

JCQ autumn 2021 series FAQs

Generic FAQs

1. Who can enter for the autumn 2021 series?

Students who receive a teacher assessed grade this summer will be eligible to take the corresponding GCSE, AS or A Level qualification in autumn 2021. However it should be noted that AS exams will only be available in Biology, Chemistry, Mathematics, Further Mathematics and Physics.

Students who had intended to take a qualification in summer 2021 are also eligible to take that qualification in autumn 2021. This includes students who were entered and then withdrawn for any reason and students, including private candidates, who were intending to take the qualification but did not enter for any reason.

2. Do students need to be entered for the same tier they were entered for in summer 2021?

Students should be entered for the most appropriate tier; this does not need to be the tier they were entered for in summer 2021.

3. Do students need to be entered for the same specification they were entered for in summer 2021?

We recommend that students are entered for the same specification that they had been studying for in summer 2021, however this is not mandatory.

4. Do the usual November series rules apply to GCSE (9-1) Maths and English Language in autumn 2021?

Not for candidates who had received TAGs for these subjects in summer 2021, or could reasonably have been expected to have entered for these subjects if the exams had taken place. Ofqual's consultation decisions document states:

'Any student who receives a teacher-assessed grade (TAG) this summer, or who an exam board reasonably believes would have entered for the exams in summer 2021 had they taken place, can take the corresponding GCSE, AS and A level exams in autumn 2021. In addition, any student who was aged at least 16 on 31 August 2021 can take the GCSE English language and maths exams, as is usually the case.'

5. Do students have to sit the autumn exams at the same centre they took or planned to take their summer 2021 exams?

Students do not need to take exams at the same centre. However, it should be noted that the DfE have released guidance on centres' responsibility for

entering students for the autumn exams and information on the support available. Details are at [Responsibility for exams](#).

Private candidate-specific FAQs

6. Will exam boards want to see any evidence of private candidates' intention to take exams in summer 2021?

Private candidates may find it difficult to evidence the fact that they would have entered in the summer 2021 series had exams not been cancelled. Awarding organisations will give the benefit of doubt to private candidates in this situation provided that the student has made a declaration to the entering centre to confirm that they would have entered in summer 2021 if exams had taken place. Centres should retain these declarations until 31 March 2022 and make them available to the awarding organisation or the JCQ Centre Inspection Service if requested.

7. Are centres allowed to charge for reasonable adjustments for private candidates?

Centres have a duty to make reasonable adjustments to the service they provide to candidates. Where this is the case, they must not charge any additional fee for the adjustment or aid.