



UTC READING

Exam Handbook

2020/21

Centre Number: 51330

Candidate Name:.....

Candidate Number:.....

This handbook is reviewed and updated annually

Produced/reviewed by	
Andrea Coronel	
Date of next review	Sept 2021

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INTRODUCTION

UTC Reading is committed to ensuring that candidates are fully briefed on the exam and assessment process in place in the centre and are made aware of the required JCQ awarding body instructions and information for candidates.

This booklet contains all the information you need to know regarding the examination regulations and procedures that students are required to follow for the school year 1st September 2020 – 31st August 2021. You will also find some useful dates and frequently asked questions. Please read this booklet carefully and show it to your parents/carers so that they are also aware of the examination regulations and procedures. I can be contacted during the school day in the Exams Office via email/main reception, if you have any queries.

Andrea Coronel
 Data and Examinations Officer

All Students Must:

- Read and fully understand the JCQ Notices to Candidates included in this booklet.
- Check all the details on your Individual Candidate Timetable (issued prior to written exams) and report any errors to the Exams Office.
- Inform the school, via the Exams Officer, of any event for which special consideration might be sought from the Awarding Bodies (e.g. illness before or during an exam, bereavement or other trauma, disadvantage or disturbance during an exam).
- Read the instructions of each exam paper very carefully.

KEY DATES

27 November 2020 NCFE qualifications exams

23 November - 1 December 2020 English GCSE resit/ PPEs for Year 11 & 13

17 December 2020 A Level Results released

6 - 20 January 2021 BTEC and Cambridge National qualifications

14 January 2021 English and Maths GCSE resit Results issued

28 January 2021 OCR Cambridge National January Results issued

05 February 2021 NCFE Nov 2020 Results issued

11 February 2021 Other GCSE Results issued

17 March 2021 BTEC January Results issued

YOUR EXAMS: WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

This year, GCSE, BTEC, and A-Level exams will be taking place between **04 May 2021** and **Friday 02 July 2021**. Morning exams begin at **9.00am** and afternoon exams begin at **2.00pm**. You are advised to arrive at least **15 minutes** before the start of each exam.

Contingency day - Summer 2021 (Provisional date)

“The awarding bodies have designated **Wednesday 07 July 2021** as a ‘contingency day’ for examinations. The designation of a ‘contingency day’ within the common examination timetable is in the event of national or local disruption to examinations. It is part of the awarding bodies’ standard contingency planning for examinations.” [ICE 15]

**Therefore ALL STUDENTS must be available until after this date which is:
Wednesday 07 July 2021(Provisional date)**

When you come to school for an exam, you should go to the locations listed below 15 minutes before start time.

- Year 11 Green Zone
- Year 12 & 13 Pink & Light Blue ILZ for BTEC and A Level Exams.

Some exams might be scheduled to take place on the same day and the same time. This is called an **exam clash** and special arrangements will be made to allow you to sit all of the exams you are entered for. There is more information about exam clashes on page 6.

WHAT YOU NEED TO DO

- Read through your exam timetable. If you have an exam clash or think you have been entered for the wrong paper or tier, see the Exams Officer immediately.
- Learn the dates and times of your exams. You might find it useful to make a note of all your exams in your diary, planner, or home calendar.
- Keep all of your exam information organised and in a safe place.

ENTRIES

You will automatically be entered for all your exams. If you wish to take an exam for a subject not taught at UTC Reading such as native language you can do so subject to approval. Please speak to the Exams Officer to discuss specifications and costs, payment for exams (outside your taught subjects) must be made by **10th February 2021**.

RESITS

All resits will be decided by your subject teacher. If you wish to resit a unit/qualification to improve your grade you may have to cover the cost yourself, please speak to the Exams Officer to discuss. All requests and payments must be made by **10th February 2021**.

EXAM RULES AND REGULATIONS

BANNED ITEMS

You **MUST NOT** take the following items into the exam room:

- × Notes
- × iPod
- × Mobile phone
- × MP3 or MP4 player
- × Fitbit, any watch of any description, smart or otherwise*
- × Any other web-enabled source of information

Remember! Possession of any unauthorised material or banned items is breaking the rules, even if you do not intend to use them, and you will be subject to **penalty and possible disqualification**.

