

Y11, 12 and 13 summer 2021 - Virtual Assessment Information Evening

Please find below a summary of the parental questions raised from the evening and our responses. If you have any further questions or queries regarding the assessment period or the process to generate the Teacher Assessed Grades for summer 2021, please contact apritchardroberts@helsbyhigh.org for Y11 queries and iduffell@helsbyhigh.org for Y12 and Y13 queries.

Question	Response
Will an electronic version of the presentation be available?	This is available on our website.
Will students be made aware of the specific content or specification that will be assessed in each individual assessment?	Class teachers and Department Leaders will ensure students are provided with information about the content of each assessment in advance both verbally in lessons and via Show My Homework.
Why do some subjects have more assessments than others?	The assessment schedule outlines the assessments that are still to take place to generate evidence for Teacher Assessed Grades and do not take into account other evidence that teachers already have that may be used, such as Non-Examined Assessments, Practical Tasks, End of Unit Assessments etc. In addition to this, if we were in 'normal' times, subjects would have different numbers of exam papers for their qualifications and thus this is also reflected in our number of assessments.
How have the assessments been scheduled as some days have more assessments than others?	The Assessment Schedule follows the normal school timetable and is designed to ensure wherever possible subjects with multiple groups of students sit the assessments on the same day. In addition, we wanted to minimise the number of assessments taking place on Fridays due to the ongoing Lateral Flow Testing that students undertake on this day. For these reasons, an equal spread of assessments for each student on each day was unfortunately not possible.
Why do some subjects have assessments that total in time more than the GCSE or A-Level would have done?	We made a conscious decision to provide students with multiple assessments to reduce the significance of each individual assessment and give students the best possible opportunity to demonstrate their ability and realise their potential.

<p>Are some assessments scheduled outside the students' normal timetable?</p>	<p>The vast majority of assessments do follow the students' normal timetable. However at GCSE level, History has some assessments for some students at a different time to allow all students to sit this subject assessment on the same day.</p>
<p>Will students having assessments on different days for the same subject be disadvantaged?</p>	<p>Where a subject has multiple groups that conduct the same assessment but not on the same day, we have ensured that the nature of the assessment is such that students would not be disadvantaged by this.</p>
<p>Will the assessments be carried out with integrity even though they are taking place in lessons?</p>	<p>Students will be reminded of the expectations of their conduct during these assessments which will be supervised by their class teacher to ensure that they are administered with integrity.</p>
<p>How do students balance their assessment work and ongoing non-examined assessments, portfolios and practical assessments?</p>	<p>Subjects that have non-examined assessments, portfolios and practical tasks will have fewer written assessments, and as such students will use these subjects' lessons time to work on these tasks.</p>
<p>Will students be made aware of any additional resources or materials such as formulae sheets and books that may be used for assessment in advance?</p>	<p>Teachers and Department Leaders will make sure students are informed of what additional materials can be used during the assessment prior to it taking place both verbally and via Show My Homework.</p>
<p>What arrangements will be put in place if a student misses an assessment through a Covid related absence or any other absence?</p>	<p>We will address student absence on an individual basis.</p>
<p>What are the weightings of the assessments undertaken during this assessment period and other assessment evidence that has already taken place?</p>	<p>More information regarding the assessment evidence to be used for each qualification will be made available on Monday 26th April.</p>

How will the disruption of Covid and school closures be taken into account when marking and grading.	This has been taken into account when designing the assessments and overall evidence to be used to generate the Teacher Assessed Grade. Students who have been individually affected disproportionately to their peers may have additional considerations taken into account.
When will the Centre Policy be available to parents?	The Centre Policy will be submitted to the external body by Friday 30 th April for approval. Following this it will be shared with students and parents/carers.
Are their individual subject assessment policies, procedures and protocols?	All subjects will be following our Centre Policy.
Is there a framework prescribed by examination boards to put a forced grade distribution in place?	This is not the case. Schools are not being asked to restrict or limit students' grades based on schools' previous performance.
How are Helsby making sure their students' grades are comparable to students' grades from different schools around the UK.	We have clear guidance to follow from Ofqual and the JCQ to generate the Teacher Assessed Grades for students.
Does it matter that students in other schools are conducting more or less assessments for a particular subject?	All schools have to follow the same guidance on awarding grades regardless of the number of assessments completed, and all have their processes externally checked by the Centre Policy approval process.
Has the Results Days and Appeals dates changed?	These dates have changed from what was originally published and are as detailed in our presentation. No grades can be shared with students before the official Results Days and we will be given a specific time on these days that the results can be released.
Can students' results be provided via email?	Yes and we will provide details regarding this nearer the time.