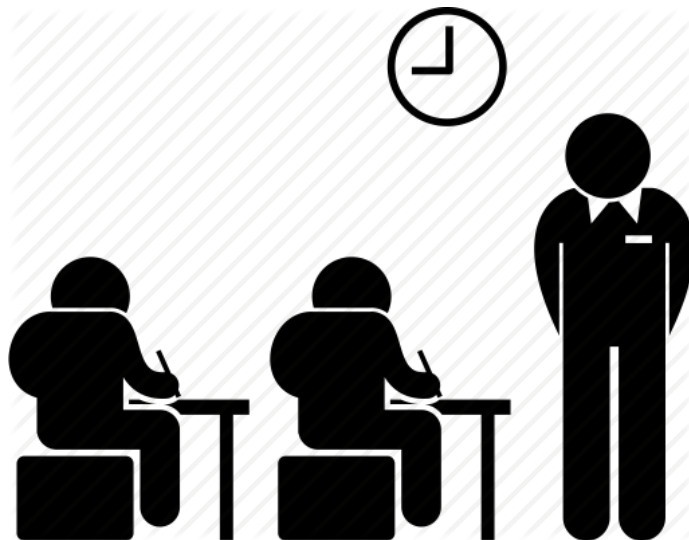


EXAMS

HANDBOOK FOR STUDENTS



This handbook is reviewed and updated annually

Produced/reviewed by	
EXAMS DEPARTMENT	
Date of next review	OCT 2025

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Introduction

Varndean College is committed to ensuring that candidates are fully briefed on the exam and assessment process in place in the centre and are made aware of the required JCQ awarding body instructions and information for candidates.

Purpose of the candidate exam handbook

- To ensure candidates are provided with all relevant information about their exams and assessments.
- To ensure copies of relevant JCQ information for candidate's documents and posters are provided.
- To answer any questions candidates may have about the exam process.

Written exams (A-level, GCSE, BTEC NQF)

Written exams take place at three key stages in the academic year: November, January and May/June.

- Exam entries for written exams are made based on your enrolments – if you are enrolled on a subject you will be entered for the corresponding exam automatically.
- Exam timetables are published online via MyVarndean.
- You must check your timetable carefully to ensure you know the date and time of all your exams/assessments. On the day of your exam you must check the display boards for rooming details and which seat you will be in.
- Before all your exams you should make yourself familiar with the JCQ information for candidates' document: written exams (appendix 2)

On-Screen & On Demand tests

- Exam entries for On-Screen tests & On Demand tests are made at the request of subject teachers and Heads of school.
- On-screen / On Demand tests are held throughout the academic year
- The times and locations of On-Screen / On Demand tests will be communicated via your subject teacher and will be displayed in My Varndean under Exams - Exam Timetables.

Coursework/controlled assessments/non-examination assessments

- You must read the JCQ information for candidates documents in the appendices
- Your subject teachers will brief you on the subjects and deadlines of your coursework/ controlled assessments/ non-examination assessments
- Your work is marked/assessed by subject teachers and then moderated by internal verifiers before being submitted to awarding bodies and going through a sampling process

What to do if you identify you have two or more exam papers timetabled at the same time (an exam clash)

You must check with the Exam Office what the arrangements will be for the clash exams

Where the total exam time does **not exceed 3 hours** you will sit these exams back to back.

Where the total exam time **does exceed 3 hours** you will sit the exams in two sessions (**AM** and **PM**). In this scenario you will be held in **supervised quarantine** between the sessions. You must bring a **packed lunch** as you will have no access to the canteen or off-site facilities. You will not be allowed access to any electronic devices such as laptops/ smart watches or mobile phones.

Where you will take your exams

Exams take place either the Hall, GYM or in classrooms – You will be informed where your exam will be taking place via My Varndean under Exam Timetables. It is your responsibility to check this information regularly as it can **change!** This information will also be displayed on the display boards by reception.

What time your exams will start and finish

Written exams fall into two sessions: AM and PM. All AM exams start at 09:00am and all PM exams start at 1:30pm These times are set by JCQ and the Awarding Bodies.

Online / On Demand exams have varied start times.

Supervision during your exams

Exams are supervised by a team of invigilators. Invigilators must follow strict rules and regulations when conducting exams as directed by JCQ awarding bodies etc. You must always follow the instructions given to you by the invigilator otherwise you are at risk of being removed from the exam.

Exam conditions

- Candidates are invited into the exam room by the invigilator and should not enter the room until then
- Candidates are under exam conditions from the moment they enter the exam room until they are given permission to leave by the invigilator
- Candidates must listen to and always follow the instructions given by the invigilator
- Candidates must not communicate with other candidates (this can include but is not limited to making hand or facial gestures, talking, or writing notes) **this now has to get reported as Malpractice and can lead to penalty which could include receiving 0 marks!**
- Candidates are responsible for producing legible handwriting in their exams
- If you need anything during the exam you should raise your hand to attract the attention of the invigilator
- Be wary of distracting other candidates when you are in the exam hall – keep fidgeting to a minimum
- If you use additional answer books you must clearly indicate the question number in the margin and **write your candidate details** in the spaces provided

Where you will sit in the exam room

Written exams will have a seating plan displayed on the board by reception. You will need to check your place on the plan before entering the exam room to ensure you know where to go.