*It may seem strange to put a blanket ban on watches, but smart watches now are harder to identify given that some look like traditional watches. Guidance from the examination boards and the independent commission on examination malpractice is to expect all watches to be removed for the avoidance of any doubt. Clocks will always be provided in the examination rooms to ensure students are aware of the timing of the examinations. If you have difficulty seeing the clock please speak to the Exams Officer.

CALCULATORS

You may use a calculator in an exam, unless the exam paper explicitly says you can not – for example, the non-calculator Maths GCSE and GCSE Computer Science. Below is a quick guide to the regulations when bringing a calculator into an exam.

<p>Calculators must be:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ of a size suitable for use on the desk; ○ either battery or solar powered; ○ free of lids, cases and covers which have printed instructions or formulas. 	<p>Calculators must not:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • be designed or adapted to offer any of these facilities: - <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ language translators; ○ symbolic algebra manipulation; ○ symbolic differentiation or integration; ○ communication with other machines or the internet; • be borrowed from another candidate during an examination for any reason; • have retrievable information stored in them - this includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ databanks; ○ dictionaries; ○ mathematical formulas; ○ text.
<p>The candidate is responsible for the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ the calculator's power supply; ○ the calculator's working condition; ○ clearing anything stored in the calculator. 	

If you use a calculator in an exam, make sure the case has been removed before you enter the exam room. Do not bring the instruction leaflet with you. You cannot borrow a calculator from another candidate. Your calculator must not have facilities for language translation or communication with other machines or the internet. No retrievable

information, such as dictionaries, mathematical formulas, or text files, can be stored on your calculator.

EQUIPMENT

You are responsible for bringing your own equipment for each exam. Some spares pens will be provided for those who have forgotten. Do not rely on equipment being there for you, if it runs out you cannot borrow from other students.

- ✓ You must write clearly and in **BLACK INK**
- ✓ For subjects that require you to draw or annotate diagrams, an HB pencil is required.
- ✓ Coloured pencils or inks may only be used for diagrams, maps, charts, etc. unless the instructions printed on the front of the question paper state otherwise.
- ✓ Pencil cases brought into the examination room must be **TRANSPARENT**
- ✗ You cannot borrow any equipment from another candidate during the exam.
- ✗ You cannot use correcting pens, fluid, or tape.
- ✗ You cannot use erasable pens, gel pens, or highlighters in your answers.
- ✗ Wristwatches are allowed, but they can not be worn in the exam hall, and must be placed on your desk.

DICTIONARIES & COMPUTER SPELL-CHECKERS

Neither dictionaries nor computer spell-checkers are allowed in any exam (except those with AA for scribe). If you have English as a second language and have recently arrived in the UK, you may be eligible for a paper dictionary in some examinations, and your teachers will discuss this with you.

EXAM CLASHES

In the event that two or more of your exams are scheduled to take place at the same time on the same date, special arrangements will be made. You will be able to take all of your exams, but you will sit them one after another, with a small rest period in between, and you may likely have to sit the second exam in a different seat to the first. You will be unable to contact any other candidates – and you will have to be accompanied by an invigilator – until all of your exams for that session have ended. If the total time of the exams clashing is 3 hours or less then you are not allowed to revise during your supervised break. If the total time is more than 3 hours then you will be provide a longer break in which you will be allowed to revise for the next subject.

DRESS CODE AND LANYARDS

All students are required to wear business-like attire to their exams as they would during a normal school day. You will **not be allowed** a coat/jacket or hoodie into the exam room so you must make sure you wear enough layers in cold weather.

Lanyards should be worn at all times, once you are seated in the exam room you will be asked to place them on the desk. If an invigilator cannot identify you with your college ID, you may be asked to leave until a member of staff can identify you.

FOOD & DRINK

Only water or light liquids (squash) are allowed. This should be in a clear bottle with all labels removed. No food is allowed, sweets are allowed as long as they are not in wrappers and are in a clear container/bag. No chewing gum is permitted.

