for AS biology in 2021?
<p>It will be necessary to ensure that deaf candidates and others have suitable access arrangements in place where video demonstrations are used – for deaf candidates this will necessitate appropriate captioning and BSL interpretation where the candidate requires it</p> <p>If new examination text is being produced it is essential to ensure that the usual scrutiny of language takes place and that suitably qualified BATOD-accredited language modifiers are involved</p>

Q35. To what extent do you agree or disagree with the proposed assessment arrangements for A level biology in 2021?
Agree

Q36. Do you have any comments on the proposed assessment arrangements for A level biology in 2021?

It will be necessary to ensure that deaf candidates and others have suitable access arrangements in place where video demonstrations are used – for deaf candidates this will necessitate appropriate captioning and BSL interpretation where the candidate requires it

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Chemistry

Q41. To what extent do you agree or disagree with the proposed assessment arrangements for GCSE chemistry in 2021?

Agree

Q42. Do you have any comments on the proposed assessment arrangements for GCSE chemistry in 2021?

It will be necessary to ensure that deaf candidates and others have suitable access arrangements in place where video demonstrations are used – for deaf candidates this will necessitate appropriate captioning and BSL interpretation where the candidate requires it

If new examination text is being produced it is essential to ensure that the usual scrutiny of language takes place and that suitably qualified BATOD-accredited language modifiers are involved

Q43. To what extent do you agree or disagree with the proposed assessment arrangements for AS chemistry in 2021?

Agree

Q44. Do you have any comments on the proposed assessment arrangements for AS chemistry in 2021?

It will be necessary to ensure that deaf candidates and others have suitable access arrangements in place where video demonstrations are used – for deaf candidates this will necessitate appropriate captioning and BSL interpretation where the candidate requires it

If new examination text is being produced it is essential to ensure that the usual scrutiny of language takes place and that suitably qualified BATOD-accredited language modifiers are involved

Q45. To what extent do you agree or disagree with the proposed assessment arrangements for A level chemistry in 2021?

Agree

Q46. Do you have any comments on the proposed assessment arrangements for A level chemistry in 2021?

It will be necessary to ensure that deaf candidates and others have suitable access arrangements in place where video demonstrations are used – for deaf candidates this will necessitate appropriate captioning and BSL interpretation where the candidate requires it

If new examination text is being produced it is essential to ensure that the usual scrutiny of language takes place and that suitably qualified BATOD-accredited language modifiers are involved

Combined science

Q57. To what extent do you agree or disagree with the proposed assessment arrangements for GCSE combined science in 2021?

Agree

Q58. Do you have any comments on the proposed assessment arrangements for GCSE combined science in 2021?

It will be necessary to ensure that deaf candidates and others have suitable access arrangements in place where video demonstrations are used – for deaf candidates this will necessitate appropriate captioning and BSL interpretation where the candidate requires it

If new examination text is being produced it is essential to ensure that the usual scrutiny of language takes place and that suitably qualified BATOD-accredited language modifiers are involved

Design and technology

Q71. To what extent do you agree or disagree with the proposed assessment arrangements for GCSE design and technology in 2021?

Agree

Q72. Do you have any comments on the proposed assessment arrangements for GCSE design and technology in 2021?

It will be necessary to ensure that deaf candidates and others have suitable access arrangements in place where video demonstrations are used – for deaf candidates this will necessitate appropriate captioning and BSL interpretation where the candidate requires it

If new examination text is being produced it is essential to ensure that the usual scrutiny of language takes place and that suitably qualified BATOD-accredited language modifiers are involved

Q73. To what extent do you agree or disagree with the proposed assessment arrangements for AS design and technology in 2021?

Agree

Q74. Do you have any comments on the proposed assessment arrangements for AS design and technology in 2021?

It will be necessary to ensure that deaf candidates and others have suitable access arrangements in place where video demonstrations are used – for deaf candidates this will necessitate appropriate captioning and BSL interpretation where the candidate requires it

If new examination text is being produced it is essential to ensure that the usual scrutiny of language takes place and that suitably qualified BATOD-accredited language modifiers are involved

Q75. To what extent do you agree or disagree with the proposed assessment arrangements for A level design and technology in 2021?

Agree

Q76. Do you have any comments on the proposed assessment arrangements for A level design and technology in 2021?

It will be necessary to ensure that deaf candidates and others have suitable access arrangements in place where video demonstrations are used – for deaf candidates this will necessitate appropriate captioning and BSL interpretation where the candidate requires it

If new examination text is being produced it is essential to ensure that the usual scrutiny of language takes place and that suitably qualified BATOD-accredited language modifiers are involved

English language

Q93. To what extent do you agree or disagree with the proposed assessment arrangements for GCSE English language in 2021?

Agree

Q94. Do you have any comments on the proposed assessment arrangements for GCSE English language in 2021?

As long as the new arrangements take place with the support of specialist advice from a Teacher of the Deaf where relevant it should work well for deaf candidates.

Q95. To what extent do you agree or disagree with the proposed assessment arrangements for AS English language in 2021?

Agree

Q96. Do you have any comments on the proposed assessment arrangements for AS English language in 2021?

no comment

Q97. To what extent do you agree or disagree with the proposed assessment arrangements for A level English language in 2021?

Agree

Q98. Do you have any comments on the proposed assessment arrangements for A level English language in 2021?

no comment

English language and literature

Q105. To what extent do you agree or disagree with the proposed assessment arrangements for AS English language and literature in 2021?