How your identity is confirmed in the exam room

Candidates must have their college ID card visible at all times to verify their identity when in the exam room. **No ID card = no admittance.**

What equipment you need to bring to your exams

Candidates are responsible for **bringing their own equipment** to examinations. You should bring a **ballpoint black pen** with you to every exam. Clear plastic pencil cases are permitted. Do not rely on spare equipment being available in the exam hall – **always come prepared!**

Using calculators

You must be aware of JCQ awarding body instructions regarding the use of calculators in your exams which state:

Candidates may use a calculator in an examination unless prohibited by the awarding body's specification. Where the use of a calculator is allowed, candidates are responsible for making sure that their calculators meet the awarding bodies' regulations. **Calculator lids** must be stored under your seat during the exam.

Calculators must be: <ul style="list-style-type: none">○ of a size suitable for use on the desk;○ either battery or solar powered;○ free of lids, cases and covers which have printed instructions or formulas.	Calculators must not: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• be designed or adapted to offer any of these facilities: -<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ language translators;○ symbolic algebra manipulation;○ symbolic differentiation or integration;○ communication with other machines or the internet;• be borrowed from another candidate during an examination for any reason;*• have retrievable information stored in them - this includes:<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ databanks;○ dictionaries;○ mathematical formulas;○ text.
The candidate is responsible for the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none">○ the calculator's power supply;○ the calculator's working condition;○ clearing anything stored in the calculator.	

What you should not bring into the exam room

- *Mobile phones, Air-pods, earbuds, headphones, Smart Glasses or any Smart Device.*
- *Watches / Smart watches.*
- *MP3 / MP4 players or mass storage devices.*
- **A Negative Attitude.**

Food and drink in exam rooms

Candidates can bring a bottle of water into the exam room, this must be a clear bottle with no writing, pictures or labels on them. No other food or drinks are permitted unless for medical reasons.

What you should wear for your exams

We suggest you wear light layers to ensure your comfort in the exam room.

Where your personal belongings will be stored during your exam

Bags, coats, and any unauthorised materials including mobile phones (switched off) will be stored at the back / front or side of the exam hall / room. The College accepts no responsibility for loss or damage to personal belongings. Valuables should be left at home.

What to do if you arrive late for an exam

You should always leave additional travel time on exam days to counteract any unforeseen disruptions. If, however, you are running late to an exam you **MUST** call **01273 508011**.

When you arrive at the exam room, you should wait outside the room and signal to the invigilator. They will then brief you before you enter the room. **If you are over 60 minutes late you may not be admitted.**

If you arrive after 10:00am or 2:30pm you may not be allowed into the exam. If you are admitted, we will have to notify the awarding body and they will decide whether to accept your paper or disqualify it. Please make sure that you are supervised by a responsible adult for your journey to College and do not have access to your phone / Internet and that the person supervising you supplies a written statement upon arrival at the exam room indicating that you were supervised the whole time until they handed you over to the supervision of the Invigilator in the exam room and that you did not have access to your phone.

What to do if you are unwell on the day of an exam

If you are unwell and unable to attend your examination, you **must** call **01273 508011**. If possible, you should contact your GP or attend the local hospital to get a letter evidencing your illness.

If you are unwell but you manage to attend the exam, please speak to the invigilators before you enter the exam room. They can place you at the back of the room and be ready to accompany you to the bathroom.

If you suddenly start feeling unwell during an exam, please raise your hand and alert the invigilator who can assess the situation and assist you as needed.

If you suffer bereavement and are unable to sit your exam, please call the Exams Team and we will assist you in applying for special consideration.

What happens in the event of an emergency in the exam room?

In the event of a fire alarm candidates should remain seated in silence and follow instructions given by the invigilators. Please note that if you are evacuated from the exam room you must always remain in exam conditions. When you re-enter the exam room you will re-start the exam and receive the full-time allowance for your paper as set by the awarding body. The Exams Team will notify the awarding body of the disruption.

Candidates with access arrangements

Access Arrangements are pre-examination adjustments for candidates based on evidence of need and normal way of working. They allow candidates with special educational needs, disabilities, or temporary injuries to access the assessment without changing the demands of the assessment.

Candidates who require access arrangements are assessed at the beginning of the year by the SENCO and the ALS team.

Examples of exam access arrangements include: 25% extra time, a reader, a word processor, a sign language interpreter, or a modified exam paper.