ILLNESS

If you are unwell and unable to attend any exam, telephone the school at the earliest possible opportunity to inform us that you will not be attending the exam. You will need to present a medical certificate from your doctor for any illness that has resulted in you having to miss an exam. This certificate needs to be given to the Exams Officer immediately, along with a letter detailing which exams were missed. This will allow the school to apply for special consideration for your final result. Failure to provide a medical certificate will result in you being charged for the exam missed. If you feel unwell during an exam please tell the invigilator know so they can help.

LATENESS

If you arrive late for an exam, report to the Exams Officer or the invigilator running the exam. The exam board will be informed and you might not be given all of the time allowed to complete your paper. If you arrive later than **10.00am** for a morning exam or **2.30pm** for an afternoon exam, the exam board may not accept your exam. For exams under **1 hour**, if you arrive late, even just 5 minutes the exam board may not accept your exam.

COVID-19

- To keep the bubbles separate, we will be using two separate entrances in the Hall. KS4 will enter through the normal door in the corridors, KS5 will enter through the canteen.
- There will be a 2-metre distance between KS4 and KS5 in the exam rooms.
- Face coverings must be worn entering and leaving the exam rooms but students can remove them once seated if they wish to do so.
- This year we will only be providing spare **PENS** if you have forgotten yours, students must come prepared with the correct equipment for exams (rulers, calculators etc.)
- All students must sanitize their hands when entering the exams rooms.

DO's and DON'Ts

BEFORE THE EXAM

- Go toilet, put belongings in locker.
- Check you have all the correct equipment for the exam.
- Check the seating plans so you know where you will be seating.
- Turn mobile off and place in bag or be ready to hand in.

DURING THE EXAM

- You are under exam conditions as soon as you come in the room, you must come in silently and take your seat quickly.
- Always listen to the invigilator and **follow their instructions** at all times. You must not write anything until you **are instructed** to do so.
- **Put up your hand** if you are unsure about what you have to do; you do not feel well; or you need more answer sheets. An invigilator will help you.
- **Tell the invigilator immediately** if you think you have been given the incorrect exam paper, or your paper is incomplete or poorly printed.
- Any rough work must be done on the exam paper and **crossed out**. Spare paper will not be provided for rough work.
- You are only permitted one toilet break per exam; to be exempt from this you must provide a medical certificate/ letter.
- Must stay for the full duration of the exam.
- × Do not talk to, try to communicate with, or disturb other candidates.
- × If you leave the exam room unaccompanied by an invigilator before the exam has finished, you will not be allowed to return. !
- ! If you try to cheat, or break the rules in any way, **you will be disqualified from that exam and could be disqualified from all your subjects.**

AFTER THE EXAM

- Stop writing/typing as soon as the invigilator announces the end of the exam.
- Check your name and candidate number is on your paper.
- Hand back any loaned equipment
- Leave in silence as there may be other exams taking place
- × Do not walk out before you have been dismissed.
- × Do not talk as soon as you get out the room, wait until you leave the corridor.

EMERGENCY EVACUATION PROCEDURE DURING AN EXAMINATION

Instructions for Invigilators

- Whilst the safety of candidates is paramount, we are duty bound to maintain the integrity of the examination. With these aims in mind:
- Establish the location of the nearest fire exits to the examination room, the access route to it/them and the location of assembly points.
- Establish whether any emergency alarm testing is anticipated during the examination and if so warn the candidates
- Ensure that you instruct candidates about the evacuation procedure and rules before you allow candidates to start the examination.
- Ensure that you note the time and duration of any evacuation.
- Ensure that the attendance register is taken at the assembly point, that the candidates remain segregated from other evacuees and silent throughout, and that the attendance register is checked again on return to the exam room
- Ensure that on their return to the examination room candidates indicate on their exam scripts the point at which the exam was interrupted by the emergency evacuation by underlining across the full page and writing the word EVACUATION
- Ensure that the time lost during the evacuation is added to the scheduled finish time for the examination if possible.
- Ensure that a report of the evacuation is completed and returned to the Exams Office

