St. Mary's

Grammar School, Magherafelt.

GCSE EXAMINATIONS

2026-27

NOTICE TO CANDIDATES

INSTRUCTIONS AND REGULATIONS FOR:-

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JCQ CIC Joint Council for Qualifications CIC

Information for candidates

Written examinations

Effective from 1 September 2026

Produced on behalf of:

AQA CAMBRIDGE OCR City & Guilds cea NCFE Pearson wjec cbac

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This document has been written to help you.
Read it carefully and follow the instructions.

If there is anything you do not understand, ask your teacher.
You should also check with your teacher which calculator you may use in your exams.

A. Regulations – Make sure you understand the rules

1 Be on time for all your exams. If you are late, your work might not be accepted.

2 **Do not** become involved in any unfair or dishonest practice during the exam.

3 If you try to cheat or break the rules in any way, you could be disqualified from **all** your exams.

4 You **must not** take any unauthorised material into the exam room, including:

(a) notes;

(b) earphones or earbuds (e.g. AirPods), MP3/4 players or similar devices, smart devices, smart glasses, tablets (e.g. iPads or iPods);

(c) a mobile phone;

(d) a watch (e.g. analogue, digital, smartwatch);

Any pencil cases taken into the exam room **must** be see-through.

Remember: possession of unauthorised material is breaking the rules, even if you do not intend to use it, and you will be subject to sanctions and possible disqualification.

5 **Do not** use correcting pens, fluid or tape, erasable pens, highlighters or gel pens in your answers.

6 **Do not** talk to or try to communicate with or disturb other candidates once you have entered the exam room.

7 You **must not** write inappropriate, obscene or offensive material.

8 If you leave the exam room unaccompanied by an invigilator before the exam has finished, you **will not** be allowed to return.

9 **Do not** borrow anything from another candidate during the exam.

B. Information – Make sure you attend your exams and bring what you need

1 Know the dates and times of all your exams. Arrive at least ten minutes before the start of your exam.

2 If you arrive late for an exam, report to the invigilator running the exam.

3 If you arrive more than one hour after the published starting time for the exam, you may not be allowed to take it.

4 Only take into the exam room the pens, pencils, erasers and any other permitted equipment needed for the exam.

5 You **must** write clearly and in black ink. Coloured pencils or inks may be used only for diagrams, maps, charts, etc, unless the instructions printed on the front of the question paper state otherwise.

C. Calculators, dictionaries and computer spellcheckers

1 You may use a calculator unless you are told otherwise.

2 If you use a calculator:

(a) make sure it works properly; check that the batteries are working properly;

(b) clear anything stored in its memory and make sure it is in exam mode;

(c) remove any parts such as cases, lids or covers which have printed instructions or formulae;

(d) **do not** bring any operating instructions or prepared programs into the exam room.

3 **Do not** use a dictionary or computer spellchecker unless you are told otherwise.

D. Instructions during the exam

1 Always listen to the invigilator. Always follow their instructions.

2 Tell the invigilator at once if:

(a) you think you have not been given the right question paper or all of the materials listed on the front of the paper;

(b) the question paper is incomplete or badly printed;

(c) you think you have not been given the expected access arrangement(s).

3 Read carefully and follow the instructions printed on the question paper and/or on the answer booklet.

4 **Do not** start writing anything until the invigilator tells you to fill in all the details required on the front of the question paper and/or the answer booklet. **Do not** open the question paper until you are told that the exam has begun.

5 Remember to write your answers within the designated sections of the answer booklet.

6 Do your rough work on the proper exam stationery. Cross it through and place any additional answer sheets inside your answer booklet. (For CCEA examinations place any additional sheets behind your answer booklet.)

Make sure you add your candidate details to any additional answer sheets that you use, including those used for rough work.

E. Advice and assistance

1 If, on the day of the exam, you feel that your work may be affected by ill health or any other reason, tell the invigilator.

2 Put up your hand during the exam if:

(a) you have a problem and are not sure what you should do;

(b) you do not feel well;

(c) you need more paper.

3 **You must** not ask for, and will not be given, any explanation of the questions.

F. At the end of the exam

1 If you have used more than one answer booklet and/or any supplementary answer sheets, place them in the correct order.

Place any loose additional answer sheets inside your answer booklet.

Make sure you add your candidate details to any additional answer sheets that you use.

For CCEA examinations, any loose additional answer sheets should be placed **behind** your answer booklet.

2 **Do not** leave the exam room until told to do so by the invigilator.

3 **Do not** take any stationery from the exam room. This includes the question paper, answer booklets (used or unused), rough work or any other materials provided for the exam.

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JCQ CIC Joint Council for Qualifications CIC

Information for candidates

On-screen examinations

Effective from 1 September 2026

Produced on behalf of:

AQA CAMBRIDGE OCR City & Guilds CCEA NCFE Pearson WJEC CBAC

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This document has been written to help you.
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If there is anything you do not understand ask your teacher.

A. Regulations – Make sure you understand the rules

1 Be on time for your on-screen exam(s). If you are late, your work might not be accepted.

2 **Do not** become involved in any unfair or dishonest practice during the on-screen exam.

3 If you try to cheat or break the rules in any way, you could be disqualified from **all** your exams.

4 Only take into the exam room the materials and equipment which are allowed for that exam.

5 You **must not** take any unauthorised material into the exam room, including:

(a) notes;

(b) earphones or earbuds (e.g. AirPods), MP3/4 players or similar devices, smart devices, smart glasses, tablets (e.g. iPads or iPods);

(c) a mobile phone;

(d) a watch (e.g. analogue, digital and smartwatch);

Unless you are told otherwise, you **must not** have access to:

(e) AI tools, email, graphics packages or computer aided design software, portable storage media, e.g. memory sticks, social media sites, spreadsheets or the internet;

(f) prepared templates.

Bringing unauthorised material into the exam room is breaking the rules, whether you intend to use it or not. You will be subject to sanctions and possible disqualification.

6 **Do not** talk to, try to communicate with or disturb other candidates once you have entered the exam room.

7 If you leave the exam room unaccompanied by an invigilator before the on-screen exam has finished, you **will not** be allowed to return.

8 **Do not** borrow anything from another candidate during the on-screen exam.

