

Generic proposed changes to GCSE assessment methods for 2021

Subject	Proposed change(s)
Art	Assessment to be based on portfolio only (no exam)
Biology, Chemistry, Physics	Observation of demonstrations an acceptable substitute to students undertaking practical work themselves
Computer Science	Programming project can be undertaken in unsupervised time
Design Technology	Exam boards to accept mock-ups and / or clear intentions of prototypes; observation of demonstrations an acceptable substitute to students using machinery / tools / processes
Drama	<p>Exam boards to accept analysis of the work of others to be based on live theatre and / or streamed or recorded performances</p> <p>Length of performing submission reduced to at least one and a half minutes (for monologue) and/or two minutes (for duologue or group)</p> <p>Monologues permitted for both the devised and text based performances</p>
English Language	No requirement for recordings of the spoken language assessment to be submitted to the exam board for monitoring
English Literature	Choice of topics on which students have to answer questions, giving the school choice over essential content to be taught (students at Ranelagh will no longer need to study the poetry anthology)
Food	<p>Remove NEA1; earlier release of NEA2</p> <p>Requirements of NEA2 to be reduced to two dishes to be completed within 3 hours</p>
Geography	Remove requirement for students to undertake fieldwork
History	Number of topics reduced (students at Ranelagh will not need to study the Medicine unit)
Languages	<p>Remove requirement for assessments to use words outside vocabulary lists</p> <p>Make the spoken language assessment an endorsement to be assessed by teachers during the course</p> <p>Permit exam boards to include an additional optional question for students taking the Foundation paper, to enable students to focus on fewer themes in their writing</p>
Music	<p>Performance: students required to perform one or more pieces of music with a combined duration of at least one and a half minutes (if all solo performance) or two minutes (if including performance as part of an ensemble)</p> <p>Requirement to perform as part of an ensemble removed</p> <p>Composition: students required to compose one piece with a duration of at least two minutes</p>
PE	<p>Exam boards permitted to reduce requirements to two activities and allow both to be individual; although not confirmed by Ofqual, we also expect that exam boards will be permitted to allow the assessment of two team activities, as well as one team and one individual in addition to being allowed to be assessed in two individual activities</p> <p>Exam boards to be permitted to explore relaxation of the requirements for provision of evidence; for example, type and quality of videoed evidence and the evidence of participation in competitive sport</p>