Instructions to candidates if evacuation is necessary

- Stop writing immediately.
- Keep calm ; leave scripts on desks & belongings in exam room
- Evacuate the room with the invigilator, remain under supervision throughout the evacuation and return with the invigilator to exam room once evacuation over.
- Keep yourselves separate from other students evacuating the premises and speak to no one other than the invigilator or safety officer during the evacuation as still under examination conditions.
- On return to exam room, annotate **exam script to indicate where you restart the exam following evacuation**

MEETING POINT: Lawn in front of Reception

REMEMBER! An emergency procedure occurring during your exam season is very unlikely, so there is no need to worry.

ACCESS ARRANGEMENTS (AA)

Access arrangements allow candidates with specific needs, such as special educational needs, disabilities or temporary injuries to access the assessment and show what they know and can do without changing the demands of the assessment.

To be eligible for AA, it must reflect your normal way of working and must be backed up by a significant amount of evidence collated over a several academic terms (minimum)..

Evidence can be:

- Form 8 & JCQ approval from previous school
- EHCP (Special Educational Needs (SEN) or an Education, Health and Care Plan)
- Assessment Report
- Lucid Exact Report
- Evidence from subject teachers confirming it is your normal way or working.

If you have been granted AA and do not use it then it is not your normal way of working and the SENCo may consider withdrawing the arrangement.

SPECIAL CONSIDERATION

Special Consideration can be given to candidates who have been disadvantaged during an exam or a series of exams. This means that a mark or grade can be adjusted to better reflect a candidate's ability when circumstances, outside of their control, have negatively affected their performance at the time of their exams.

Candidates are eligible for Special Consideration if, at the time of their exams, they have:

- suffered a temporary illness or injury, bereavement, domestic crisis, or serious disturbance during an exam;
- not received the correct exam paper or necessary equipment (for example, a CD for a language listening paper) at the start of their exam, or the correct access arrangements that have been previously approved.

If you believe you are eligible to make a Special Consideration request, you must notify the Exams Officer immediately following the end of your exam. Appeals for Special Consideration cannot be made after **10 July 2021**.

RESULTS

You will be able to collect your results from the school on the following days:

- **A-Levels/L3 BTECs** - Tuesday 24 August 2021 between 8.30 and 12.30PM
- **GCSE & L2 Vocational Quals** - Friday 27 August 2021 between 8.30 and 12.30PM

If you are unavailable on these dates and would like a relative to collect your results on your behalf, written confirmation is required. Speak to the Exams Officer for how to arrange this.

POST RESULTS

Exam Boards provide various services after the results have been handed out.

Service	Type	What happens?
1	Clerical check	The adding up of marks is checked.
2	Review of marking	The exam paper is checked to make sure it was marked correctly according to the mark scheme. Marks are changed if the new examiner feels there has been a clear marking error.
3	Access to script (original)	You get your original exam paper back.
4	Priority Review of marking	The exam paper is checked very quickly to make sure it was marked correctly according to the mark scheme. Marks are changed if the new examiner feels there has been a clear marking error.
5	Priority Access to script (copy)	You get a copy of your exam paper back quickly so you can decide whether to apply for a review of marking.

The deadline to make requests for the May and June exam season is usually sometime between 31 August (for Priority) and 17 September 2021 – although you are advised to make applications at least a week earlier than this date.

CERTIFICATES

Certificates are issued from the exam boards and will usually handed out at the Year 11 and 13 Graduation Ceremony in Winter, however due to the circumstances this year they may just be collected from reception from January until 5th April 2022. If you are unable to collect your certificates in person, a parent/guardian may collect on your behalf but they must have a written letter of authorisation from you.

Due to the valuable nature of the certificate, we do not post them, as they are difficult to replace if lost. You can provide a self-addressed A4 envelope if you wish to take the risk of having them posted. If you lose your certificate, a Statement of Result can be obtained from the Exam board, but this will incur a charge of approx. £40.00 per board. If they are accidentally destroyed (e.g. fire, theft) an application for replacements can also be made via the Examining Bodies website, supported by a statement from a relevant source.