Agree

Q107. To what extent do you agree or disagree with the proposed assessment arrangements for A level English language and literature in 2021?

Agree

Food preparation and nutrition

Q117. To what extent do you agree or disagree with the proposed assessment arrangements for GCSE food preparation and nutrition in 2021?

Agree

Q118. Do you have any comments on the proposed assessment arrangements for GCSE food preparation and nutrition in 2021?

It will be necessary to ensure that deaf candidates and others have suitable access arrangements in place where video demonstrations are used – for deaf candidates this will necessitate appropriate captioning and BSL interpretation where the candidate requires it

If new examination text is being produced it is essential to ensure that the usual scrutiny of language takes place and that suitably qualified BATOD-accredited language modifiers are involved

Geology

Q127. To what extent do you agree or disagree with the proposed assessment arrangements for GCSE geology in 2021?

Agree

Q128. Do you have any comments on the proposed assessment arrangements for GCSE geology in 2021?

It will be necessary to ensure that deaf candidates and others have suitable access arrangements in place where video demonstrations are used – for deaf candidates this will necessitate appropriate captioning and BSL interpretation where the candidate requires it

If new examination text is being produced it is essential to ensure that the usual scrutiny of language takes place and that suitably qualified BATOD-accredited language modifiers are involved

Q129. To what extent do you agree or disagree with the proposed assessment arrangements for AS geology in 2021?

Agree

Q130. Do you have any comments on the proposed assessment arrangements for AS geology in 2021?

It will be necessary to ensure that deaf candidates and others have suitable access arrangements in place where video demonstrations are used – for deaf candidates this will necessitate appropriate captioning and BSL interpretation where the candidate requires it

If new examination text is being produced it is essential to ensure that the usual scrutiny of language takes place and that suitably qualified BATOD-accredited language modifiers are involved

Q131. To what extent do you agree or disagree with the proposed assessment arrangements for A level geology in 2021?

Agree

Modern foreign languages

Q158. To what extent do you agree or disagree with the proposed assessment arrangements for GCSE modern foreign languages in 2021?

Agree

Q159. Do you have any comments on the proposed assessment arrangements for GCSE modern foreign languages in 2021?

It will be necessary that specialist support such as Teachers of the Deaf are involved in supporting the spoken language assessment where relevant

I

Q160. To what extent do you agree or disagree with the proposed assessment arrangements for AS and A level modern foreign languages in 2021?

Agree

Q161. Do you have any comments on the proposed assessment arrangements for AS and A level modern foreign languages in 2021?

no additional comments

Physics

Q182. To what extent do you agree or disagree with the proposed assessment arrangements for GCSE physics in 2021?

Agree

Q183. Do you have any comments on the proposed assessment arrangements for GCSE physics in 2021?

It will be necessary to ensure that deaf candidates and others have suitable access arrangements in place where video demonstrations are used – for deaf candidates this will necessitate appropriate captioning and BSL interpretation where the candidate requires it

If new examination text is being produced it is essential to ensure that the usual scrutiny of language takes place and that suitably qualified BATOD-accredited language modifiers are involved

Q184. To what extent do you agree or disagree with the proposed assessment arrangements for AS physics in 2021?

Agree

Q185. Do you have any comments on the proposed assessment arrangements for AS physics in 2021?

It will be necessary to ensure that deaf candidates and others have suitable access arrangements in place where video demonstrations are used – for deaf candidates this will necessitate appropriate captioning and BSL interpretation where the candidate requires it

If new examination text is being produced it is essential to ensure that the usual scrutiny of language takes place and that suitably qualified BATOD-accredited language modifiers are involved

Q186. To what extent do you agree or disagree with the proposed assessment arrangements for A level physics in 2021?

Agree

Q187. Do you have any comments on the proposed assessment arrangements for A level physics in 2021?

no further comment

Impact assessments

Q208. Are there other potential equality impacts that we have not explored? What are they?

The key areas of concern have been highlighted in our earlier responses. Mainly we note that any use of videos might have access difficulties and any newly written examinations may have language access difficulties. Longer or more examinations would disadvantage deaf candidates many of whom already have extra time.

Q209. We would welcome your views on how any potential negative impacts on particular groups of students could be mitigated.

It will be necessary to ensure that deaf candidates and others have suitable access arrangements in place where video demonstrations are used – for deaf candidates this will necessitate appropriate captioning and BSL interpretation where the candidate requires it

If new examinations are being produced at short notice in any subject it is essential to ensure that the usual scrutiny of language takes place and that suitably qualified BATOD-accredited language modifiers are involved

The third point, related to the length and number of examinations, has already been satisfactory addressed in Ofqual's proposal.

Q210. Are there additional activities associated with changing the exam and assessment arrangements for students taking the qualifications in summer 2021 that we have not identified above? What are they?

BATOD has no comment

Q211. What additional costs do you expect you would incur if the proposed changes to the exam and assessment arrangements were introduced for summer 2021?

BATOD has no comment

Q212. We would welcome your views on any suggestions for alternative approaches that could reduce burden and costs.

BATOD has no comment

Feedback

We want to write clearly and effectively, putting the reader first. How easy to read did you find this consultation? (Please rate from 1 very hard to read to 5 very easy to read)

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?

no comment

Your details

Which nation or country are you based in?

England

Q213. How did you find out about this consultation?

Other (please specify):
direct information 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)

Q215. 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