B. Information – Make sure you attend your on-screen exam and bring what you need

1 Know the date and time of your on-screen exam(s). Arrive at least ten minutes before the start of your on-screen exam.

2 If you arrive late for an on-screen exam, report to the invigilator running the exam.

3 If you arrive more than one hour after the published starting time for the on-screen exam, you may not be allowed to take it.

4 Your centre will inform you of any equipment which you may need for the on-screen exam.

C. Calculators, dictionaries and computer spellcheckers

1 You may use a calculator unless you are told otherwise.

2 If you use a calculator:

(a) make sure it works properly; check that the batteries are working properly;

(b) clear anything stored in its memory and make sure it is in exam mode;

(c) remove any parts such as cases, lids or covers which have printed instructions or formulae;

(d) **do not** bring any operating instructions or prepared programs into the exam room.

3 **Do not** use a dictionary or computer spellchecker unless you are told otherwise.

D. Instructions during the on-screen exam

1 Always listen to the invigilator. Always follow their instructions.

2 Tell the invigilator at once if:

(a) you have been entered for the wrong on-screen exam;

(b) the on-screen exam is in another candidate's name;

(c) you experience system delays or any other IT issues;

(d) your access to the on-screen exam has not been set up correctly;

(e) adjustments to the on-screen exam have not been made for you, e.g. additional time has not been added, computer reading software or speech recognition software has not been uploaded.

3 You may be given a question paper or the instructions may be on screen. In either case, read carefully and follow the instructions. **Do not** open the question paper until you are told that the exam has begun.

E. Advice and assistance

1 If, on the day of the on-screen exam, you feel that your work may be affected by ill health or any other reason, tell the invigilator.

2 Put up your hand during the on-screen exam if:

(a) you have a problem with your computer and are not sure what you should do;

(b) you do not feel well.

3 You **must not** ask for, and will not be given, any explanation of the questions.

F. At the end of the on-screen exam

1 Ensure that the software closes at the end of the on-screen exam.

2 If you are required to print off work outside the time allowed for the on-screen exam, ensure that you collect your own work. You **must not** share your work with other candidates. Make sure that another candidate does not collect your printout(s).

3 **Do not** leave the exam room until told to do so by the invigilator.

4 **Do not** take any stationery from the exam room. This includes rough work, printouts or any other materials provided for the on-screen exam.

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Joint Council for Qualifications CIC

Information for candidates

Non-examination assessments

Effective from 1 September 2026

Produced on behalf of:

AQA CAMBRIDGE OCR City & Guilds CEA NCFE Pearson WJEC CBAC

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This document tells you about some things that you **must** and **must not** do when you are completing your work.

When you submit your work for marking, the awarding body will normally require you to sign an authentication statement confirming that you have read and followed the regulations.

If there is something that you do not understand, you **must** ask your teacher.

Preparing your work - good practice

If you receive help and guidance from someone other than your teacher, you **must** tell your teacher. They will then record the assistance given to you.

If you worked as part of a group on an assignment, for example undertaking field research, you **must** write up your **own account** of the assignment. Even if the information you have is the same, you **must** describe in your own words how that information was obtained. You **must draw your own conclusions from the data**.

You **must** meet the deadlines that your teacher gives you. Remember – your teachers are there to guide you. Although they cannot give you direct assistance, they can help you to sort out any problems before it is too late.

Take care of your work and keep it safe. **Do not** leave it lying around where your classmates can find it. **Do not** share it with anyone, including posting it on social media. You must always keep your work secure and confidential. If it is stored on the computer network, keep your password secure. Collect all copies from the printer and destroy those you do not need.

Do not be tempted to use any prepared or generated online solutions and try to pass them off as your own work – this is cheating. Electronic tools used by awarding bodies can detect this sort of copying.

You **must not** write inappropriate, offensive or obscene material.

Research and using references

In some subjects, you will have an opportunity to do some independent research into a topic.

The research you do may involve looking for information in published sources, such as textbooks, encyclopedias, journals, TV, radio and on the internet.

You can demonstrate your knowledge and understanding of a subject by using information from sources, or generated from sources, which may include the internet and AI. Remember, though, information from these sources may be incorrect or biased. You **must** take care how you use this material - you cannot copy it and claim it as your own work.

Using information from published sources (including the internet) as the basis for your assignment is a good way to demonstrate your knowledge and understanding of a subject. You **must** take care how you use this material though – you **cannot** copy it and claim it as your own work.

> The regulations state that:
>
> 'the work which you submit for assessment **must** be your own';
>
> 'you **must not** copy from someone else or allow another candidate to copy from you'.

When producing a piece of work, if you use the same wording as a published source, you **must** place quotation marks around the passage and state where it came from. This is known as **referencing**. You **must** make sure that you give detailed references for everything in your work which is not in your own words. A reference from a printed book or journal should show the name of the author, the year of publication and the page number. For example: Morrison, 2000, p29.

For material taken from the internet, your reference should show the date when the material was downloaded and **must** show the precise web page, not the search engine used to locate it. This can be copied from the address line. For example: http://news.bbc.co.uk/onthisday/hi/dates/stories/october/28/newsid_2621000/2621915.stm, downloaded 5 February 2027.

Where AI has been used, your reference **must** show the name of the AI tool used and should show the date the content was generated. For example: ChatGPT 3.5 (https://openai.com/blog/chatgpt/), 25/01/2027. You should also acknowledge the sources used by the AI tool in generating the content.

You **must** retain a copy of the question(s)/prompts used to generate the AI content and the AI-generated content itself in a non-editable format (such as a screenshot) and provide a brief explanation of how you used it. This **must** be submitted with your work for final assessment so that your teacher can review the work, the AI-generated content and how it has been used.

You may be required to include a bibliography at the end of your piece of written work. Your teacher will tell you whether this is necessary. Where required, your bibliography **must** list the full details of publications you have used in your research, even where these are not directly referred to. For example: Curran, J. *Mass Media and Society* (Hodder Arnold, 2005).

If you copy the words, ideas or outputs from other sources and do not show your sources in references and a bibliography, this will be considered as cheating.

Plagiarism

Plagiarism involves taking someone else's words, thoughts, ideas or outputs and not crediting the source. This includes outputs from AI tools. It could also include AI-produced material. **Plagiarism is a form of cheating which is taken very seriously.**

Don't think you won't be caught; there are many ways to detect plagiarism.

