

Executive Headteacher

Tuesday 8th February 2022

UPDATE

Dear parents/carers

Re: GCSE and A-Level Exam Changes and Guidance for Summer 2022

This week the examination boards outlined the adaptations being made to examinations this summer following the disruption to learning caused by the pandemic. There are some general changes which will be summarised below and more detailed guidance for individual subjects which will be shared with students and parents in the near future.

Grade Boundaries

Over the next two years grade boundaries will be adjusted so that the pass rate at each grade is similar to that in 2019 (the last year of full exams). 2022 is a transitional year with the grade boundaries set so that the **pass rate at each grade will be roughly the mid-point between 2019 and 2021 levels.**

This approach was widely expected and departments took this into account when grading PPE's and making grade forecasts so these remain unchanged.

Exam Content

The advance information for exam content can be broadly split into two categories.

- **Advanced notice of topics for each exam paper in a qualification:** For certain subjects, such as Mathematics, the topics for each exam paper have been published. This is not at a level which allows actual questions to be predicted or answers prepared but it will be a very helpful revision aid, both for the students and for teachers in helping to prepare classes.
- **Optionality:** In some subjects' students will be able to choose which questions to answer – such as Geography or History. This will allow more time to be dedicated to preparing for one individual area. In addition, some exams have had elements removed, such as the requirement for fieldwork in Geography.

It would not be practical to list every adaptation to the exams in this letter. Please be reassured that we are working through the detail of the changes in every subject and shortly **after the half term break we will be informing all students of the changes** and ensuring that they are thoroughly prepared for each exam.

All students have suffered a lot of disruption over the last two years and there is nothing in these announcements for them to worry about, in fact we are very pleased about the announcement. The adaptations made will allow them to prepare for exams focussed on content which they can be confident will be tested. We hope that this will relieve much of the anxiety around having to sit exams and allow students to perform to their very best and achieve the grades that they fully deserve.

Kindest regards,



Mrs Lucy Conley, Executive Headteacher SLATrust



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