



# Bishop Wordsworth's School

Exeter Street, Salisbury, Wiltshire, SP1 2ED

Telephone: 01722 333851

E-mail: [rec@bishopwordsworths.org.uk](mailto:rec@bishopwordsworths.org.uk)

Website: [www.bishopwordsworths.org.uk](http://www.bishopwordsworths.org.uk)

Head Master: Dr S D Smallwood BSc (Hons) PhD NPQH

31 March 2021

Dear Parents/Guardians

## Assessing GCSE grades, Summer 2021

Having received the detailed guidance from the Joint Council for Qualifications (JCQ), it's now possible to give you some more specific information about how we plan to collect the evidence that will be used to determine your son's grade in each subject. Every school or college must submit, by April 30, a Centre Policy document that sets out the process by which they will determine grades. Once ours has been accepted by the exam boards, we will publish it on our website.

In the meantime, though, we can provide a summary of the tasks which will be used to generate this evidence (see attached). As all of these tasks will take place in lessons, your son's teachers will be able to give the precise day and time if this is not indicated on the summary sheet.

We feel that the fairest way to do this is largely through these tasks, which will be completed under controlled conditions. This will guarantee that the work is the result of the student's own efforts and will also provide a range of robust evidence. Most Departments will include marks from the Prelims as these were sat in December after students had had the benefit of being back in school for the whole term. Completing these additional tasks after students have had the benefit of being back in school for as long as possible makes a great deal of sense and, as students should be getting better towards the end of their courses, this should offer them the best way to show their current level of performance.

It may seem that students are being put under more pressure than would be the case in a normal year, as there may be more tasks than there would be exams. However, as most of these tasks are to take place in lessons, we have had to reduce their duration to under an hour, whereas most exams would be at least an hour, and in many cases considerably longer. This has been done by spreading the equivalent of an exam paper over two or more lessons. Again, this should be seen as beneficial, as there is less pressure placed on each occasion.

We are confident that all our Departments have created schemes that match the requirements set out by the DfE and the JCQ; are appropriate and manageable for both students and staff, and that they provide a number of opportunities for students to show their current level of performance. An important aspect of this is that it will be no harder or easier to achieve a grade this summer than if exams were being sat. However, we do understand that some students may be feeling anxious about the process. Whilst some degree of anxiety is normal in the run-up to assessments, if your son is especially concerned, then he should speak to a member of staff. This could be his class teacher, his Tutor or his Head of Year.

In order that we have the best possible set of evidence, it is very important that your son makes every effort to attend the lessons when these tasks will be taking place. If he misses a task for valid and unavoidable reasons, then we will arrange for him to complete the task at another time wherever possible. For this reason, the JCQ has made it clear that applications for special consideration will not apply this summer. It is also important that, if there are mitigating circumstances, your son should make his teacher aware of them as soon as possible, and certainly before the grade submission deadline of June 18.

If your son has access arrangements, such as extra time or the use of a laptop, then these will be accommodated in all of these tasks.

Where feedback on performance in a task could help students make improvements in future tasks, some general feedback may be given following marking and the internal standardisation process that each Department must undertake. However, we have decided that the marks (and/or grades) will only be issued to students on their results day (August 12). This is for two main reasons:

- If provided before this time, students could use the data to determine the grade they will be likely to achieve, and we believe that this could contravene the instruction that schools must not tell students their final grade until results day.
- Marking and standardising will need to be done carefully to ensure fairness, and this will take time. As teachers will have other commitments, many of them would find it extremely difficult to complete this process in a short time without being placed under unreasonable pressure. Therefore, as we believe all students should receive their marks at the same time, the fairest way is for this to happen on results day.

If feedback is given, then this will be given to all students in that subject to ensure a fair and consistent approach. Students should not request individual help and guidance beyond this, as this would be unfair on the other students who did not receive additional help.

