

COVID-19 related consultations 2020-2021: A register of Change supplementary document

Research Report

Nicky Rushton

8 March 2022

Author contact details:

Nicky Rushton
Assessment Research and Development,
Research Division
Shaftesbury Road
Cambridge
CB2 8EA
UK

nicky.rushton@cambridge.org
<https://www.cambridge.org/>

As a department of the university, Cambridge University Press & Assessment is respected and trusted worldwide, managing three world-class examination boards, and maintaining the highest standards in educational assessment and learning. We are a not-for-profit organisation.

Cambridge University Press & Assessment is committed to making our documents accessible in accordance with the WCAG 2.1 Standard. We're always looking to improve the accessibility of our documents. If you find any problems or you think we're not meeting accessibility requirements, contact our team: [Research Division](#)

If you need this document in a different format [contact us](#) telling us your name, email address and requirements and we will respond within 15 working days.

How to cite this publication:

Rushton, N. (2022). Covid-19 related changes 2020-21: A Register of Change supplementary document. Cambridge University Press & Assessment.

Introduction

In 2020, the covid-19 pandemic led to many changes to education in England. Schools closed to almost all students from the 20th March 2020, and the government cancelled most assessments including GCSEs, A levels and many vocational qualifications. The interruptions to schooling and assessment continued during the 2020-21 and 2021-22 academic years. During this time, the Department for Education have carried out numerous consultations about the approaches to assessment and awarding of qualifications during this time. Due to the ever-changing nature of the pandemic, the decisions that were made following an individual consultation does not necessarily reflect the final method for awarding a qualification in that academic year. For example, exams were originally intended to go ahead in the summer of 2021, with several adaptations, but were cancelled following the January 2021 lockdown and school closures. This document lists the consultations that have occurred during this time and provides basic details about their content. It is split into two sections: one for academic qualifications (GCSEs, A levels, the Extended Project, and the Advanced Extension Award in maths), and another for vocational and technical qualifications. Within each of these sections, the consultations are placed into tables according to the academic year that they applied to.

Contents

Introduction	3
Contents.....	3
General Qualifications (GCSE, AS level and A level)	4
Students certifying in summer 2020	4
Students certifying in summer 2021	5
Students certifying in summer 2022	7
Vocational and Technical qualifications	8
Students certifying in 2019-2020 academic year.....	8
Students certifying in 2020-2021 academic year.....	8
Students certifying in 2021-2022 academic year.....	9

General Qualifications (GCSE, AS level and A level)

Students certifying in summer 2020

Dates of consultation	Subjects	Qualification	Statutory framework	Non-standard candidates ¹	Grading	Standardisation	Appeals	Which grade on certificate	Autumn series	Format of papers	Non-examined assessment ²	Link to consultation documents
15 th – 29 th April 2020	all	GCSE, AS, A level, Extended project, AEA maths		✓	✓	✓	✓					April GCSE & A level Consultation - announcement
22 nd May – 8 th June 2020	all	GCSE, AS, A level					✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	May GCSE & A level consultation - announcement
30 th June – 14 th July 2020	all	GCSE, AS, A level, Extended project, AEA maths					✓					June Appeals consultation – announcement
30 June 2020 - 14 July 2020	All	GCSE, AS, A level	✓				✓					Statutory framework consultation - announcement

¹ Private candidates and candidates sitting in exams in years other than year 11

² Fieldwork, practical exams, MFL speaking etc.