- Markers can spot changes in the style of writing and use of language.
- Markers are highly experienced subject specialists who will be very familiar with work on the topic concerned. They may have read the source you are using or even marked the work you have copied from.
- Internet search engines for detecting plagiarism and specialised computer software can be used to match phrases or pieces of text with original sources and to detect changes in the grammar and style of writing or punctuation.

Sanctions for breaking the regulations

If it is discovered that you have broken the regulations, one of the following sanctions will be applied:

- you will be awarded zero marks for your work;
- you will be disqualified from that component for the examination series in question;
- you will be disqualified from the whole subject for that examination series;
- you will be disqualified from all subjects and barred from entering again for a period of time.

The awarding body will decide which sanction is appropriate.

REMEMBER – IT'S YOUR QUALIFICATION SO IT NEEDS TO BE YOUR OWN WORK.

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Information for Candidates
GCSE Controlled Assessments

This document tells you some things of the things you must and must not do when you are completing your work.

When you submit work for marking, you will be asked to sign an authentication statement confirming that you have read and followed these regulations and the work is your own.

If there is anything you do not understand, you **must** ask your teacher or lecturer.

Controlled assessment may provide you with an opportunity to do some independent research into a topic. The research you do may involve looking for information in published sources such as textbooks, encyclopedias, journals, TV, radio and on the internet.

Using information from published sources, including the internet, as the basis for your assignment is a good way to demonstrate your knowledge and understanding of a subject. However, you must take care how you use this material – you cannot copy it and claim it as your own work.

You can demonstrate your knowledge and understanding of a subject by using information from sources, or generated from sources, which may include the internet and artificial intelligence (AI) tools. Remember though, you must take care how you use this material – you cannot copy it and claim it as your own work. You must also ensure you adhere to the requirements of the specification (for more information, refer to Section 6 of each subject specification).

The controlled assessment regulations state:
"the work which you submit for assessment must be your own;"
"you must not copy from someone else or allow another candidate to copy from you."

When producing a piece of work, if you use the same wording as a published source, you must place quotation marks around the passage and state where it came from. This is called "referencing". You must make sure you give detailed references for everything in your work which is not in your own words. A reference from a printed book or journal should show the name of the author, the year of publication and the page number, for example: Morrison, 2000, pg.29.

For all material taken from the internet, your reference must; show the date when the material was downloaded and the precise web page, not the search engine used to locate it. This can be copied from the address line. For example, https://ccea.org.uk/students-parents/choosing-qualifications/case-student-guides downloaded 5 February 2011.

Where computer-generated content has been used (such as an AI Chatbot), your reference must show the name of the AI bot used and should show the date the content was generated. For example: ChatGPT 3.5 (https://openai.com/blog/chatgpt/), 25/01/2024. You should retain a copy of the computer-generated content for reference and authentication purposes.

You may be required to include a bibliography at the end of your work. Your teacher or lecturer will tell you whether a bibliography is necessary. If required, your bibliography must list the full details of publications you have used in your research, even where these are not directly referred to, for example: Morrison, A. (2000) 'Mary, Queen of Scots', London: Weston Press.

If you copy the words, ideas or outputs from other sources, and don't reference those sources in a bibliography, this will be considered as cheating.

Preparing your work – good practice

If you receive help and guidance from someone other than your teacher, you **must** tell your teacher who will then record the nature of the assistance given to you.

If you worked as part of a group on an assignment, for example undertaking field research, you must each write up your own individual assignment. Even if the data you have is the same, you **must** describe in your own words how that data was obtained and **you must independently draw your own conclusions from the data.**

You must meet the deadlines your teacher gives you. Remember – your teachers are there to guide you. Although they cannot give you direct assistance, they may help you to sort out any problems before it is too late.

Take care of your work and keep it safe. Do not leave it lying around where your classmates can find it. You must always keep your work secure and confidential whilst you are preparing it. If your work is stored on the computer network, keep your password secure. Collect all copies from the printer and destroy those you do not need. Do not share your work with your classmates. Should a classmate be found to have copied work that you lent them, you will have enabled them to cheat, and you will also receive a penalty.

Don't be tempted to use any pre-prepared or AI-generated solutions and try to pass them off as your own work – this is cheating. Electronic tools used by CCEA can detect this has occurred.

You must not write inappropriate, offensive or obscene material.

Plagiarism

Plagiarism involves taking someone else's words, thoughts, ideas or outputs and trying to pass them off as your own. This includes AI-generated content. **It is a form of cheating which is taken very seriously**.

Do not think you will not be caught; there are many ways to detect plagiarism.

- Markers can spot changes in the style of writing and use of language.
- Markers are highly experienced subject specialists who are very familiar with work on the topic concerned – they may have read the source you are using (or even marked the essay you have copied from!).
- Internet search engines and specialised computer software can be used to match phrases or pieces of text with original sources and to detect changes in the grammar and style of writing or punctuation.

Penalties for breaking the regulations

If your work is submitted and it is discovered that you have broken the regulations, one of the following penalties may be applied:

- the piece of work will be awarded zero marks;
- you will be disqualified from that unit for the examination series in question;
- you will be disqualified from the whole subject for that examination series;
- you will be disqualified from all subjects and barred from entering again for a period of time.

The awarding body will decide which penalty is appropriate.

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Joint Council for Qualifications CIC

Information for candidates

Coursework assessments

Effective from 1 September 2026

Produced on behalf of:

AQA CAMBRIDGE OCR City & Guilds CEA Pearson WJEC CBAC

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This document tells you about some things that you **must** and **must not** do when you are completing coursework.

When you submit your work for marking, you will be asked to sign an authentication statement confirming that you have read and followed these regulations.

If there is anything that you do not understand, you **must** ask your teacher.

In some subjects you will have an opportunity to do some independent research into a topic. The research you do may involve looking for information in published sources, such as textbooks, encyclopedias, journals, TV, radio and on the internet.

You can demonstrate your knowledge and understanding of a subject by using information from sources, or generated from sources, which may include the internet and AI. Remember, though, information from these sources may be incorrect or biased. You **must** take care how you use this material - you **cannot** copy it and claim it as your own work.

> The regulations state that:
>
> 'the work which you submit for assessment **must** be your own';
>
> 'you **must not** copy from someone else or allow another candidate to copy from you'.

If you use the same wording as a published source, you **must** place quotation marks around the passage and state where it came from. This is called 'referencing'. You **must** make sure that you give detailed references for everything in your work which is not in your own words. A reference from a printed book or journal should show the name of the author, the year of publication and the page number. For example: (Morrison, 2000, p29).

