



THE PRIORY ACADEMY

LSST

November 2020

Dear Parents / Carers

Before half term we sent out a message specifying updated changes to examination specifications, with the promise to forward further updates as we became aware of them. I therefore include the same message and the changes, to MFL and Technology, are identified in italics and bold font.

Re: Changes to examination specifications and assessments 2020-2021.

As a result of the recent lockdown some examination boards have taken the decision to alter either specifications or means of assessment or even occasionally may have made adjustments to both. Some examination boards have yet to make their final decisions. Whilst we realise that we may have to send subsequent updates to this letter, we feel that it is nevertheless beneficial to pass on information which has already been relayed to us about next any forthcoming changes so far.

Science

GCSE and GCE Sciences have no specification changes.

The same applies to BTEC Applied Science and Health and Social Care.

AQA A Level Chemistry and Physics

Students will be assessed against the Common Practical Assessment Criteria (CPAC) across the minimum number of practical activities required to demonstrate competence in all aspects. The minimum number of practical activities required will be at teachers' discretion but individual students must be competent in all aspects of the CPAC, which includes coverage of the apparatus and techniques stipulated in the specification.

MFL

Candidates will sit GCSE examinations in listening, reading and writing skills. The speaking assessment does not form part of the GCSE 9-1 grade.

Speaking skills will be centre assessed by teachers and will appear on students' certificates alongside the 9-1 grade as an endorsement reported on a 3 point scale (pass, merit or distinction) against common assessment criteria. Speaking skills will be assessed over time during the Year 11 course of study. This could be through classroom or homework tasks, partner work or individual work.

The common assessment criteria will be published shortly by Ofqual and AQA.

There will be more optionality in the Writing component, 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.

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To give students time to read all of the optional questions carefully before making a choice, an extra five minutes will be added to the scheduled examination 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.

History

For GCSE History, the Wider World Depth Study remains compulsory. This is the unit on the Cold War that students have yet to study. However, they are only required to sit two of the remaining three units and schools can decide which unit will not be examined. Students will not sit the British Depth Study unit on Norman England (which was studied in Year 10). SPaG marks have been removed from the Thematic Study ('Britain: Health and the People') to ensure parity between schools.

For A Level History we are unaware of any changes so far.

Geography

Geography GCSE

There are no questions on students' own fieldwork as this has not been undertaken.

A Level remains so far fundamentally unchanged.

Business / Economics

For Economics and Business no changes have been planned to the specification or examinations as yet.

PE

For GCSE, 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's moderation will take place by post. There'll be no moderation visits and work will be moderated using video evidence of students' performance.

Guidance is to be published by the board (we are told "as soon as they can") to explain to schools about how to deal with the challenges presented by assessing sports within Covid restrictions.

Music

Edexcel A Level Music

Performing:

Duration reduced to at least 3 minutes.

Can be recorded at any point in the academic year.

Submitted 15th May 2021

Marked out of 60 and externally assessed.

Composing:

Free composition only (no briefs). One composition only required (no compositional techniques.)

Minimum duration 3 minutes.

Marked out of 40.

Externally assessed.

No changes to Appraising/Exam.

Eduqas GCSE Music

Performing:

Minimum of one piece. Solo or Ensemble.

Minimum duration 1 minute 30

Composing:

One composition only.

Duration 2 – 4 minutes.

Either to a Brief or Free composition.

No changes to Appraising/Exam.

Drama

GCSE Drama updates. These are still awaiting Ofqual approval but are on the board's public website.

Component 1 – reduced timings for the devised piece. Students may now submit a monologue as their devised piece. This is alongside a portfolio (900 words) and an evaluation. The evaluation no longer has to be written in supervised conditions, but will have a suggested word count of 900 words.

Component 2 – Learners can perform a monologue, and timings for the whole piece are reduced. They will study ONE 10 minute extract (instead of two) from a performance text of their choice. (The text must still contrast with the text used for component 3).

Component 3 – Interpreting Theatre. Unchanged – though live recordings/ streams of productions may be used as live theatre, for the Live Theatre Review within Section B.

Technology

The assessment requirements for internally assessed units in Cambridge Nationals courses (Creative iMedia and Systems Control in Engineering) have been modified at unit-level to reflect the difficulties in completing practical/workshop activities whilst still allowing the students to meet all of the assessment criteria associated with a specific unit of work.

Details of all of our curriculum subjects and their examination boards can be found on our website.

<https://www.priorylsst.co.uk/page/?title=Curriculum&pid=64>. We will endeavour to keep you updated in due course, as we hear more information. Meanwhile if you have any further questions then please contact our Heads of Department in the first instance, who will try to assist.

Yours faithfully

Mrs S Davis

Deputy Headteacher