STUDY TIPS

Starting to think about exams sooner rather than later can make all the difference when it comes to revision, and can have a positive effect on performance and grades. Not only will you have more time to study but you'll be able to adopt a more balanced approach to revision, set clear goals and plan out study sessions in advance.

Here's 7 handy revision tips to help prepare for your exams over the next few months.

1. Set goals

Setting goals is a great place to start, as this will set the tone for the next few months. Start by writing down the exam subjects you're studying for and the grades you want to achieve. Underneath each subject, write out the list of topics you'll need to understand as well as question formats, techniques and the marking criteria the examiner will be using in the grade band you're aiming for. Doing this will mean you can plan out your study sessions effectively and keep track of the progress you're making.

2. Create a realistic revision timetable

Building a revision timetable will add structure to your studying and allows you to organise your time in the way that best suits you and your schedule. As you will be mapping out study slots for each topic, if you identify a subject that you want to spend more time on, you can add these extra sessions in. It's also important to create a realistic schedule and know there are limits to how much work can effectively be completed in a day. Balancing leisure and revision equally means you'll be much more productive and motivated in the long run and be able to revise more effectively. Just plan your study time out depending on what works best for you - so if this is 5 out of 7 days a week, or 7 days a week but an hour per day, that's okay- everyone will be slightly different!

3. Understand your learning style

There isn't a one size fits all way to study as everyone works in different ways.

Understanding your learning style and whether you're a visual, auditory or kinaesthetic learner will make revision so much easier! Once you know the method of learning that suits you best, simply tailor each study session by choosing more effective revision techniques that will make remembering and recalling information much easier.

4. Take regular breaks

Taking regular study breaks is so important when it comes to exam revision. Studying for long periods of time can be counterproductive as the brain becomes tired and you can easily lose focus, meaning you're not actually revising effectively. Instead aim for 30-45 minute sessions with short breaks in between and ideally no more than 4 hours of study per day. This way you'll have much more productive bursts of revision rather than trying to stay alert covering multiple subjects for hours on end.

5. Practice papers are your new best friend!

One of the best revision tips to help you prepare for your exams is to do as many practice papers as you can. They will help you become familiar with the exam format, question style and time restraints, so when it comes to the real thing you'll already know what to expect. Completing old exam papers is also a good way to test your current knowledge and help you identify any areas you're struggling with. Ask your teachers for a few years' worth of papers and schedule one or two a week into your revision timetable.

6. Work in study groups

If you're finding revision too much to tackle on your own, then working in a study group is a great way to find support. Collaborate with your classmates and create an after-school study club or join a revision group online. Not only will it enrich your learning as you can explore the thoughts and ideas of others, it will also help you improve your communication and collaboration skills. You can quiz each other, share notes, discover new ways of memorising things and explain topics in new ways to each other that may be easier to remember. Sharing knowledge is powerful!

7. Mix it up!

Mixing up your study habits is a great way to stay motivated, inspired and keep your brain alert and active while revising for your exams. Try alternative methods such as listening to a podcast, watching videos or documentaries, working in a group, creating revision posters, moving to a new study area or using different coloured paper for each set of revision notes

Source:

<https://www.tutordoctor.co.uk/blog/2018/march/7-revision-tips-to-help-prepare-for-your-gcses/>

ADVICE

BEFORE YOUR EXAM

Being prepared and doing the work will always help you feel more confident about sitting your exams, so do as much revision as you can. Plan your exam day so you feel in control. List what you need to be doing at what time, including travel and meal times.

DURING YOUR EXAM

- If you feel you've forgotten everything, it's probably just nerves. Pause for thirty seconds and take a few deep breaths to help you stay calm.
- **Read the instructions:** make sure you know how many questions to answer.
- Take your time and read all the questions carefully until you understand exactly what is needed.
- Look for the command words. Identify key words before you answer the question.
- Use your answer book to brainstorm and mind-map content or ideas as you go. This will also help jog your memory if you 'draw a blank'.
- Remember to cross out any draft work you don't want marked.
- Use the allocated marks to guide how much time you spend on each answer.
- If you can't answer a question, move on to the next question and come back later.
- Allow time to check back over your work.