For material taken from the internet, your reference should show the date when the material was downloaded and **must** show the precise web page, not the search engine used to locate it. This can be copied from the address line. For example: http://news.bbc.co.uk/onthisday/hi/dates/stories/october/28/newsid_2621000/2621915.stm, downloaded 5 February 2027.

Where AI has been used, your reference **must** show the name of the AI tool used and should show the date the content was generated. For example: ChatGPT 3.5 (https://openai.com/blog/chatgpt/), 25/01/2027.

You should also acknowledge the sources used by the AI tool in generating the content.

You **must** retain a copy of the question(s)/prompts used to generate the AI content as well as the AI generated content itself and authentication purposes in a non-editable format (such as a screenshot) and provide a brief explanation of how you used it. This **must** be submitted with your work for final assessment so that your teacher can review the work, the AI-generated content and how it has been used.

You may be required to produce a bibliography at the end of your work. This **must** list the full details of publications you have used in your research, even where these are not directly referred to. For example: Curran, J. *Mass Media and Society* (Hodder Arnold, 2005).

If you copy the words, ideas or outputs from other sources and do not show your sources in references and a bibliography, this will be considered as cheating.

Preparing your coursework – good practice

If you receive help and guidance from someone other than your teacher, you **must** tell your teacher. They will then record the nature of the assistance given to you.

Your parent/carer may provide you with access to resource materials and discuss your coursework with you. However, they **must not** give you direct advice on what should or should not be included.

If you worked as part of a group on an assignment, you **must each** write up your **own account** of the assignment. Even if the information you have is the same, the description of how that information was obtained and the conclusions you draw from it should be in your own words.

You **must** meet the deadlines that your teacher gives you. Remember – your teachers are there to guide you. Although they cannot give you direct assistance, they can help you to sort out any problems before it is too late.

Take care of your work and keep it safe. **Don't** leave it lying around where your classmates can find it. **Don't** share it with anyone, including posting it on social media. You **must always** keep your work secure and confidential. If it is stored on the computer network, keep your password secure. Collect all copies from the printer and destroy those you do not need.

Don't be tempted to use any prepared or generated online solutions and try to pass them off as your own work – this is cheating. Electronic tools used by awarding bodies can detect this sort of copying.

You **must not** write inappropriate, offensive or obscene material.

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- Markers can spot changes in the style of writing and use of language.
- Markers are highly experienced subject specialists who will be familiar with work on the topic concerned. They may have read the source you are using or even marked the work you have copied from.
- Internet search engines for detecting plagiarism and specialised computer software can be used to match phrases or pieces of text with original sources. They can detect changes in the grammar and style of writing or punctuation.

Sanctions for breaking the regulations

If it is discovered that you have broken the rules, one of the following sanctions will be applied:

- you will be awarded zero marks for your work;
- you will be disqualified from that unit for that examination series;
- you will be disqualified from the whole subject for that examination series;
- you will be disqualified from all subjects and barred from entering again for a period of time.

The awarding body will decide which sanction is appropriate.

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Rewarding Learning

Preventing Malpractice in **Examinations and Assessments**

Guidance for Candidates

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1 Introduction

This document provides guidance for anyone taking CCEA qualifications. It will support you in understanding what malpractice is and help you to stay within the rules for taking exams and completing controlled assessment or coursework. Please read it carefully.

The Joint Council for Qualifications (JCQ) provide a range of advice and guidance in their **Information for candidates documents**; these are available at www.jcq.org.uk and will be provided to you by your school/college. You can also read the JCQ **Suspected malpractice: policies and procedures** Appendix 6.

2 What is candidate malpractice?

JCQ define malpractice as any act, default or practice which is:



- a breach of the Regulations; and/or
- a breach of CCEA requirements regarding how a qualification should be delivered; and/or
- a failure to follow established procedures in relation to a qualification;
  - gives rise to prejudice to candidates; and/or
  - compromises public confidence in qualifications; and/or
  - compromises, attempts to compromise or may compromise the process of assessment, the integrity of any qualification or the validity of a result or certificate; and/or
  - damages the authority, reputation or credibility of any awarding body or school or officer, employee or agent of any awarding body or school.

Candidate malpractice therefore is any action you may take that could call into question the integrity or authenticity of your exam or assessment or that may mean the outcome of your assessment is not a true reflection of your individual ability and effort.

Malpractice can happen during any exam or assessment. This includes while you are:

- preparing and authenticating controlled assessment or coursework;
- carrying out practical assessment work;
- compiling portfolios of assessment evidence; or
- completing your exams.

All allegations of malpractice and suspected malpractice must be reported to CCEA and investigated by your school/college to ensure the integrity and authenticity of the assessment and to be fair to you and all other candidates.

Malpractice can be reported to CCEA by your school/college, another school/college, those marking assessments/exams, other students, and members of the public. CCEA also monitors social media to check that information you share does not break the rules.

3 How can I avoid committing malpractice?

Committing malpractice can have very serious consequences for your results in a qualification. You could lose all marks in an assessment unit or be disqualified from a qualification.



Make sure you:

- read and fully understand all the information in the JCQ **Information for Candidates documents** provided to you by your school/college. If you are unsure about anything you should ask your teacher.
- do not take your mobile phone or any unauthorised items into the exam room under any circumstances. If there is a family emergency, make sure the school/college office is aware of it and can manage communications with your family for you. Having notes, AirPods, a watch or a phone in the exam room, even if it is switched off and not used, has serious consequences and can include disqualification from your exam/assessment.
- arrive in good time for your exams/assessments. Arriving late can result in you rushing and possibly bringing in unauthorised materials such as notes or a phone by mistake. This could result in you losing all marks for that exam/assessment.
- only submit your own work for coursework, controlled assessments and portfolio materials. Your teachers and the assessors can easily detect changes in style, language and grammar.
- fully understand what plagiarism is. You cannot present work from sources such as the internet, books and magazines as your own work. Where you use information directly from books, the internet, AI or other sources, make sure it has been referenced as your teacher has requested. Assessors look out for plagiarism, and anti-plagiarism software can check the source of work submitted.
- do not include any inappropriate or offensive material in any work that you submit.
- do not copy from other candidates, allow your work to be copied or lend your work to other candidates. Both allowing work to be copied and lending work without knowing it would be copied are malpractice. Penalties will be applied if you do any of these things.
- understand the risks of discussing exam or assessment-related information on social media. CCEA investigate all inappropriate exam or assessment information found or reported.
- behave appropriately during exams by listening and fully co-operating with relevant staff and JCQ rules. Inappropriate or disruptive behaviour can result in you losing marks or being disqualified from a qualification.

