

Ballymena Academy



Information Booklet :  
GCSE 2020 - 2022

GCSE courses are taken over a two year period as:-

- Linear qualifications: all externally assessed units are taken at the end of the two year course, or
- Non Linear qualifications: some externally assessed units can be taken at other times e.g. at the end of Year 11.

GCSE courses are assessed using either:-

- controlled assessment and external exam units, or
- practical skills (externally assessed) and external exam units, or
- external exam units only.

## Controlled Assessment

Controlled Assessment is work completed throughout the GCSE course which counts towards a pupil's final grade. It includes extended essays, investigations, portfolio, practical or performance work.

The task and the conditions under which it is taken are specified in detail by the examination board.

Pupils will be notified of dates and times well in advance of Controlled Assessment tasks. This booklet provides a general overview of the scheduling of tasks. Given that Controlled Assessments are a formal part of GCSE assessment and must be completed under regulated conditions, it is vitally important that pupils attend school during assigned Controlled Assessment times. It is important that all deadlines set by the school are met and that preparation is thorough. Note that - high level Control Assessments are similar to exams and need to be prepared for in the same way.

## Levels of Control

For each task, a level of control will be set by the exam board. Each subject has its own set of controls and each task is given a recommended time and/or word count.

**Low Level Control** has limited supervision and work may be completed outside of the classroom, without teacher supervision.

**Medium Level Control** means that the task will be informally supervised – pupils can work on their own, with some guidance by the teacher. In some subjects it may be necessary for pupils to complete part of the assessment outside the classroom.

**High Level Control** means that the task will be completed under direct supervision. This might be the pupil's teacher or another person nominated by the centre. The work must be completed independently by the pupil. No guidance from the teacher is permitted. It is similar to an exam.

## Geography Fieldwork

In Geography, pupils carry out fieldwork in term one of Year 12, during which they collect data which they will take, along with a short fieldwork statement, into the external exam at the end of Year 12. This material will be used in the exam to answer questions on their fieldwork investigation (20% of overall marks).

## Science: Practical Skills

In Science subjects, Controlled Assessment has been replaced by 'Practical Skills' (25% of overall mark) which includes two parts, both of which are externally set and assessed:-

Part 1: Booklet A (7.5% of marks) is a practical skills assessment carried out in term 2 of Year 12. It assesses pupils' ability to carry out practical tasks based on, but not identical to, the prescribed practicals listed in the specification.

Part 2: Booklet B (17.5% of marks) is a written examination taken during the final year of study. It assesses pupils' knowledge and understanding of practical science. It consists of questions about planning and carrying out any of the prescribed practical tasks, together with more general questions about any practical situation that arises in the course.

## GCSE or equivalent courses: % External Exam / % Controlled Assessment

External Examination	Controlled Assessment	GCSE Courses
100%	0%	Biology Chemistry Classical Civilisation French Further Mathematics German Geography History Mathematics Physics Spanish Religious Studies Science: Single/Double Award
80%	20%	Business Studies English Literature
70%	30%	Digital Technology Media Studies Music
60%	40%	English Language
50%	50%	Construction Food and Nutrition Physical Education Technology and Design
40%	60%	Agriculture and Land Use Art and Design Drama and Theatre Studies
0%	100%	Occupational Studies

## Controlled Assessment Schedule

The tables below provide an approximate and general overview of the timing of Controlled Assessment during Year 11 and Year 12. More precise details of deadlines for Controlled Assessments and nature of the task(s) will be provided by subject teachers.



Controlled Assessment



Science Practical

	Year 11 2020 - 2021										
	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	April	May	June	
<b>Agriculture</b>											
<b>Art and Design</b>											
<b>Biology</b>											
<b>Business Studies</b>											
<b>Chemistry</b>											
<b>Construction</b>											
<b>Digital Technology</b>											
<b>Drama</b>											
<b>English Language</b>											
<b>English Literature</b>											
<b>Food and Nutrition</b>											
<b>Media Studies</b>											
<b>Music</b>											
<b>Occupational Studies</b>											
<b>Physical Education</b>											
<b>Physics</b>											
<b>Science</b> Double Award											
<b>Science</b> Single Award											
<b>Technology &amp; Design</b>											

	Year 12 2021 - 2022										
	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	April	May	June	
<b>Agriculture</b>											
<b>Art and Design</b>											
<b>Biology</b>											
<b>Business Studies</b>											
<b>Chemistry</b>											
<b>Construction</b>											
<b>Digital Technology</b>											
<b>Drama</b>											
<b>English Language</b>											
<b>English Literature</b>											
<b>Food and Nutrition</b>											
<b>Media Studies</b>											
<b>Occupational Studies</b>											
<b>Music</b>											
<b>Physical Education</b>											
<b>Physics</b>											
<b>Science</b> : Double Award											
<b>Science</b> : Single Award											
<b>Technology &amp; Design</b>											