AFTER YOUR EXAM

RELAX! Don't think about a finished exam: it's over and you can't change your answers. If you are worried that you have numbered an answer incorrectly, or that an examiner might struggle to read your handwriting, don't be. Examiners make every effort to ensure candidates are awarded the marks that their work merits.



Appendix 1 - JCQ Information for candidates – coursework

You **must** read this information if you are undertaking any legacy GCE unitised AS and A-level subjects that contain elements of coursework and/or any Entry Level Certificate and Project qualifications.

(click image below)



Information for candidates

Coursework assessments

Produced on behalf of:



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Appendix 2 - JCQ Information for candidates – non-examination assessments

You **must** read this information if you are undertaking any GCE and/or GCSE qualifications that contain components of non-examination assessment.

(click image below)



Information for candidates
Non-examination assessments

Produced on behalf of:



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Appendix 3 - JCQ Information for candidates – on-screen tests

You **must** read this information if you will be undertaking any externally assessed on-screen tests as part of your qualification(s).

(click image below)



Information for candidates

On-screen tests

With effect from 1 September 2020

Produced on behalf of:



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Appendix 4 - JCQ Information for candidates – written exams

You **must** read this information before you undertake any externally assessed timetabled written exams.

(click image below)



Information for candidates

Written examinations

With effect from 1 September 2020

Produced on behalf of:



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Appendix 5 - JCQ Information for candidates – Privacy Notice

You **must** read this information as it informs you how the “*JCQ awarding bodies will process your personal data.*”

(click image below)



Information for Candidates

Information About You and How We Use It

You have entered general or vocational qualifications such as GCSE, A-level, functional skills qualifications etc with one or more of the awarding bodies listed above. In order to be able to provide examinations and assessments, the awarding body needs to collect and use information about you. This notice provides you with a high level summary of the information the awarding body is required by law to give you about what happens to that information. For more detail see each awarding body's full Privacy Notice:

AQA	https://www.aqa.org.uk/about-us/privacy-notice
CCEA	http://ccea.org.uk/legal/privacy_policy
City & Guilds	https://www.cityandguilds.com/help/help-for-learners/learner-policy
NCFE	https://www.ncfe.org.uk/legal-information
OCR	https://www.ocr.org.uk/about/our-policies/website-policies/privacy-policy/
Pearson	https://qualifications.pearson.com/en/about-us/qualification-brands/odor.html
WJEC	https://www.wjec.co.uk/home/privacy-policy/

Who we are and how to contact us

Each awarding body is a separate organisation. Your school or examination centre will be able to confirm to you which awarding body is delivering each qualification you are undertaking and you will receive a statement confirming what qualifications you have been entered for and which awarding body. You will find links to each awarding body's website and information on how to contact them here: <https://www.ica.org.uk/contact-our-members/>

Information about you and from where it is obtained

Each awarding body whose qualifications you enter will need to use a variety of information about you. This includes obvious identification details such as your name, address, date of birth and your school or examination centre. It also includes information about your gender, race and health, where appropriate. This information is provided by you or your parents/guardians and/or by your school or examination centre.

Each awarding body will create certain information about you such as a candidate number, examination results and certificates.

You will find further information about this in the awarding bodies' full Privacy Notice (see links above) or by contacting the awarding body (see above).

