



7 November 2019

JCQ Notice to Centres - Important changes to the June 2020 GCE A level and GCSE timetables

As a result of examination breaches in 2019, security arrangements have been increased for 2020. This has resulted in changes to the 2020 summer series GCE A level and GCSE timetables.

Timetable changes will enable the awarding bodies to introduce additional measures to significantly increase the security of the examinations.

What this means for centres

There are changes to the examination timetables:

- On 3 and 10 June 2020: **all examinations** (including GCE A level Mathematics) originally scheduled in the mornings will change to the afternoon.
- On 3 and 10 June 2020: **all examinations** scheduled in the afternoon will change to the morning.
- On 16, 18, 22 and 23 June 2020: any **GCE A level Mathematics and Further Mathematics examinations** that were scheduled for the morning will now take place in the afternoon; no other examinations will change.

We acknowledge that changes to the 2020 timetables may cause some disruption to centres. However, the mitigation of risk to examination papers and the introduction of greater rigour ensures fairness across the system.

Advice and guidance will be sent by the awarding bodies to centres and the revised timetables can be found on their websites. The awarding bodies can be contacted as follows:

AQA: eos@aqa.org.uk
0800 197 7162

OCR: general.qualifications@ocr.org.uk
01223 553998

Pearson: [Support Pearson](#)

WJEC: exams@wjec.co.uk
02920 265000

Please note, these timetable changes are for GCE A level and GCSE examinations offered by AQA, OCR, Pearson and WJEC. The timetable for CCEA qualifications remains as published and can be found on the [CCEA website](#)

Frequently Asked Questions

Why have you made this change?

We have made the decision to move all A level Mathematics (including some Further Mathematics) examinations in summer 2020 that were scheduled in the morning to the afternoon to support the additional measures awarding bodies will be implementing to enhance the security of high stakes assessments. As a result, all A level Mathematics (including some Further Mathematics) examinations that are offered by AQA, OCR or Pearson will now be sat in the afternoon. In Wales, all A2 Mathematics examinations in summer 2020 offered by WJEC will be sat in the afternoon. There will be no change to the CCEA timetable.

Why are examinations in qualifications other than A level Mathematics being moved?

Due to the way the timetable is created, it is not possible to move the A level Mathematics examinations on their own - it is a large cohort subject and is typically scheduled in a slot on its own or with much smaller entry A levels. The GCSEs that are scheduled in the same slot are also being moved to help centres that deliver both A Levels and GCSEs manage their rooming requirements.

How will these changes affect timetable clashes?

For A Level Mathematics (including some Further Mathematics), **the rescheduled afternoon examinations cannot be moved to the morning session.** Other qualifications must be moved in order to resolve timetable clashes. For all other qualifications, please follow the instructions in the JCQ [Instructions for conducting examinations](#) (section 7).

What can we do about late finishes to exams for candidates with extra time?

We appreciate the changes may cause additional logistical challenges for candidates with extra time. You may wish to consider moving your centre start time, please follow the instructions in the as per section 6.2 of the JCQ [Instructions for conducting examinations](#), although we realise this may not always be possible. If you have queries about individual candidates, please contact the awarding bodies for guidance and support.

My candidates will be sitting A level Mathematics examinations in Northern Ireland with CCEA. Will these examinations be moving to the afternoon as well?

No. The CCEA timetable for A level Mathematics remains as published on 28 June 2019.

My candidates are sitting A level Mathematics in Northern Ireland with either AQA, OCR, Pearson or WJEC. How does this announcement affect me?

All A level Mathematics examinations in summer 2020 offered by AQA, OCR or Pearson will be sat in the afternoon. All A2 Mathematics examinations offered by WJEC will be sat in the afternoon.