

## **Public Exams 2021 FAQs**

Following discussions with departments, we plan to run trial exams followed by the exam board or internal tests is designed to give pupils the best chance to demonstrate their understanding under test conditions and to support the evidence we already have from class and coursework of their performance. Last year, trial exams provided useful evidence for the CAG process and helped to confirm not only pupils' level of performance but potential. These are only part of much larger process of assessment that has taken place throughout GCSE and A Level courses and are by no means the sole determiner of Centre Assessed Grades. It is our intention for Centre Assessed Grades to reflect pupils' potential and what they are capable of and, as in other years, the trial exams are a helpful means of establishing this accurately alongside other evidence.

**Easter holiday: revision for trial exam session**

**Trinity Term Week 1 -2: trial exams**

**Trinity Term Weeks 3-4: feedback and teaching**

**Trinity Term Weeks 5-7: completion of exam board or internal tests**

**June 18<sup>th</sup>: submission of Centre Assessed Grades to exam boards**

**August 10<sup>th</sup>: A Level results day**

**August 12<sup>th</sup>: GCSE results day**

### **Trial Exams and Exam Board or Internal Tests**

- **When are the trial exams?**

The A Level trial exams will take place in the first week of the Trinity Term and the GCSEs during the first two weeks.

- **Will departments provide topic lists for revision?**

Yes, departments will indicate areas for pupils to revise and make clear if any parts of the syllabus will not be included.

- **Why are there trial exams at the start of the Trinity Term?**

Trial exams were moved from the start of the Lent Term and should provide an indication to teachers of areas of particular strength which should help when it comes to deciding which tasks to complete for the exam board/internal tests. We already have considerable evidence of pupils' performance from GCSE and A Level courses, but we do not have evidence of work produced under exam conditions, allowing all pupils to sit the same paper, under the same conditions at the same time, using the same mark schemes. The trial exams will allow us to gather important evidence to support the assessment we already have and have real confidence in the positive CAGs that we wish to submit. It will support this CAG process if we have this objective measure

of pupils' understanding of what they have been taught alongside class/coursework. We are aware that pupils tend to improve from trial to actual exams and will take this into account.

- **How important are the trial exams?**

The trial exams are one piece of evidence that goes towards the CAGs; they do not represent the grade that will be awarded for the CAG.

- **Are all exam boards setting tests?**

Not all of them. We know CIE do not plan to and in these instances we will use our own short internal tests.

- **Why are we completing both trial exams and exam board/internal tests?**

This is an opportunity not an obstacle. We see this as an opportunity to provide more evidence to support our CAGs if necessary; the trials will consolidate pupils' understanding and help teachers with the difficult CAG process. We hope that in a borderline case the exam board/internal tests (if a board doesn't set a test) might provide evidence to allow us to predict higher. As well as completing our own trial exams completing a board set test where possible is advisable to reduce any claim of subjectivity.

- **How will revision be supported by departments?**

Departments will omit any parts of the syllabus that hasn't been taught or only partially taught and revision materials will be provided over Easter in preparation for the trial exams. Following the trials departments will feedback on strengths and weaknesses as normal.

- **How will trial exams be marked?**

Trials and CAGs will be determined using the more generous 2020 grade boundaries as indicated by Ofqual in their guidance prior to exams being cancelled. Departments will moderate trial exam results to ensure consistency. As mentioned, they will only make up one part of the evidence used in determining CAGs.

- **What is the format of exam board/internal tests?**

These can be taken in lessons under test conditions and do not have a designated time limit though it should be more than an hour. It is not envisaged that these should take up a significant amount of time.

- **Will there be study leave?**

No. Pupils will be asked to revise under supervision in school so they can access help from teachers should they need it.

## Centre Assessed Grades

- **How are Centre Assessed Grades decided?**

CAGs are determined through a variety of evidence that includes: classwork, prep, coursework (if applicable), attainment and assessment throughout the course; trial exams, exam board or internal tests. All of these areas are considered and teachers come to a judgement on what grade to award.

- **How are the Centre Assessed Grades moderated?**

Once a teacher has submitted a grade these are checked by their Department, before being reviewed by the Directors of Studies with the Deputy Head Academic and finally the Headmaster.

- **Are the trial exams or tests 'worth' a percentage of any final CAG?**

No. These are part of a larger picture of evidence compiled throughout the GCSE and A Level courses.

- **When will any exam board or internal tests be completed?**

This is likely to be during weeks 5 and 6, before half-term, and week 7 immediately after half-term.

- **What evidence might teachers have to provide to support their CAGs?**

Teachers should have access to at least three pieces of marked work that can be used as 'evidence' to support a CAG should it be required. These could be essays, tests, trial exams, exam board or internal tests, coursework etc and should be at least an hour's work. These won't need to be submitted routinely, but need to be available if asked for.

- **When are Centre Assessed Grades Submitted?**

June 18<sup>th</sup>.