Course content and assessment can be found within individual GCSE subject specifications:-

[www.ocr.org.uk](http://www.ocr.org.uk)  
[www.ccea.org.uk](http://www.ccea.org.uk)  
[www.edugas.co.uk](http://www.edugas.co.uk)

## Details of External Units & Controlled Assessment

Subject	External Assessments			Controlled Assessment and Practical skills	
	%	Year 11 Summer 2021 [** unit taken at a different time]	Year 12 Summer 2022 [** unit taken at a different time ]	%	Tasks
<b>Agriculture &amp; Land use</b> CCEA	40%	Unit 1: 20% Soils, Crops and Habitats.	Unit 2: 20% Animals on the Land.	60%	Unit 3: two tasks on contemporary topics relevant to Agriculture and Land Use.
<b>Art &amp; Design</b> CCEA (Linear)	40%	No external assessment units taken in Year 11.	Externally set assignment – 40% stimulus paper that provides a choice of themed starting points.	60%	Part A: 25% Exploratory Portfolio. Part B: 35% Investigating the Creative and Cultural Industries.
<b>Biology</b> CCEA	100%	Unit 1: 35% Cell, Living Processes and Biodiversity.	Unit 2: 40% Body Systems, Genetics, Microorganisms and Health. Unit 3: 17.5% Practical Skills Theory - Booklet B.	7.5%	Unit 3: Booklet A Practical Skills task - externally set and marked. Pupils carry out two practical tasks based on, but not identical to, 9 prescribed practicals carried out over two years. Term 2, Year 12.
<b>Business Studies</b> CCEA	80%	Unit 1: 40% Starting a Business – Creating a Business, Marketing, Business Operations.	Unit 2: 40 % Developing a Business – Human Resources, Business Growth, Finance.	20%	Unit 3: Planning a Business – students complete booklets showing planning and communicating findings.
<b>Chemistry</b> CCEA	100 %	Unit 1: 35% Structures, Trends, Chemical Reactions, Quantitative Chemistry and Analysis.	Unit 2: 40% Further Chemical Reactions, Rates and Equilibrium, Calculations and Organic Chemistry. Unit 3: 17.5% Practical Skills Theory - Booklet B.	7.5%	Unit 3: Booklet A Practical Skills task - externally set and marked. Pupils carry out two practical tasks based on, but not identical to, 9 prescribed practicals carried out over two years. Term 2, Year 12.
<b>Classical Civilisation</b> OCR (Linear)	100%	No external assessment units taken in Year 11.	Unit 1: 50% Myth and Religion. Unit 2: 50% Roman City Life.		
<b>Construction</b> CCEA	50%	No external assessment units taken in Year 11.	Unit 1: 20% Introduction to the Built Environment. Unit 2: 30% Sustainable Construction.	50%	Unit 3: 25% The Construction Craft Project. Unit 4: 25% Computer Aided Design.
<b>Digital Technology (Multimedia)</b> CCEA	70%	Unit 1: 30% Core Theory.	Unit 2: 40% Digital Authoring Theory.	30%	Unit: 3 Digital Authoring – Website and Database.
<b>Drama</b> CCEA (Linear)	40%	No external assessment units taken in Year 11.	Unit 3: 40% Knowledge and Understanding of Drama.	60%	Unit 1: 25% Devised Performance. Unit 2: 35% Scripted Performance.

<b>English Language</b> CCEA	60%	No external assessment units taken in Year 11.	Unit 1: 30% Writing for Purpose and Audience & Reading to Access Non-fiction and Media Texts. Unit 4: 30% Personal or Creative Writing and Reading Literary and Non-Fiction Texts.	40%	Unit 2: 20% Speaking and Listening. Unit 3: 20% Studying Spoken and Written Language.
<b>English Literature</b> CCEA	80%	Unit 1: 30% The Study of Prose.	Unit 2: 50% The Study of Drama and Poetry.	20%	Unit 3: The Study of Shakespeare.
<b>Food and Nutrition</b> CCEA (Linear)	50%	No external assessment units taken in Year 11.	Unit 1: Food and Nutrition.	50%	Unit 2: the task is set by the exam board and involves research and viewpoints, justification of choice, planning, practical activity and evaluation. Students present a written report on the task in the required format.
<b>French German Spanish</b> CCEA	100%	No external assessment units taken in Year 11.	Unit 1: 25% Listening. Unit 2: 25% Speaking. Unit 3: 25% Reading. Unit 4: 25% Writing.		
<b>Further Mathematics</b> CCEA	100%	Unit 1: 50% Pure Mathematics.	Unit 2: 25% Mechanics. Unit 3: 25% Statistics.		
<b>Geography</b> CCEA	100%	Unit 1: 40% Physical Topics.	Unit 2: 40% Human Topics. Unit 3: 20% Fieldwork Questions.		
<b>History</b> CCEA	100%	Unit 1: 60% Modern World in Depth – Life in Nazi Germany 1933-45 and Local Study – Changing Relations: Northern Ireland and its Neighbours.	Unit 2: 40% Outline Study - International Relations 1945-2003.		
<b>Mathematics</b> CCEA	100%	Unit worth 45% One paper.	Unit worth 55% Two papers [** some pupils will take a unit in January of 2022].		
<b>Media Studies</b> Eduqas (Linear)	70%	No external assessment units taken in Year 11.	Unit 1: 40% Exploring the Media Unit 2: 30 % Understanding Media Forms.	30%	Unit 3: Creating Media Products.

