

Friday 9 May 2008

JCQ statement: Common exam timetables

Dr Jim Sinclair, Director of JCQ, said:

“JCQ awarding bodies take into consideration the effect back-to-back exams can have on candidates when compiling common exam timetables. That is why the draft timetables are shared with the Teachers' Associations and other stakeholders before they are finalised. The draft timetables are published and feedback is welcomed from schools and colleges.

“When constructing the timetables to accommodate approximately 3,000 individual examination papers, subjects are grouped in such a way as to minimise clashes and the number of exams to be taken on the same day. However, given the increased number of subjects being offered and restrictions placed upon the scheduling of examinations - Bank holidays, school holidays and religious festivals there will inevitably be some cases where there will be clashes.

“The JCQ awarding bodies will be meeting with the Teachers' Associations next week (Wednesday 14 May) as part of their scheduled meetings to discuss the draft timetable for 2009 and other topics of mutual interest.”

Ends.

Notes

1. The JCQ consists of AQA, CCEA, City & Guilds, Edexcel, OCR, SQA, and WJEC, the seven largest providers of qualifications in the UK, offering GCSE, GCE AEA, Scottish Highers, Entry level, Vocational and Vocationally-related qualifications.
2. The JCQ was established in January 2004 and supersedes the Joint Council for General Qualifications (JCGQ, 1998-2003). The JCQ has been formed to enable the member Awarding Bodies to act together in

- Providing, wherever possible, common administrative arrangements for the schools and colleges and other providers which offer their qualifications;
- Dealing with the regulators; in responding to proposals and initiatives on assessment and the curriculum;
- Dealing with the media on issues affecting all member Bodies.