GCSE CHANGES FOR SUMMER 2021

MFL – French and Spanish (AQA)	**Speaking**
	To reduce pressures on teaching time, the Ofqual consultation outcome confirmed that the spoken language assessment in summer 2021 will be an endorsement reported on a 3-point scale (pass, merit and distinction) against common assessment criteria. Students' speaking skills will be assessed by teachers during the course of study and the endorsement level of pass, merit or distinction will be reported alongside the 9-1 grade.
	The common assessment criteria will be published shortly by Ofqual.
	Writing
	There will be more optionality in the writing components, so the 2021 Writing papers will include an additional optional question for the overlap question at both tiers (Question 4/Question 1) and for Higher tier Question 2. This is so students can answer on their preferred theme. For each optional question, the theme will be given in the introduction to the question in the question paper.
	Foundation tier
	There will be an additional option for Question 4 and this will be numbered in the question paper as Question 4.3. Students will need to answer one question from a choice of three.
	Higher tier
	- There will be an additional option for Question 1 and this will be numbered in the question paper as Question 1.3. Students will need to answer one question from a choice of three. - There will be an additional option for Question 2 and this will be numbered in the question paper as Question 2.3. Students will need to answer one question from a choice of three.
	To give students time to read all of the optional questions carefully before making a choice, we'll be adding an extra five minutes to the scheduled exam time at both tiers for the Writing paper in 2021. This means that:
	- the Foundation tier Writing exam will last for one hour and five minutes - the Higher tier Writing exam will last for one hour and 20 minutes.
Science – double and triple (AQA)	Students can study the required practical activities through demonstrations and simulations if it is not

	possible to carry them out in person. However, we still recommend doing them in person where possible. This will make it easier for teachers to plan and deliver the practical activities. It should also still enable students to learn about the practical apparatus, techniques and processes in enough depth to demonstrate their understanding in exams. No other changes
Art (AQA)	For GCSE Art and Design: Art, Craft and Design, Fine Art, Graphic Communication, Textile Design, 3D Design and Photography, students will complete Component 1 (Portfolio) only.
Dance (AQA)	**Component 1** – Performance • Students will complete two dance performances (one set phrase and one solo, duet or trio) with a combined minimum duration of one and a half minutes (if all solo performances) or two minutes (if including performance as part of a group, ie duet/trio). • Students will only need to complete and submit one set phrase, rather than two (3.1.1 Solo performance). • Teachers will mark this single set phrase out of 12. • The solo/duet/trio must be based on two of the remaining three set phrases (3.1 Performance). • We have adapted the 'solo performance assessment grid' (set phrase) 4.5.3 Component 1: Performance and choreography so that it can be used to assess a single set phrase (instead of two). This is available on e-AQA . • We have adapted the 'duet/trio performance assessment grid' 4.5.3 Component 1: Performance and choreography so that it can also be used to assess solo performances. This is available on e-AQA . • Teachers will mark the solo, duet or trio out of 24. **Component 1** – Choreography • Students will choreograph either a complete solo dance for at least one and a half minutes or complete a group dance for at least two minutes. • We will only be able to accept audio-visual recordings as evidence of completed performance (as we currently do). This can be performed by the student or someone else.

	Component 2 – Dance appreciation The three, six-mark questions in Section B of the written paper relate directly to the student's work on the NEA component (Performance and Choreography). We'll therefore make sure that these three questions reflect the changes to the NEA component appropriately, so that no student is disadvantaged by the changes. **Socially distanced performances** Schools/colleges that are applying social distancing measures to GCSE Dance performances are advised to direct students towards the solo performance option. This is because a socially-distanced duet or trio performance is likely to struggle to access parts of the mark scheme, eg relationship content and sensitivity to other dancers. **Socially distanced choreography** The choreography assessment grid (40 marks) is unchanged. However, schools/colleges that are applying social distancing measures to the GCSE Dance choreography task are advised to direct students towards the solo choreography option. This is because a socially distanced choreography is likely to struggle to access parts of the mark scheme, eg relationship content.
DT (AQA)	**Realising design ideas** • This section has been reduced from 20 to 10 marks • Students will no longer be assessed on making a final prototype. Instead, they can show their understanding of the processes involved by writing about them. Making skills are important for progression to future study, and for students' understanding, so we'd encourage teachers to allow students to make wherever possible. This is one way of demonstrating the knowledge tested in the 2021 realising design ideas section and is the best way to inspire and enthuse students in the subject. **Analysing and evaluation** • This section has been reduced from 20 to 15 marks • Analysis and evaluation throughout the design process can take place in relation to prototype ideas and models • There's no expectation to test a final made prototype but students should find ways of testing prototype designs.

PE (AQA)	Students will be assessed in two activities rather than three. These can be two individual activities, two team activities or one of each This year moderation will be by post. There'll be no moderation visits and work will be moderated using video evidence of students' performance
Food Tech (AQA)	**NEA1:** Food Investigation Task (15%) - this task is no longer required **NEA2:** Food Preparation Task (50%) - will remain as part of the assessment with the following change. The requirement for NEA2 is now two dishes to be completed within 3 hours. The marks in each section remain the same but the expectations have been reduced to accommodate the lack of time for students this year.
Geography (AQA)	Fieldwork is not required. There will be no questions about student's own fieldwork experience in the exam.
History (AQA)	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). In normal years, students are marked out of a total of 168 marks for GCSE History. However, in 2021 students will be marked out of a total of 124 marks: • 44 marks will be allocated to the compulsory study, including 4 marks for SPaG. • 40 marks will be allocated to each of the optional studies. Students will answer questions from two of these optional studies. In normal years, students have four hours of total exam time for GCSE History. However, in 2021 students will have three hours of exam time in total, equating to one hour per study
English Language (Edexcel)	A Spoken Language Endorsement (SLE) presentation may be given in front of a single teacher, who can represent 'the audience'. The SLE may be conducted by the teacher at any time during the course and by virtual means. There is no requirement to video the presentation
English Literature (Edexcel)	**Paper 1**: Shakespeare and post-1914 Literature – this remains a compulsory exam

	Paper 2: 19th-century Novel OR Poetry since 1789 **CFS will be studying Poetry.**
Media (OCR)	Students taking GCSE (9-1) Media Studies in summer 2021 will be able to submit prototypes/mock-ups, with supporting evidence, of an individual media product in response to the set briefs for the NEA component. Students can still submit completed NEA productions where they are able to. We will provide further guidance on the requirements for submitting prototypes/mock-ups.
Computer Science (OCR)	The Programming Project remains a requirement and students should be given 20 hours of time to complete the Programming Project. Students do not need to be directly supervised by their teacher when completing the Programming Project. This means that students may now complete the Programming Project remotely at home or in school, or a mixture of both.
Music (WJEC)	**Unit 1:** Performance (NEA) 35% Reduce the minimum time requirement for performance from 4 minutes to 3 minutes. A modified penalty calculation table will be released for use in 2021. Ensemble performance is optional as part of the three minutes to allow centres to comply with social distancing measures. Learners who can record an ensemble are still able to do so if they prefer. The programme note is still required, and one or more pieces should be performed to make the total time. **Unit 2**: Composing (NEA) 35% Reduce the requirement to only one composition. The briefs will still be released as normal but using them will be optional. As a guide, the composition should be 1½ - 3 minutes long. Learners will not be required to submit the evaluation. **Unit 3**: Appraising (Examination) 30% There are no changes to this unit.
Maths (AQA)	No change
Business (AQA)	No change
RS (AQA)	No change