Appendix 6 - JCQ No Mobile Phones poster

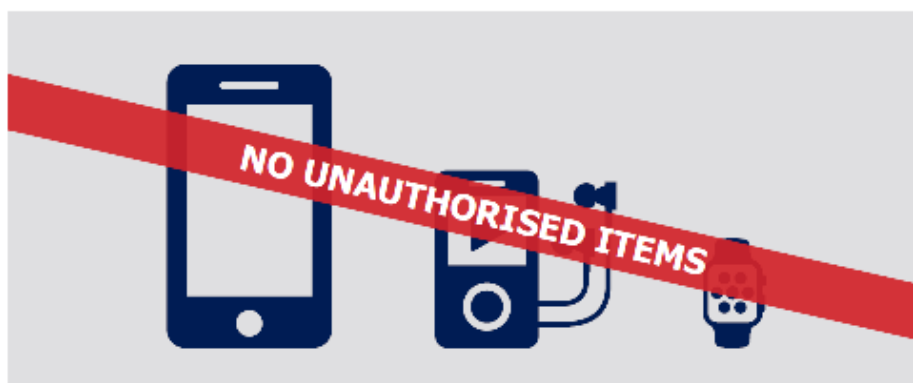
This poster will be displayed outside each exam room. You **must** note that “Possession of unauthorised items, such as a mobile phone, is a serious offence and could result in **DISQUALIFICATION** from your examination and your overall qualification.”



AQA City & Guilds CCEA OCR Pearson WJEC

**NO MOBILE PHONES
SMARTWATCHES
MP3/4 PLAYERS**

**NO POTENTIAL TECHNOLOGICAL/WEB
ENABLED SOURCES OF INFORMATION**



Possession of unauthorised items, such as a mobile phone, is a serious offence and could result in
DISQUALIFICATION
from your examination and your overall qualification.

This poster must be displayed in a prominent place outside each examination room.

Appendix 7 - JCQ Warning to Candidates poster

This poster will be displayed outside each exam room. You **must** note all the warnings.



AQA	City & Guilds	CCEA	OCR	Pearson	WJEC
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Warning to Candidates

1. You **must** be on time for all your examinations.
2. **Possession of a mobile phone** or other unauthorised material **is not allowed** - even if you do not intend to use it. You will be subject to penalty and possible disqualification from the exam/qualification.
3. You **must not** talk to, attempt to communicate with or disturb other candidates once you have entered the examination room.
4. You **must** follow the instructions of the invigilator.
5. You **must not** sit an examination in the name of another candidate.
6. You **must not** become involved in any unfair or dishonest practice in any part of the examination.
7. If you are confused about anything, only speak to an invigilator.

The *Warning to Candidates* must be displayed in a prominent place outside each examination room. This may be a hard copy A3 paper version or an image of the poster projected onto a wall or screen for all candidates to see.

You **must** read this information to help you stay within examination/assessment regulations when using social media.

JCQ
CIC

**Information for candidates
Using social media and examinations/assessments**




Image by Patrice Jones

**This document has been written to help you stay within examination regulations.
Please read it carefully.**

We all like to share our experiences when taking examinations. However, it is important to consider what you say and to think about what information is being shared.

Sharing ideas with others online could be helpful when you're studying or revising.

However, there are limits to the amount of information you can share and you need to be careful not to break the rules. We'd like to ask you to act responsibly when discussing online. If you're in doubt about what you can and can't discuss online regarding your exams, it's always best to check with your teacher.

If you receive what is or what looks to be assessment related information through social media, or any other means, you must tell your teacher or another member of staff. You must show them what you have received (if available). They will then report the matter to the awarding body and it will be investigated.

Where candidates breach the rules for examinations, controlled assessments, coursework or non-examination assessments, awarding bodies have an obligation to investigate and may apply penalties.



You should be aware that the following constitute malpractice:

- copying or allowing work to be copied – i.e. posting written work on social networking sites prior to an examination/assessment;
- collusion: working collaboratively with other candidates beyond what is permitted;
- allowing others to help produce your work or helping others with theirs;
- being in possession of confidential assessment related information in advance of the examination;
- exchanging, obtaining, receiving (even if not requested) or passing on assessment related information by any means of communication (even if just attempting to);
- failing to report to your centre assessment related information being shared online; or
- passing on rumours of exam content.

Penalties that awarding bodies apply include:

- a written warning;
- the loss of marks for a section, component or unit;
- disqualification from a unit, all units or qualifications; or
- a ban from taking assessments or exams for a set period of time.

Please take the time to familiarise yourself with the JCQ rules:
<http://www.jcq.org.uk/exams-office/information-for-candidates-documents>