4 What should I look out for?

4.1 Unauthorised items in the exam room

You must not bring an iPod, a mobile phone, a MP3/4 player or similar device or watch into any exam or assessment under any circumstances. If you are found to have one in your possession, you may lose all marks for your paper or assessment. Even if you have not used the item and it is switched off, or the battery is dead, penalties still apply.



If you are caught using any unauthorised item for any reason, even if this is not related to the exam/assessment, you will be disqualified from the unit. This means you cannot get a grade for that subject.

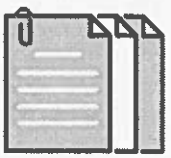
As you should not have a phone during the exam or assessment, you should tell parents/guardians not to contact your mobile phone during this time. For urgent issues they should contact your school/college office, and staff will manage this communication for you.

To find out more, see the **Unauthorised items poster**.

4.2 Plagiarism

Plagiarism involves taking someone else's words, thoughts, outputs or ideas and presenting them as your own. As well as copying from published texts in print or on the internet, plagiarism can refer to essays, pieces of work or artefacts previously submitted for assessment by others. Learning off the content of a text and reproducing this is also plagiarism. It is a form of cheating which is taken very seriously.

Teachers and assessors look out for plagiarism in:



- coursework;
- controlled assessments;
- the presentation of any practical work;
- portfolios of assessment evidence; and
- exam papers.

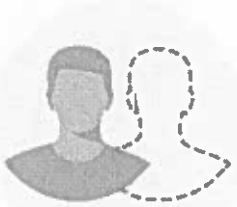
Teachers and assessors are very experienced and detect plagiarism easily by:

- noticing changes in the style of writing and your use of language;
- being very familiar with work on the topic concerned (they may have read or seen the source you use or even have marked the essay you have copied from); and
- using internet search engines and specialised computer software to match phrases or pieces of text with the original source.

You must properly reference all text and images you use in your work which are not your own original work. Make sure you follow your subject guidance and your teacher's advice in this area. If in doubt, ask.

You can find out more in the JCQ guidance **Plagiarism in assessments – guidance for teachers/ assessors**.

4.3 Copying and collusion



You must only submit work that is your own. You should not copy work from another person's exam script, controlled assessment or coursework, nor should you borrow work to copy.

You must not lend your work to anyone or show anyone else your answers. Even if you lend work and did not know it was going to be copied, you have still committed malpractice. If you allow someone to copy your work this is even more serious.

Each of these circumstances will result in penalties being applied to you.

Some subjects allow you to work with classmates when you are preparing for assessment, for example in planning a piece of controlled assessment. However, most subjects ask that you complete an individual piece of work that you will hand in for the actual assessment. If you work with your classmates or friends on an assessment submission beyond what is allowed in a subject, this is known as collusion. Where this sharing of work results in similarities in the work submitted by you and others, this is malpractice. A range of penalties will apply, depending on how much the work has been shared and the extent of the similarities. Make sure you do not work with other candidates more than is allowed.

Remember, the aim of any assessment is to allow you as an individual to receive a fair mark for work that is your own and reflects your own efforts and abilities.

4.4 Sharing information and using social media



You should be careful about sharing or attempting to share information which could be exam/assessment-related. This includes speaking about it or sharing it in written form, including via social media or mobile phone applications. It can be easy to breach the rules without realising it. Make sure you don't:

- ask others about what questions your exam will include (even if no one tells you);
- post assessment work on social media which may allow it to be copied;
- know confidential exam/assessment-related information in advance of an exam/assessment;
- exchange, obtain, receive or pass on exam/assessment-related information by any means – or attempt to do this;
- fail to report to your school/college any exam/assessment-related information being shared; and
- pass on rumours of exam or assessment content.

You must tell CCEA or your school/college about exam information being shared.

Misusing or attempting to misuse assessment material resources can have very serious consequences.

CCEA monitor social media and will investigate any inappropriate information shared. Your school/college will give you advice on this, and you can read the JCQ's guidance on **Information for Candidates - Social Media** available at **www.jcq.org.uk**

4.5 Having unauthorised material in the exam/assessment

You should not bring any unauthorised materials into the exam/assessment room. As well as phones, watches etc, as detailed above, this includes:

- calculators or dictionaries where they are not allowed;
- notes, study guides and essay plans, etc, including where they are not relevant to the assessment; and
- bringing in permitted annotations or notes in the wrong format.



4.6 Breach of exam conditions

JCQ set out rules that schools/colleges must follow when conducting exams and assessments. You will have been told by your teachers what these rules are and how you are expected to behave during your exams and assessments. Your teachers will take you through the **Information for candidates documents (available at www.jcq.org.uk)** so you are aware of the rules.

During an exam or assessment session you must:

- sit in your allocated seat and do not start writing until the invigilator tells you to fill in all the details required on the front of the question paper and/or answer booklet;
- stop writing as soon as the time has ended, not remove an exam script from the room, and not engage in any disruptive behaviour;
- not talk before, during or after an exam about exam matters, pass notes or accept notes;
- not write inappropriate offensive or obscene material within scripts such as comments about staff or assessors; and
- not destroy your own work, or that of another candidate, or facilitate malpractice by others.



See also the JCQ **Warning to candidates** poster.

Please note:
It is important you know the rules around your exams and assessment and make sure to follow them. Should you break the rules by mistake or through forgetfulness, this is still malpractice and penalties will be applied as your actions could have had an impact on the integrity of your exam or assessment.

5 What happens if I am suspected of malpractice?

Where candidates breach the rules for:

- exams;
- controlled assessment;
- coursework;
- practical work; or
- compilation of portfolios of assessment evidence,



this must be investigated and CCEA may apply penalties.

You will be interviewed by your school/college and asked to provide a signed written statement that will be sent to CCEA. Statements will also be taken from any witnesses, such as other students and relevant school staff.

Other evidence will be gathered appropriate to the category of malpractice. This may include unauthorised materials, checking of your mobile phone record, copies of work you submitted, etc, as required in each individual case.

