



9th February 2022

Dear Respected Parent/Carers,
Assalaamu alaikum - Peace be with you

Re: 2022 GCSE Exams Advance Information

As you are aware, I shared with you in our Information Advice and Guidance Evening, that advance information about examination topics was set to be made available on Monday 7 February. This letter shares with you the guidance and adaptations to courses across the subjects being studied at Eden Girls' School.

Subject teachers will share the guidance with pupils and make them aware of any curriculum changes for the remainder of the academic year. Pupils can expect curriculum time to be focused on retrieval of topic areas known to be in the exam. Teachers will follow closely the guidance given by exam boards to ensure that all specification areas are studied either in class or through homework.

This letter outlines key information to help you understand the advance information provided, its purpose and its limitations.

1. What is the purpose of advance information?

Advance information is intended to communicate, ahead of the examinations, the focus of the content of the examinations that will be assessed in the exam papers. The purpose of advance information is to support revision.

2. Where will I get the advance information from?

All exam boards have made advance information publicly available on their websites (see table on the following pages).

3. Why won't all advance information look the same for each exam board or subject?

The nature of the different specifications and assessments mean different approaches need to be taken. Also, advance information can be different depending on the exam board. It is important that guidance from teachers is followed at this stage.

4. Why will my subject not have advance information?

Advance information only applies to general qualifications (GCSEs) not vocational qualifications (Cambridge Nationals and BTECs). In GCSE Art, where there is no examination, there is no advance information. Some subjects – such as GCSE English Literature, History and Geography – contain optionality this year, which means that pupils will be able to choose which questions they answer from a range of options. **Advance information does not apply to subjects that contain optionality.**

5. What are synoptic questions?

Synoptic questions require pupils to draw together different areas of knowledge, skills and understanding from across the specification. Pupils will need to have covered all the specification content to ensure that they are best placed to answer these questions. Citizenship is a good example of a subject where this occurs.



6. What are 'low and high tariff' questions?

This will vary between different specifications, but tariff refers to the number of marks allocated to a given question. Low tariff are short questions typically worth 1 or 2 marks. High tariff questions are the longer questions within a paper – the topics covered by high tariff questions are identified in the advance information.

Teachers will continue to set homework that helps pupils prepare for low tariff questions.

7. Why can't I bring advance information into the examination if I've been using it to revise?

Advance information, if provided in the examination itself, could provide prompts to questions. This could lead to unfair results. However, in GCSE Mathematics, Physics and Combined Science pupils can take formulae sheets into the examinations. For these subjects, formulae sheets have been updated with more information.

Summary of Advance Information by Subject

Exam Board	Subject	Advance Information
AQA	English Language	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No advance information for Paper 1. https://filestore.aqa.org.uk/content/summer-2022/AQA-8700-AI-22.PDF
AQA	English Literature	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No advanced information as optionality is being introduced for 2022. https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/english/gcse/english-literature-8702/changes-for-2022
Edexcel	Mathematics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Advance information will be provided for all examined components. The advance information will be given for each paper in each tier, and collated for each whole tier. Topics not explicitly given in the advance information may still be needed as prerequisite skills to solve questions. New Formulae Sheet for 2022. https://qualifications.pearson.com/content/dam/pdf/GCSE/mathematics/2015/teaching-and-learning-materials/W73038_GCSE_Mathematics_1MA1_AN_Accessible_version.pdf
Edexcel	Science (Including Separate Sciences)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Advance information will apply to all examined components. Advance information will be provided for both the Foundation and Higher tier papers. There is a consistent approach across all Pearson GCSE Science qualifications. Assessment of practical skills, mathematics skills and working scientifically skills will occur throughout all papers as usual. Pupils will still be expected to apply their knowledge to unfamiliar contexts. In addition to the advance information, an updated equation sheet will be provided for Combined Science (Physics) (1SC0) and GCSE Physics (1PH0). https://qualifications.pearson.com/content/dam/pdf/GCSE/Science/2016/teaching-and-learning-materials/W73065_GCSE_Combined_Science_1SC0_AN_Accessible_version.pdf

Exam Board	Subject	Advance Information
AQA	Geography	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No advanced information as optionality is being introduced for 2022. Fieldwork is not required. https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/geography/gcse/geography-8035/changes-for-2022
AQA	History	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No advanced information as optionality is being introduced for 2022. Three out of four studies required. https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/history/gcse/history-8145/changes-for-2022
AQA	Modern Foreign Languages	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There is no advance information for Paper 1: Listening, Paper 2: Speaking and Paper 3: Reading. Advance information covers Paper 4: Writing only. French https://filestore.aqa.org.uk/content/summer-2022/AQA-8658-AI-22.PDF Spanish – home language entry https://filestore.aqa.org.uk/content/summer-2022/AQA-8698-AI-22.PDF
OCR	Computer Science	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Advance information will be provided for component 1 (Computer Systems) only. https://www.ocr.org.uk/images/J277%20GCSE%20Computer%20Science%20Advance%20Information_Jun2022.pdf
AQA	Art & Design (Fine Art)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pupils are assessed by Component 1 (Portfolio) only. No advanced information required. https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/art-and-design/gcse/art-and-design-8201-8206/changes-for-2022
AQA	Citizenship Studies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Advanced information available for all examined components. Some questions may be answerable using more than one area of specified content, including ones not listed. https://filestore.aqa.org.uk/content/summer-2022/AQA-8100-AI-22.PDF

Further Information

Further information is available from exam boards:

- [AQA](#)
- [OCR](#)
- [Pearson Edexcel](#)

Yours Faithfully,



Lisa Kiely

Deputy Principal