

Summer 2023 Assessment Arrangements Information for Students

In June 2022, the Education Minister for Northern Ireland confirmed there would be some changes to the assessment and awarding of CCEA qualifications in 2023. The changes are to support you following the disruption to learning caused by the pandemic. They include:

Advance Information

CCEA will provide **Advance Information** for our GCSE, AS and A level Summer 2023 exams.

That means we will publish the *broad focus* of the content of your Summer 2023 exam papers before you are due to sit your exams.

Advance Information will not include everything that is being assessed in each exam.

GCSE exams in November 2022

Unit exams for GCSE English Language and GCSE Mathematics will take place in late November/early December 2022 instead of January 2023.

You can check out the timetable now at www.ccea.org.uk/gcse-timetables

Internal assessment tasks

Some tasks from 2021/22 will be carried forward for a further year instead of being replaced by new ones. Your teachers will be able to tell you if this applies in your subjects.

Missed component calculation

If you miss an exam through no fault of your own, the amount of assessment that you must have completed to achieve a qualification grade will remain at 25%. (In a normal year it would be 40%.)

Fairness remains central to awarding in Summer 2023. The approach will take account of the pandemic disruption and help you progress on to the next stage of your learning. Summer 2023 will continue the journey back to pre-pandemic awarding arrangements for Summer 2024.



Advance Information – Summer 2023 exams

What is Advance Information?

Advance Information will give you an indication of broad areas of the specification that will be assessed in your Summer 2023 exams. Its purpose is to support your preparation and revision, increasing your confidence in the run-up to the exams period.

Advance Information will be available for most CCEA GCSE, AS and A2 exams (see next column for exceptions) and can be used by all students in Summer 2023.

You can check out the Summer 2023 timetable now at www.ccea.org.uk/summer-2023.

Which exams will Advance Information be available for in 2022/23?

Advance Information will be available for the Summer exams series in May and June only – not the November or March series. The Summer series is when most students sit their exams and is the only series where all assessments are available. This will ensure fairness to all students taking exams this year.

Advance Information will be available for most CCEA GCSE, AS and A2 exams. However, there are exceptions, either because of the nature of assessments in those subjects (assessment by coursework or controlled assessment or skills-focused examinations) or because of policy decisions.

The subjects/units where Advance Information **won't** be available in Summer 2023 are:

- GCSE, AS and A Level Art and Design
- AS and A Level Performing Arts
- GCSE Contemporary Crafts
- Unit 2 of GCSE Engineering and Manufacturing
- GCSE Mathematics*
- Practical Booklet A in AS and A Level Chemistry and Physics.



* A Note on GCSE Mathematics

GCSE students will receive a maths exam aid with formulae and equations for the November 2022 and Summer 2023 exam series.



Advance Information – Summer 2023 exams

What will Advance Information look like?

Differences between types of qualifications, exams and assessments mean that Advance Information won't look the same in every subject. As subject specifications each have their own design and types of assessment, different approaches will suit different subjects.

Once the information is published, your teachers will guide you as to how it can support your learning and exam preparation.

You can view examples of how Advance Information looks at www.ccea.org.uk/summer-2023/advance-information

When can I see the Advance Information?

We will publish the Advance Information on the CCEA website, www.ccea.org.uk, by **Monday 27 February 2023**. Before this date we will also update your school or college so they can be ready to offer you advice and support. There is already a Teacher Information and Support area at www.ccea.org.uk/summer-2023 with a document for each qualification (a 'specification addendum') that gives your teacher some details on this year's assessments and tasks.

Advance Information – Key Facts

Advance Information ...

- ✓ will be available to use from **Monday 27 February 2023** when it is published on the CCEA website
- ✓ can be used by teachers and students to support **revision**
- ✓ will look **different** for different subjects
- ✓ will focus on areas of **knowledge, skills, contexts, sources, texts** and/or **themes**
- ✓ will be as **accessible** as possible
- ✓ will be available for **Summer 2023** exams only.

Advance Information ...

- ✗ **won't** set out what is on your exam paper
- ✗ **won't** be allowed in the examination hall
- ✗ **won't** allow you to predict questions or prepare answers
- ✗ **won't** require any changes to question papers – they will keep their usual format and structure
- ✗ **won't** be available for a small number of subjects/units (details on page 2).

Important



Advance Information will not include everything that is being assessed in each examination.

To make sure you are fully prepared for your exams, and for future work or study, it is important you revise the full content of each qualification.



Grading

Fairness to students remains central to awarding in Summer 2023. This includes both taking account of the impact of COVID-19 and ensuring that students taking CCEA qualifications can progress to the next stage of their learning pathway.

After the return to public exams in 2021/22, this year CCEA is continuing the journey back to the awarding arrangements that were in place before the pandemic. We expect to be back to pre-pandemic standards in awarding our qualifications by Summer 2024.

What happens next?

As highlighted earlier, you can view examples on our website of how Advance Information will look and what you can expect from it at www.ccea.org.uk/summer-2023/advance-information

These are examples only, not to be used for revision purposes. The actual information we publish in February next year may be different.

Further information

Throughout 2022/23, keep an eye on CCEA's social media channels and www.ccea.org.uk/summer-2023 (including our FAQ section) for information and updates.