Where exceptional circumstances may have influenced the reason for malpractice, you should tell your school/college.

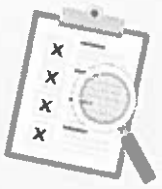
A report of the school/college's investigation, along with all the supporting evidence, will be sent to CCEA for consideration and action in line with JCQ procedures. CCEA will inform your Head of Centre of any penalties to be applied to you, and he/she will tell you and support you should this happen.

6 What happens if I am found guilty of malpractice?

If you are found guilty of malpractice, CCEA will apply penalties in line with the JCQ **Suspected malpractice: policies and procedure** Appendix 6.

These penalties are serious and can impact on your:

- university place;
- chances of returning to school/college; or
- immediate employment opportunities.



Penalties that can be applied include:

- a written warning;
- the loss of marks for a section, component or unit;
- disqualification from a unit or from all units for that subject;
- disqualification from all CCEA qualifications entered for that exam series; or
- a ban from taking assessments or exams for a set period of time, for example one year.

A permanent record will be kept of any penalties applied to your results.

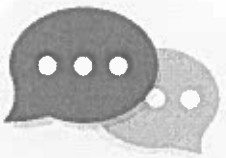
All other information relating to the specific malpractice will be destroyed following the expiry of CCEA's data retention period.

7 Appeals

Your Head of Centre may appeal if a sanction is imposed on you as a result of malpractice. This decision will be based on your school/college's internal policies. You or your parent/guardian cannot appeal directly to CCEA.

8 Contact information

If you have any concerns in relation to malpractice, you should speak to your teachers.



CCEA cannot communicate with you or your parent/guardian in relation to any exam, assessment or malpractice issue. This must be done by your school/college on your behalf.

If you have information about possible malpractice, you should report this to a teacher or send the details to **malpractice@ccea.org.uk**.

9 Useful links

You can find additional supporting information in the **Information for candidates documents** at **www.jcq.org.uk**

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COUNCIL FOR THE **CURRICULUM, EXAMINATIONS** AND **ASSESSMENT**
29 Clarendon Road, Clarendon Dock, Belfast BT1 3BG
Tel: +44(0)28 9026 1200
Email: info@ccea.org.uk Web: www.ccea.org.uk

Rewarding Learning

Information for candidates **AI (Artificial Intelligence and assessments)**

JCQ CIC

What is AI?

AI stands for artificial intelligence and can be used to create text, images, videos, music and artwork based on instructions given to an AI tool.

What is an AI tool?

AI tools are applications, such as ChatGPT, Snapchat My AI, Google and Google translate. There are many more!*

*The list of certain suppliers of AI-related products is for information purposes only and does not constitute an endorsement by JCQ and awarding bodies. It is each centre's responsibility to investigate and verify any suppliers they use, including any terms and conditions which govern the sale or use of the supplier's products. The list provided is not exhaustive.

When can I use AI?

- Your teachers may use it in class when teaching the course, but remember teaching in the classroom is not an exam!
- There are some assessments where you can use AI – your teachers will tell you if you can or cannot use an AI tool.
- Remember, the rules are different for different assessments and subjects, so always check with your teachers first!
- When an AI tool is allowed, **you must acknowledge**** the AI tools and the material produced by the AI tool that you have used in your work. If you do not acknowledge AI use, it will be **considered as cheating.**

When can I not use an AI tool?

- AI tools cannot be used in an exam or any other assessment where exam rules apply. This includes use or possession of hidden AI-enabled technology like smart glasses.
- This is what exam boards call **AI misuse and it is a form of cheating.**

**Acknowledgment – When producing a piece of work, if you use the same wording as a published source, you must place quotation marks around the passage and state where it came from. This is known as referencing. You must make sure that you give detailed references for everything in your work which is not in your own words, for example, *ChatGPT 3.5 (https:// openai.com/blog/chatgpt/), 25/01/2025.*

IF YOU USE AN AI TOOL, YOU CANNOT GET MARKS FOR WHAT THE AI TOOL HAS PRODUCED, AS IT IS NOT YOUR OWN WORK

If I'm allowed to use AI, how is this breaking the rules?

AI misuse is:

- when you use an AI tool in an exam or assessment where you are not allowed to; and/or
- where you use an AI tool to create work and then say it's your own.

AI misuse can have serious consequences including possible disqualification.

How to make sure you don't misuse AI

ACKNOWLEDGE

If you are allowed to use an AI tool in your assessment (remember to check!), you must do the following:

- reference the AI tool you have used
- give the date of when the AI tool generated the content
- give details of how you used it
- save screenshots of what you have asked or instructed the AI tool to do and what answer the AI gave you, and include this with the work submitted.

DECLARE

- Remember to sign your declaration form when handing in your work for final assessment.
- Your signature on the declaration form tells your teacher and the exam board that you are saying all the work you're handing in is your own.
- If you have used an AI tool, **you must declare***** that you have used it before signing the declaration form

***Declare – this means that when you submit your work for marking, the awarding body will normally require you to sign an authentication statement confirming that you have read and followed the regulations.

LAST CHECKS — Know the rules — Check with your teachers — ACKNOWLEDGE and DECLARE

EFFECTIVE FROM 1 SEPTEMBER 2026

AI and Assessments
A quick guide for students

What is AI?

- AI stands for artificial intelligence and using it is like having a computer that thinks
- AI tools like ChatGPT or Snapchat My AI can write text, make art and create music by learning from data from the internet, but watch out – they can also make things up and be biased



How can AI be misused in assessments?

AI misuse is when you take something made using AI and say it's your own work.

THIS IS CHEATING!



How do I make sure I don't misuse AI?

1. **Know the rules**
   - You're **not allowed** to use AI tools when you're in an exam
   - Your teachers will tell you if you're allowed to use AI tools when doing your coursework – the rules will depend on your qualification
   - Even if you're allowed to use AI tools, you can't get marks for content just produced by AI – your marks come from showing your own understanding and producing your own work
2. **Reference reference reference!** If you're allowed to use AI tools, you must reference them clearly
   - Name the AI tool you used
   - Add the date you generated the content
   - Explain how you used it
   - Save a screenshot of the questions you asked and the answers you got
3. **Declare it's all your own work** – When you hand in your assessment, you have to sign a declaration. Anything without a reference must be all your own work. If you've used an AI tool, don't sign the declaration until you're sure you've added all the references

What happens if I misuse AI?

