



10th February 2022

Exam series 2022 at Notre Dame

Dear Students, Parents and Carers,

I hope this letter finds you and your families well. Below you will find the latest information on provision for formal exams 2022 and various web links which you may find helpful.

As you know, following the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic, the UK government decided that the January and summer 2022 exam series **will go ahead** as planned. There will also be support put in place through the provision from each exam board, of advance information for GCSE, AS and A Level exams. The Government have also asked all schools and colleges to follow a contingency plan, whereby internal assessments are robust and will allow the College to provide Teacher Assessed Grades (TAGs), if needed.

Assessment at Notre Dame since September 2021:

- The College has followed its internal assessment cycle to gather robust and regular assessment information, should this be needed in the event of a contingency arrangement being put in place by the government for summer exams 2022.
- The formal January exams went ahead as planned.
- The Government allowed the submission of a special consideration form to the relevant exam board for each student who missed a January exam because of COVID or because it met the published JCQ criteria for special consideration.
- **Please note, there has been no indication or publication from Ofqual/JCQ that special consideration will be accepted for COVID related absences in summer 2022.**

Advance Information for GCSE, AS and A Level exams:

This was released by each exam board on February 7th, including how this information can be discussed and used by students and teachers.

The exam boards have published advance information on the content of most GCSE, AS and A level exams in summer 2022 on their public websites. This is part of an unprecedented package of support for students, including changes to non-exam assessment, providing formulae and equation sheets in some exams and more generous grading, to help make exams as fair as possible this year. There is advance information for all GCSE, AS and A level subjects, with the exceptions of art and design (because they do not have written exams) and GCSEs in English literature, history, ancient history and geography, which have some optional topics or content instead.

Due to the variety of specifications covered, the different conventions within subject domains, and how those are assessed, advance information will be different for each subject.

More information can be found on the Governments website, including guidance on contingency arrangements:

https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-on-contingency-arrangements-for-gcses-as-and-a-levels-in-summer-2022?utm_source=letter_to_schools_colleges_7_feb_2022&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=advance_information

For vocational and technical qualifications, exam boards have already been allowed to make adaptations to assessments and qualifications, where they need to, due to the pandemic. There is guidance on the government website for each subject, which parents/carers may find useful:

https://www.gov.uk/guidance/subject-by-subject-support-for-gcse-as-and-a-level-students-in-2022?utm_source=letter_to_schools_colleges_7_feb_2022&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=advance_information

Please keep looking at our website for the latest updates.

Thank you for your continued support and if you have any enquiries, please either contact your Achievement Tutor or enquiries@notredamecoll.ac.uk

Yours sincerely



Justine Barlow