<b>Music</b> CCEA (Linear)	70%	No external assessment units taken in Year 11.	Unit 1: 35% Performing and Appraising. Unit 3: 35% Listening and Appraising.	30%	Unit 2: Composing Pupils create two compositions. One in response to pre-release stimulus and one free choice.
<b>Occupational Studies</b> CCEA Level 2 Technology and Innovation	0%	No external assessment units taken in Year 11.	No external assessment units taken in Year 12.	100%	A range of tasks are assessed in:- Unit 1: Year 11 AutoCAD Unit 2: year 12 Woodcraft Assessments include answering questions, practical work and evaluation.
<b>Physical Education</b> CCEA (Linear)	50%	No external assessment units taken in Year 11.	Unit 1: 25% Factors Underpinning Health and Performance. Unit 2: 25% Developing Performance.	50%	Unit 3: Individual Performances in Physical Activities and Sports.
<b>Physics</b> CCEA	100%	Unit 1: 37.5% Motion, Force, Density and Kinetic Theory, Energy, and Atomic and Nuclear Physics.	Unit 2: 37.5% Waves, Light, Electricity, Magnetism, Electromagnetism and Space Physics. Unit 3 17.5 % Practical Skills Theory Booklet B.	7.5%	Unit 3: Booklet A Practical skills task - externally set and marked. Pupils carry out two practical tasks based on, but not identical to, 9 prescribed practicals carried out over two years. Term 2, Year 12.
<b>Religious Studies</b> CCEA (Full course)	100%	Unit 6: 50% An Introduction to Christian Ethics.	Unit 4: 50% Christianity through a Study of the Gospel of Matthew.		
<b>Religious Studies</b> CCEA (Short course)	100%	No external assessment units taken in Year 11.	Unit 6: 50% An Introduction to Christian Ethics.		
<b>Science: Double Award</b> CCEA	100%	3 units (33%) Biology 1 (11%) Chemistry 1 (11%) Physics 1 (11%)	3 units (42%) Biology 2 (14%) Chemistry 2 (14%) Physics 2 (14%)  Practical Skills Theory External Assessment - Booklet B - 17.5%.	7.5%	Unit 3: Booklet A Practical Skills task - externally set and marked. Pupils carry out three practical tasks based on, but not identical to, 18 prescribed practicals carried out over two years. Term 2, Year 12.
<b>Science: Single Award</b> CCEA	100%	[**Term 2, Year 11, Unit 1 Biology 25%]	[**Term 2 Year 12 Unit 2: Chemistry 25%] Unit 3: Physics 25% Unit 4: Practical Skills Theory External Assessment – Booklet B 17.5%.	7.5%	Unit 3: Booklet A, Practical Skills task – externally set and marked. Pupils carry out two practical tasks based on, but not identical to, 9 prescribed practicals carried out over two years. Term 2, Year 12.
<b>Technology and Design</b> CCEA	50%	No external assessment units taken in Year 11.	Unit 1: 25% Technology & Design Core Content. Unit 2: 25% Electronic and Microelectronic Control Systems.	50%	Design project comprising a design portfolio and associated manufacturing task.

## GCSE Grading

Courses taught from September 2017 use a different grading scale:-

New A*-G Structure (summer 2019)	9-1 Structure (awarding phased in from 2017)	Old A*-G Structure (phased out from 2019)
A*	9 8 Rectangular Snip	A*
A	7	A
B	6	B
C*	5	C
C	4	
D	3	D
E	2	E
F	1	F
G		G

Subjects that will be graded 9 -1 in 2022:-

- Classical Civilisation
- Media Studies

Occupational Studies will be graded as follows (GCSE notional equivalency):-

- Distinction (A)\*
- Distinction (A)
- Merit (B)
- Pass (C)
- unclassified

## JCQ Information for Candidates

In an appendix to this booklet, you will receive information from the Joint Council for Qualifications which advises exam candidates about some things they must, and must not, do when completing controlled assessment. Please read this leaflet carefully. [www.jcq.org.uk](http://www.jcq.org.uk)