If you've misused AI, you could lose your marks for the assessment – you could even be disqualified from the subject.

DON'T RISK IT!



REMEMBER

Misusing AI is cheating!

Know the rules

Talk to your teachers

Reference clearly

Information for candidates

Using social media and examinations/assessments

While we like to share our experiences online, when it comes to exams and other assessments, we have to be careful.

- Sharing ideas online can be helpful when you're studying or revising
- However, sharing certain information (see information on the right) can break the rules and could affect your results
- If you're not sure what you can and can't discuss online, check with your teacher
- If you receive exam content on social media, you must tell your teacher
- Don't be caught out by scammers selling fake exam papers



Things to do on social media:

- Have fun
- Be responsible
- Report any exam or assessment content you see to your teacher

Things not to do on social media:

- Buy/ask for/share exam or assessment content
- Pass on rumours of what's in exams or assessments
- Share your work
- Work with others so that your assessment is not your own independent work

If you do any of the above activities, you may:

- Receive a written warning
- Lose marks
- Be disqualified from a part of or all of your qualifications
- Be banned from taking exams and assessments for a number of years

Please take the time to familiarise yourself with the JCQ rules:

jcq.org.uk/exams-office/information-for-candidates-documents

JCQ
CIC

Information for candidates
Using social media and examinations/assessments


Image by Patrice Jones

This document has been written to help you stay within examination regulations.

Please read it carefully.

We all like to share our experiences when taking examinations. However, it is important to consider what you say and to think about what information is being shared.

Sharing ideas with others online could be helpful when you're studying or revising.

However, there are limits to the amount of information you can share and you need to be careful not to break the rules. We'd like to ask you to act responsibly when discussing online. If you're in doubt about what you can and can't discuss online regarding your exams, it's always best to check with your teacher.

If you receive what is or what looks to be assessment related information through social media, or any other means, you must tell your teacher or another member of staff. You must show them what you have received. They will then report the matter to the awarding body and it will be investigated.

Where candidates breach the rules for examinations, controlled assessments, coursework or non-examination assessments, awarding bodies have an obligation to investigate and may apply penalties.


Image by Ben Wight

You should be aware that the following might constitute malpractice:

- copying or allowing work to be copied – i.e. posting written work on social networking sites prior to an examination/assessment;
- collusion: working collaboratively with other candidates beyond what is permitted;
- allowing others to help produce your work or helping others with theirs;
- being in possession of confidential assessment related information in advance of the examination;
- exchanging, obtaining, receiving or passing on assessment related information by any means of communication (even if just attempting to);
- failing to report to your centre assessment related information being shared online; or
- passing on rumours of exam content.

Penalties that awarding bodies apply include:

- a written warning;
- the loss of marks for a section, component or unit;
- disqualification from a unit, all units or qualifications; or
- a ban from taking assessments or exams for a set period of time.

Please take the time to familiarise yourself with the JCQ rules:
http://www.jcq.org.uk/exams-office/information-for-candidates-documents

JCQ CIC

AQA City&Guilds ncfe. OCR Pearson WJEC CBAC

Information for Candidates

Information About You and How We Use It

You have entered general or vocational qualifications such as GCSE, A-level, functional skills qualifications etc with one or more of the awarding bodies listed above. In order to be able to provide examinations and assessments, the awarding body needs to collect and use information about you. This notice provides you with a high level summary of the information the awarding body is required by law to give you about what happens to that information. For more detail see each awarding body's full Privacy Notice:

AQA	https://www.aqa.org.uk/about-us/privacy-notice
CCEA	https://ccea.org.uk/legal/privacy-notice
City & Guilds	https://www.cityandguilds.com/help/help-for-learners/learner-policy
NCFE	https://www.ncfe.org.uk/legal-information
OCR	https://www.ocr.org.uk/about/our-policies/website-policies/privacy-policy/
Pearson	https://qualifications.pearson.com/en/about-us/qualification-brands/gdpr.html
WJEC	https://www.wjec.co.uk/home/privacy-policy/

Who we are and how to contact us

Each awarding body is a separate organisation. Your school or examination centre will be able to confirm to you which awarding body is delivering each qualification you are undertaking and you will receive a statement confirming what qualifications you have been entered for and which awarding body. You will find links to each awarding body's website and information on how to contact them here: https://www.jcq.org.uk/contact-our-members/

Information about you and from where it is obtained

Each awarding body whose qualifications you enter will need to use a variety of information about you. This includes obvious identification details such as your name, address, date of birth and your school or examination centre. It also includes information about your gender, race and health, where appropriate. This information is provided by you or your parents/guardians and/or by your school or examination centre.

Each awarding body will create certain information about you such as a candidate number, examination results and certificates.

You will find further information about this in the awarding bodies' full Privacy Notice (see links above) or by contacting the awarding body (see above).

What happens to the information about you

The awarding bodies use the information about you to deliver the examinations and assessments which you have entered. This includes making a variety of arrangements for you to sit the examinations or assessments, marking, providing you and your school or centre with results and certificates. The awarding bodies also use some of the information about you for equality monitoring and other statistical analysis.

The awarding bodies may share information about your results with official bodies such as the Department for Education and the examinations regulators (e.g. Ofqual in England) and also relevant local authorities and the Universities and Colleges Admissions Service (UCAS). An awarding body may also use information about you to investigate cheating and other examination malpractice and will share information about malpractice with other awarding bodies.

The awarding bodies take the security of the information about you that they hold seriously.

You will find further, technical information about what the awarding bodies do with information about you, why and the legal basis in the awarding bodies' full Privacy Notice, which can be accessed here (see links on page one) or by contacting the awarding body (see above).

Your rights

The law gives you a number of rights in relation to the information about you that the awarding bodies hold. Those rights are:

- Access – you are entitled to ask each awarding body about the information it holds about you.
- Rectification – you are entitled to ask each awarding body to correct any errors in the information that it holds about you.
- Erasure – in certain circumstances you are entitled to ask each awarding body to erase the information about you that it holds.
- Object to or restrict processing – in certain circumstances you are entitled to ask each awarding body to stop using information about you in certain ways.
- Complain – you are entitled to complain to the Information Commissioner (the body regulating the use of personal information) about what each awarding body does with information about you.

You will find further information about your rights in relation to information about you in the awarding bodies' full Privacy Notice, which can be accessed here (see links on page one) or by contacting the awarding body (see above).

