

Exam Changes

English

Changes to the literature paper are as follows:

- Literature Paper 1

Section A: Anthology Poetry

Section B: Jekyll and Hyde

- Literature Paper 2:

Section A: Macbeth

Section B: Unseen poetry

Please note that An Inspector Calls will not be covered.

Geography

For 2021, we're making the following changes to 8035/3 Paper 3: Geographical applications:

- the total number of marks available for this paper will reduce from 76 to 56 marks (a removal of 20 marks)
- 3 marks of Spelling, Punctuation and Grammar (SPaG) attached to the 9 mark question in Section B will be re-allocated to a 6 mark question in Section A – there'll still be 6 marks of SPaG available for this paper
- the total time allocation for this paper will reduce from 1 hour 15 minutes to 1 hour

To recap and for 2021 only:

- students won't need to complete two occasions of fieldwork
- you won't need to submit a centre declaration form to say that students have been given the opportunity to undertake fieldwork
- students won't need to answer questions relating to their own fieldwork experience (Question 5 will be removed from 8035/3 Paper 3: Geographical applications).
- the total number of marks available for the 8035/3 paper will reduce from 76 to 56 marks (a removal of 20 marks)
- 3 marks of Spelling, Punctuation and Grammar (SPaG) attached to the 9 mark question in Section B will be re-allocated to a 6 mark question in Section A of the 8035/3 paper – there'll still be 6 marks of SPaG available for this paper
- the total time allocation for the 8035/3 paper will reduce from 1 hour 15 minutes to 1 hour.

History

For the 2021 summer series, GCSE History students will only have to answer questions on three out of four studies. There will be a mixture of compulsory and optional studies.

The compulsory study will be the wider world depth study (Paper 1, Section B).

Students will also answer questions on two out of the other three optional studies:

- the period study (Paper 1, Section A)
- the thematic study (Paper 2, Section A)
- the British depth study with the historic environment (Paper 2, Section B).

Please note, we will not be covering the British depth study with the historic environment (Paper 2, Section B) - Norman England, c1066–c1100.

French and German

The changes are as follows:

- The removal of Paper 2, which is the Speaking exam, and the introduction of a Speaking endorsement. Speaking skills will be assessed by the teacher throughout the year in normal classroom activities against common assessment criteria (yet to be published). The pupils will be awarded either unclassified, pass, merit, or distinction.
- The removal of as many non-core vocabulary list words as possible from Papers 1 (listening) and 3 (reading).
- Further optionality will be included in Paper 4 Writing. In the foundation paper there will now be two options for Q2, currently there is only one question. This will give more choice to students. Foundation pupils will also be given an additional 5 minutes time to allow them to read the questions and decide which option they will write about. The foundation writing exam will now last for 1 hour 15 minutes. The titles of all questions will be written in English so pupils can quickly identify the topic they will be writing about, because of the extra option in Q2.
- Theme 5 (International and global dimension) which is considered to be the most demanding of the themes will not be included in question 1 of the Foundation writing paper and the translation question in both higher and foundation.
- Papers 1, 3 and 4 will now form 100% of the GCSE grade and will be worth 33.33% each.

GCSE PE

GCSE PE has had one change to the practical element which is the 30% weighting of 3 practical activities is now ONLY 2 activities. These activities will be moderated by video clips of pupils performing in class or extra-curricular school activity.

Music

GCSE Music (9-1) J536

- The Practical Component (03/04) will be removed.

- The minimum duration for performances and compositions will be reduced.

There will be no change to the written paper Listening and Appraising.

Art

The changes are as follows:

- Students will complete Component 1 (Portfolio) only.
- This means that students won't need to start or complete Component 2. The exam papers for 2021 will not be released on e-AQA in January (GCSE).
- Students will need to complete Component 1 in the normal way.
- Component 1 will be marked out of 96 as usual.
- The assessment criteria in the specification remains the same.