**Summary of DfE/STA Announcement**

**3rd December 2020**

**GCSE, AS and A Levels**

Students sitting exams and other assessments next year will benefit from a package of exceptional measures to make them as fair as possible and manage the disruption caused by Covid-19.

Building on the three-week delay to exams to free up extra teaching time announced in October, the new measures include:

* **more generous grading than usual**, in line with national outcomes from 2020;
* students receiving **advance notice of some topic areas covered in GCSE, AS and A levels** to focus revision;
* **exam aids** - like formula sheets - provided in some exams to give students more confidence and reducing the amount of information they need to memorise;
* **additional exams** to give students a second chance to sit a paper if the main exams or assessments are missed due to illness or self-isolation;
* **a new expert group** to look at differential learning and monitor the variation in the impact of the pandemic on students across the country.

Students taking vocational and technical qualifications will also see adaptations to ensure parity between general and vocational qualifications.

The Government has also developed a series of contingency measures with Ofqual:

* **If a student misses all their assessments in a subject**, they will have the opportunity to sit a contingency paper held shortly after the main exams.
* In the extreme case **where a student has a legitimate reason to** **miss all their papers**, then a validated teacher informed assessment can be used, only once all chances to sit an exam have passed.

The Government will set out further detail on this process, and on adaptations to exams, in the new year.

**Ofsted Inspections**

* **Full, graded Ofsted inspections will not resume until the summer term**.
* In the interim, Ofsted will conduct **supportive monitoring inspections** to those schools and colleges currently judged “inadequate” and some that “require improvement”.
* These inspections will focus on important issues like **curriculum, remote education and pupil attendance**, particularly of vulnerable children.
* Ofsted will also continue to have the **power to inspect a school**, further education or early years provider, if they have **serious concerns**, including about safeguarding and remote education.

**Reviewed Remote Education Guidance and Updated Expectations**

The Government has also reviewed remote education guidance and published updated expectations to provide further clarity for schools, colleges, parents and pupils.

* **Primary schools** are expected to provide **a minimum of three hours a day** on average of remote education
* **Secondary schools** expected to provide **at least four hours’ worth**.

**Primary Assessments**

For 2021, the following assessments have been removed:

* all**key stage 1** (KS1) tests
* the**key stage 2** (KS2) English grammar, punctuation and spelling test
* the requirement to make and report **teacher assessment judgements for science** at KS1 and KS2

In addition, the following changes have been made:

* delayed the statutory introduction of the **multiplication tables check** – schools may choose to take part on an optional basis
* extended the **timetable variation periods for phonics and KS2**, to allow schools greater flexibility if pupils cannot take the tests on the scheduled dates because of coronavirus disruption
	+ **key stage 2 tests –** original timetable extended by a week to 26 May
	+ **phonics screening check -** original timetable extended by a week to 25 June
* removed the requirement for schools to submit applications for pupils who need **additional time** in KS2 tests or notifications that they used an aid (such as a scribe or word processor)

This means that the following statutory assessments will continue in 2021:

* the **phonics screening check** for year 1 pupils (and year 2 pupils who have not met the expected standard previously)
* **KS2 English reading and mathematics tests**
* **KS1 and KS2 teacher assessment** (excluding science)

**Primary performance data** will not be published

**League Tables**

* **Exam results will not be included in performance tables** this year
* The government will instead publish attendance information, student destinations and subjects taken at key stage 4 and 5

Please see here for the full [press release from the DfE](https://www.gov.uk/government/news/extra-measures-to-support-students-ahead-of-next-summers-exams)