How long the information about you is held

Each awarding body retains information about you only for as long as it is needed. Some of the information is needed only during the period in which you are undertaking the examination or assessment and is securely destroyed a short while afterwards. Other information about you, such as your name, gender, address, qualification and subjects entered and the results, are held indefinitely and for at least 40 years.

Each awarding body has its own retention policy that sets out what information it retains, how it is retained and for how long. You can find out more about retention policies by contacting each awarding body (see above).

How to find out more about the information about you that the awarding bodies use

To find out more about the information about you that the awarding bodies collect and use, including what happens to that information and why, you can review the awarding bodies' full Privacy Notice, which can be accessed here (see links on page one) or contact the awarding body. You will find links to each awarding body's website and information on how to contact them here: https://www.jcq.org.uk/contact-our-members/.

Please note

It is important to note that this notice concerns only how the awarding bodies use information about you (called your "personal data"). Complaints about how an awarding body handles your personal data can be made to the Information Commissioner (www.ico.org.uk). Information about the examinations and assessments themselves, including the rules about assessments, can be found on the JCQ Exams Office pages (www.jcq.org.uk/exams-office). The awarding bodies are regulated by Ofqual (https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/ofqual) in England; Qualifications Wales (www.qualificationswales.org) in Wales, and the Council for the Curriculum, Examinations and Assessment (http://ccea.org.uk/regulation) in Northern Ireland.

Warning to candidates



1
You **must** be on time for all your examinations.

2
Possession of a mobile phone or other unauthorised material is not allowed even if you do not intend to use it. You will be subject to penalty and possible disqualification from the examination or qualification.

3
You **must not** talk to, attempt to communicate with or disturb other candidates once you have entered the examination room.

4
You **must** follow the instructions of the invigilator.

5
You **must not** sit an examination in the name of another candidate.

6
You **must not** become involved in any unfair or dishonest practice in any part of the examination.

7
If you are confused about anything during your examination, raise your hand to speak to an invigilator.
Do not speak to or disturb anyone else.

The *Warning to candidates* must be displayed in a prominent place outside each examination room. This may be a hard copy A3 paper version or an image of the poster projected onto a wall or screen for all candidates to see.

JCQ CIC© 2026 – Effective from 1 September 2026

JCQ CIC

AQA CAMBRIDGE OCR City & Guilds cea NCFE Pearson wjec cbac

NO MOBILE PHONES
NO SMART GLASSES
NO WATCHES

NO STORAGE OR WEB-ENABLED DEVICES



Possession of unauthorised items is a serious offence and could result in

DISQUALIFICATION

from your examination and your overall qualification.

This poster must be displayed in a prominent place outside each examination room.

©JCQ CIC 2026 - Effective from 1 September 2026

JCQ CIC

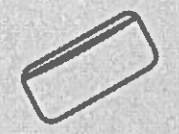
On your exam day

This checklist will help you to be as prepared as possible for your exams so that you can focus on doing your best on the day.

Before sitting your exams, ensure you know:

- ☐ the date, time and location of each of your exams. You might find it helpful to write this information in a calendar or planner.
- ☐ who to contact at school or college in case there's an emergency that makes you late or unable to sit your exam.

What you will need:




- ☐ a clear pencil case
- ☐ at least two black ink pens – blue pens are **not acceptable**




- ☐ an approved calculator for relevant exams
- ☐ appropriate equipment, such as a ruler or protractor, for relevant exams



- ☐ a clear water bottle if you wish to take one in. It **must not** have a label

Contingency sessions:

- ☐ There are contingency sessions within the Summer 2027 exam timetable on the morning and afternoon of 23 June 2027. Make sure you are available on 23 June 2027.

What you cannot take into your exams:



- ☐ any type of phone
- ☐ revision notes
- ☐ any type of watch (this includes analogue, digital and smart watches)
- ☐ smart devices (e.g. earbuds, smart glasses or tablets)

Other important information:

- ☐ Listen carefully to the invigilator's instructions, which will be specific to your exam. If you are unsure of anything, please raise your hand and wait for the invigilator to respond.
- ☐ Fill in your details on the front of your answer booklet.
- ☐ If you need an additional answer sheet, raise your hand and wait for an invigilator to provide one. Remember to add your details to this sheet.
- ☐ If you need to use the toilet or feel unwell, raise your hand and wait for an invigilator to escort you from the exam room.
- ☐ Remember to stay silent – talking to a fellow candidate could result in disqualification from all your exams.

If you have any questions about your exams, ask your teacher or exams officer.

You can also find useful information about preparing for exams at
www.jcq.org.uk/exams-office/information-for-candidates-documents

St. Mary's
Grammar School, Magherafelt.

IMPORTANT POINTS TO REMEMBER BEFORE THE START OF EXAMINATIONS

- ☆ **Only** material listed on the question paper is allowed in the examination room. **You must not have on or near you any other material.**
- ☆ If you have any unauthorised items in your possession, particularly **mobile phones**, **ipods, all watches including smartwatches or other technological / web enabled sources of information,** you must hand them to the invigilator. **Failure to do so may result in disqualification. These devices are not permitted in the Examination Centre, regardless of whether they are switched on or not.**
- ☆ You must only write in **black ink,** except for drawings and rough notes.
- ☆ Check that you have everything you need to do the examination eg black pens, ruler, calculator. (These may be purchased from the school office but will **NOT** be available in the Examination Centre.)
- ☆ Any bottles containing water etc brought into the examination centre **must be clear through plastic and have all labels removed. 'Chilly' water bottles or other bottles which are not transparent cannot be brought in.**
- ☆ **All pencils cases must be see through.**
- ☆ You must write all rough work in your answer booklet and neatly cross it through with a single line. You should cross any mistakes through neatly with a single line. **You must not use correcting pens, fluid or tape, erasable pens, highlighters or gel pens in your answers.**
- ☆ You must not communicate with other candidates. You may not give help to another candidate or ask for help from another candidate. **You should put your hand up to attract the invigilator's attention.**
- ☆ **For examinations that last one hour or more,** candidates **MUST** stay under centre supervision until 10.15 am for a morning examination or 2.30 pm for an afternoon examination, ie one hour after the starting time for that examination.
- ☆ **For examinations that last less than one hour,** candidates **must** be supervised and question papers must be kept secure until the finishing time of that examination or 30 minutes after the starting time, whichever is later.