Judgements about grades will be made across the full range of evidence so gathered, thus ensuring the grade is a holistic assessment, and will be matched against standards published by the JCQ. Teachers will receive training on how to do this objectively, and there will also be internal and external quality assurance. As decisions must rely exclusively on this evidence, no account can be made of a student's potential, as might be indicated by a Target Grade. It is important to remember that, as Departments have planned to collect evidence through tasks that cover a range of the skills and content that your son has been taught, it remains their decision regarding which evidence will be used.

Finally, I would like to assure you and your son that we will be working hard to ensure he receives grades that are a true reflection of his current performance.

Yours faithfully

Mr M A Harmsworth  
**Assistant Head i/c Assessment & ICT Director**

## Year 11 schedule of tasks used to determine GCSE grades Summer 2021

Subject	Previous task(s)	Additional tasks taking place in the week beginning...					
		April 19	April 26	May 3	May 10	May 17	May 24
<b>English Language</b>	October 2020 exam (P2)			Paper 1 (Reading) (Wed)	Paper 1 (Writing) (Wed)	<i>Optional Paper 2 (Reading)</i>	<i>Optional Paper 2 (Writing)</i>
<b>English Literature</b>	Yr11 Prelim (Jekyll & Hyde) Unseen Poetry (26/03/21)	Paper 1 (Macbeth) (Wed)					
<b>Maths</b>	Yr11 Prelim (Calculator and non-calculator papers)	Non-calculator		Calculator 1		Calculator 2	
<b>Biology</b>	Yr11 Prelim		Paper 1 (Mon)		Paper 2 (Fri)		Practical Skills & Data (Tue)
<b>Chemistry</b>	Yr11 Prelim		Paper 1 (Tue)		Paper 2 (Wed)		Practical Skills & Data (Mon)
<b>Physics</b>	Yr11 Prelim		Paper 1 (Wed)		Paper 2 (Tue)		Practical Skills & Data (Wed)
<b>Religious Studies</b>	Yr11 Prelim (Relationships and Life and Death)				Comp 2: Christianity	Comp 3: World Faith (Sikhism)	Comp 1: Ethical Themes (Good & Evil)
<b>French</b>	Yr11 Prelim	Paper 1 (Listening) Paper 3 (Reading)		Paper 4 (Writing)			
<b>German</b>	Yr11 Prelim	Paper 1 (Listening) Paper 3 (Reading)		Paper 4 (Writing)			
<b>Spanish</b>	Yr11 Prelim	Paper 1 (Listening) Paper 3 (Reading)		Paper 4 (Writing)			
<b>Art</b>	Yr10 Magazine project	Yr11 current project: Coast					
<b>Business Studies</b>	Yr11 Prelim	Quantitative Skills	Paper 1, part A	Paper 1, part B	Paper 1, part C	Paper 2	
<b>D&amp;T</b>	Yr11 Prelim	NEA Design & Make task that is currently being completed					
<b>Geography</b>	Yr11 Prelim (Comp 2)		Comp 1 (Urban & Rural change)	Comp 1 (Ecosystems)		Comp 3 (Fieldwork: Cycles & Flows)	
<b>History</b>	October 2020 exam (P4) Yr11 Prelims (P2)			Paper 1 part 1	Paper 1 part 3 Paper 4		
<b>Latin</b>	Yr11 Prelim		Latin Language	Lit. comprehension and translation		Literature & Culture	
<b>Music</b>	N/A					Listening & Appraising	Performance recording & composition submission (NEAs)
<b>GCSE PE</b>	Practical and October 2020 exam or Yr11 Prelim				Theory paper		

### Notes:

Assessments will take place in lessons (unless otherwise stated). The exact day will depend on when your son's class is taught and so will be confirmed by his teacher (unless given here)

NEA – Non-Exam Assessment

Further Maths – these assessments will take place in the week after the May half-term break (i.e. 7-11 June)

Latin assessments will be run on Thursdays after school from 4-5pm during their normal twilight sessions

PE follow the Cambridge International iGCSE and are allowed to select the best 3 marks from any substantial pieces of work (i.e. ones that involve at least 1 hour of sustained effort)