

Examinations 2021 – Questions and Answers

1 When are the mock exams?

Mock exams are timetabled to run from Tuesday 05 January until Thursday 14 January. During this time Fifth Year and Upper Sixth pupils will be on study leave and do not have to attend school if they do not have an exam (the Fourth Year RS exam is on 08 January and pupils will be in lessons as normal at all other times). Clearly, Fifth Year and Upper Sixth pupils are welcome to be in school at all times – the Sixth Form can access the Concourse, Study Centre, and Library outside of exam times. For the Fifth Year, supervised study rooms will be made available to them to work in when not in an exam. Results will be published on the Parent Portal shortly before the Parents' Evening for that year group.

2 Will the result of my mock be used as my final grade if final exams are cancelled?

The Government has confirmed that exams in England will go ahead this year. It is highly unlikely the school will be asked to determine your grade this year, please see later questions that relate to summer exam arrangements. Even if grades were asked for, in 2020 the guidance for schools to determine grades was clear that as many points of evidence from across the two-year course should be used, and that one exam – such as the mock – should not be solely relied upon. The mock result was not weighted in any way, nor was it even stipulated that it must be used. In the unlikely event that Centre Assessment Grades are called for, using just the mock result as the final result would not be possible as mocks are not standardised from school to school, or even set in the same way. The results of these mocks, for the purpose of final results, would play no more or less importance than any other point of assessment across the two year course.

3 If exam results are cancelled, what would be used to determine my grade?

The Government has confirmed that exams in England will go ahead this year. It is highly unlikely the school will be asked to determine your grade this year, please see later questions that relate to summer exam arrangements. In 2020 schools were asked to use as much evidence of attainment as possible from across the two-year course, including but not limited to end of year exams, end of topic tests, homework, half-term progress grades and class work. Teachers were asked to assess this evidence, and to use their professional knowledge and judgement of a pupil, to determine the most likely grade achieved had that pupil sat the final papers. For A level, UCAS grades were not permitted for use as these are 'fair-wind' aspirational grades for university application, as opposed to evidence of progress.

4 What if I am unwell and unable to come in to school to sit my mocks?

If you are too unwell to sit a mock exam – do not worry. Contact the exams office examoff@kes.hants.sch.uk as soon as possible to let them know. It might be possible to re-arrange the sitting of the paper if you are well enough at a later date.

5 What if I am forced to self-isolate because of Covid restrictions?

We hope that with the exams taking place immediately after a vacation period, the chances of pupils needing to self-isolate will be reduced. It is possible, however, that some pupils may be forced to self-isolate due to Covid-19 restrictions during or for part of the exam period in January.

If this is the case, contact the exams office examoff@kes.hants.sch.uk as soon as possible to let them know. It might be possible to re-arrange the sitting of the paper at a later date.

If you have been told to self-isolate or have any covid **symptoms you must not come in to school to sit the exam.**

6 Will A level and GCSE exams take place in the summer?

The Government confirmed on 03 December that normal written examinations will take place in summer 2021. Some changes will be made to the papers to compensate for pupils at schools that did not have face to face teaching during the first national lock down.

Please note that the Government announcement does not include IGCSEs organised by CIE. We are waiting for confirmation about whether similar arrangements will be made for these subjects (IGCSE Computer Science, Economics, English, Geography, History, Italian, and Sports Science)

Arrangements are being made for pupils who are unable to sit examinations due to sickness related to Covid, or through a requirement to self-isolate.

If a pupil misses some of a subject's papers due to ill health or self-isolation, but has sat at least one of the papers or has completed formal Non-Examined Assessment (coursework) in that subject, a grade will be awarded through the normal special consideration process, i.e. based on the parts of the exams that were completed.

If a pupil misses all the papers due to sickness related only due to Covid or requirements to self-isolate, and no coursework was completed it will not be possible to apply for special consideration. Instead they will be able sit a single contingency paper at some point between 28 June and 16 July 2021 (the timetable for these contingency papers has not yet been released).

In the event that a pupil misses all of their GCSE or A level papers in a subject during both the summer series as well as the later contingency paper, due only to covid related reasons, a validated centre assessment grade may be asked for.

Please note that access to the contingency paper or the ultimate use of a teacher assessment will only be available to pupils due to Covid related reasons. The school will be required to collect evidence to legitimise this absence for the exam board.

The full current Government guidance for summer exams can be [found here](#).

This table may also be useful:

Incomplete exam	Result
Some parts of the exam completed (i.e. some papers, or coursework unit), but others missed due to covid related reasons.	If a medical note confirms circumstances, special considerations might be applicable and a grade still awarded
All parts of the exam missed due to covid related reasons	If a medical note confirms circumstances, able to sit a single contingency paper about two weeks later.
Unable to sit the contingency paper due to covid reasons	If a medical note confirms circumstances, a centre assessed grade will be asked for.

7 When are the GCSE and A level exams?

Individual timetables will differ, but at King Edwards the first GCSE takes place on 27 April, and the last on 01 July. For A level, the first exams are on 07 June, the last on 28 June. However, **all pupils for both GCSE and A level should not make any arrangements until after 16 July that might prevent them from coming in to school to take a contingency paper.**

8 When will GCSE and A level results be published?

A level results will be published on the morning of Tuesday 24 August 2021. GCSE and IGCSE results will be published on the morning of Friday 27 August 2021. Details regarding their collection will be given later in the academic year.