Students certifying in summer 2021

Dates of consultation	Subjects	Qualification	Statutory framework	Non-standard candidates	Alternatives to exams	Grading	Standardisation	Appeals	Which grade on certificate	Autumn series	Series dates	Topics in advance of exam	Format of papers	Content changes (sampling, or choice on paper)	Exam aids	Non-examined assessment	Link to consultation documents
1 st – 16 th July 2020	Sciences, geography, history, ancient history, English lit, geology, astronomy, MFL, drama, DT	GCSE, AS, A level,									✓		✓	✓		✓	July consultation on 2021 GCSE & A levels - announcement
12-26 th Oct 2020	MFL	GCSE														✓	October MFL consultation - announcement
10-20 th Dec 2020	All	GCSE, AS, A level										✓			✓		Support materials 2021 - announcement
15-29 th Jan 2021	All	GCSE, AS, A level			✓	✓	✓	✓								✓	Grading 2021 - announcement
25 th Feb – 11 th March 2021	all	GCSE, AS, A level, Extended project, AEA maths	yes														2021 alternative awarding framework - announcement
17 th March – 9 th April 2021	all	GCSE, AS, A level							✓	✓			✓			✓	2021 autumn series - announcement
21 st April – 5 th May 2021	all	GCSE, AS, A level,	yes					✓									2021 grade appeals - announcement

Dates of consultation	Subjects	Qualification	Statutory framework	Non-standard candidates	Alternatives to exams	Grading	Standardisation	Appeals	Which grade on certificate	Autumn series	Series dates	Topics in advance of exam	Format of papers	Content changes (sampling, or choice on paper)	Exam aids	Non-examined assessment	Link to consultation documents
		Extended project, AEA maths															
14 th – 28 th June 2021	maths	AEA						✓									Exam procedures review service 2021-announcement

Students certifying in summer 2022

Dates of consultation	Subjects	Qualification	Statutory framework	Non-standard candidates	Alternatives to exams	Grading	Standardisation	Appeals	Which grade on certificate	Autumn series	Series dates	Topics in advance	Exam format	Content changes (sampling, or choice on paper)	Exam aids	Non-examined assessment	Link to consultation documents
14 th May – 28 th May 2021	Most	GCSE, AS, A level			✓											✓	2022 non-exam assessment - announcement
12 th July – 1 st August 2021	All	GCSE, AS, A level,										✓		✓	✓	✓	2022 changes to GCSE, AS & AL assessment - announcement
30 th September – 13 th October 2021	all	GCSE, AS, A level, Extended project, AEA maths			✓												2021-2022 contingency arrangements - announcement

Vocational and Technical qualifications

Students certifying in 2019-2020 academic year

Dates of consultation	Statutory framework	Non-standard candidates ³	Alternative approaches to assessment	Calculated results	Grading	Awarding	Appeals	Which grade on certificate	Autumn series	Assessment timing	Internal Assessment	Banked assessments	Adapting assessments	Link to consultation documents
24 th April – 8 th May	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓		✓	✓			✓	April VTQ consultation - announcement

Students certifying in 2020-2021 academic year

Dates of consultation	Statutory framework	Non-standard candidates	Alternative approaches to assessment	Calculated results	Grading	Awarding	Appeals	Which grade on certificate	Autumn series	Assessment timing	Internal Assessment	Banked assessments	Adapting assessments	Link to consultation documents
3 rd -14 th August 2020			✓	✓									✓	August VTQ consultation - announcement
7 Sept – 20 Sept 2020	✓													September VQT ERF consultation - announcement

³ Non-standard candidates could include private candidates, those with banked results from other sessions and learners not intending to certificate in that session

Dates of consultation	Statutory framework	Non-standard candidates	Alternative approaches to assessment	Calculated results	Grading	Awarding	Appeals	Which grade on certificate	Autumn series	Assessment timing	Internal Assessment	Banked assessments	Adapting assessments	Link to consultation documents
15-29 th Jan 2021			✓	✓	✓					✓				VTQ consultation - announcement
25 th Feb – 11 th March 2021	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓		✓		✓	✓		Awarding vocation, technical and other GQs in 2020-21 - announcement
24 th March – 7 th April 2021									✓					VTQ Autumn 2021 consultation - announcement

Students certifying in 2021-2022 academic year

Dates of consultation	Statutory framework	Non-standard candidates	Alternative approaches to assessment	Calculated results	Grading	Awarding	Appeals	Which grade on certificate	Autumn series	Assessment timing	Internal Assessment	Banked assessments	Adapting assessments	Link to consultation documents
12 th – 26 th July 2021						✓							✓	VTQ assessment and awarding 2021-22 consultation announcement