

AQA City & Guilds CCEA Edexcel OCR SQA WJEC

Produced on behalf of AQA, CCEA, Edexcel, OCR and WJEC

Information for centres

JCO common examination stationery

An increasing number of examination scripts are scanned and marked online. Scripts are collected from centres, using a secure and traceable system, and delivered to a scanning centre where they are scanned into a computer system to produce an electronic image of the candidate's answers.

Awarding bodies have therefore been required to develop new examination stationery which incorporates very specific design details in order to facilitate the scanning process.

The original JCO common answer booklets will therefore be used with less frequency in examinations over the next few years and will ultimately be withdrawn. The awarding bodies have carefully considered whether it is possible to modernise the design of the JCO common answer booklets in light of script scanning and online marking. However, the awarding bodies use different technologies and have different IT systems, and it will not be possible to use JCO common stationery in the future.

Where scripts are to be scanned, the design of an answer booklet needs to be specific to the awarding body's own technology. However, there are a number of advantages to this arrangement:

- exam officers can identify more easily the correct papers for each examination;
- the awarding body when scanning scripts can achieve successful data capture first time;
- exam marking is more efficient, leading to accurate and reliable results being issued;
- item level data can be collected for those papers marked online. This item level data can be used to assist in the future teaching and preparation of candidates for examinations.

Awarding body specific answer booklets must be stored securely at all times.