Suspected malpractice

Malpractice can lead to a deduction in marks, disqualification and can even result in a ban from all examinations. Malpractice can take many forms, for example:

- the alteration or falsification of any results document, including certificates.
- a breach of the instructions or advice of an invigilator, supervisor, or the awarding body in relation to the examination or assessment rules and regulations.
- failing to abide by the conditions of supervision designed to maintain the security of the examinations or assessments.
- collusion: working collaboratively with other candidates, beyond what is permitted.
- copying from another candidate (including the use of technology to aid the copying).
- allowing work to be copied e.g. posting work on social networking sites prior to an examination/assessment.
- the deliberate destruction of another candidate's work.
- disruptive behaviour in the examination room or during an assessment session (including the use of offensive language).
- exchanging, obtaining, receiving, passing on information (or the attempt to) which could be examination related by means of talking, electronic, written, or non-verbal communication.
- making a false declaration of authenticity in relation to the authorship of controlled assessment, coursework, non-examination assessment or the contents of a portfolio.
- allowing others to assist in the production of controlled assessment, coursework, non-examination assessment or assisting others in the production of controlled assessment, coursework, or non-examination assessment.
- the misuse, or the attempted misuse, of examination and assessment materials and resources (e.g., exemplar materials).
- being in possession of confidential material in advance of the examination.
- bringing into the examination room notes in the wrong format (where notes are permitted in examinations) or inappropriately annotated texts (in open book examinations).
- the inclusion of inappropriate, offensive or obscene material in scripts, controlled assessments, coursework, non-examination assessments or portfolios.
- impersonation: pretending to be someone else, arranging for another person to take one's place in an examination or an assessment.
- plagiarism: unacknowledged copying from or reproduction of published sources or incomplete referencing.
- theft of another candidate's work.
- bringing into the examination room or assessment situation unauthorised material, for example: notes, study guides and personal organisers, own blank paper, calculators (when prohibited), dictionaries (when prohibited), instruments which can capture a digital image, electronic dictionaries (when prohibited), translators, wordlists, glossaries, iPods, mobile phones, MP3/4 players, pagers, Smartwatches or other similar electronic devices;
- the unauthorised use of a memory stick or similar device where a candidate uses a word processor.
- behaving in a manner to undermine the integrity of the examination.

Results

- Provisional A-Level & L3 BTEC results are released on Thursday 14th August 2025
- Provisional GCSE & L2 BTEC results are released on Thursday 21nd August 2025
- Your results will be available to collect on Results day and will also be available on My Varndean (my.varndean.ac.uk). Results will also be emailed to your college email account.

Post-results services

After you receive your results you may wish to use a post-results service. These are:

- 'Access to Scripts' – you can request access to your exam paper to aid your further learning. Fees may apply to each paper you request.
- 'Review of Marking' – you can request the marking of your question paper to be reviewed by a senior examiner, who will check your answers against the mark scheme for a fee **per paper**. This should be discussed with your subject teacher first and you need to be aware that you could lose marks as well as gain them in this process.
- All requests for post-results services from internal candidates must be made through the Centre via the exams office.
- Deadlines for these services will be given to you when you receive your statement of results.

Certificates

- Certificates can be collected from the college at the end of November. These must be signed for in person.
- We will post out any uncollected certificates to the address listed in our system (make sure we always have your correct address).
- Returned Certificates will be kept for 12 months if they are returned after which they may be securely destroyed. (make sure we have your correct address at all times).
- If you lose or fail to collect your certificate and it gets destroyed you will have to apply directly to the awarding body who will charge you a replacement fee of **£51+**.

Internal appeals procedures

Internal appeals policy and procedures are available on request.


On your exam day

This checklist will help you to be as prepared as possible for your exams so that you can focus on doing your best on the day.

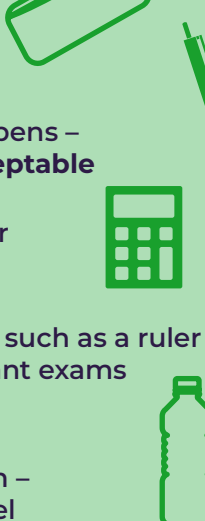
Before sitting your exams, ensure you know:

- the date, time and location of each of your exams. You might find it helpful to write this information in a calendar or planner.
- who to contact at school or college in case there's an emergency that makes you late or unable to sit your exam.

What you cannot take into exams:

- any type of phone
 - revision notes
 - any type of watch (this includes analogue, digital and smart watches)
- 

What you will need:

- a clear pencil case
 - at least two black ink pens – blue pens are **not acceptable**
 - an approved calculator for relevant exams
 - appropriate apparatus such as a ruler or protractor for relevant exams
 - a clear water bottle if you wish to take one in – it **must not** have a label
- 

Other important information:

- Listen carefully to the invigilator's instructions which will be specific to your exam. If you are unsure of anything, please raise your hand and wait for the invigilator to respond.
- Fill in your details on the front of your answer booklet.
- If you need additional answer sheets, raise your hand and wait for an invigilator who will provide you with one. Remember to add your details to this booklet.
- If you need to use the toilet or feel unwell, raise your hand and wait for an invigilator who will escort you from the exam room.
- Remember to stay silent – talking to a fellow candidate could result in disqualification from all your exams.

Contingency sessions:

- There are contingency sessions within the Summer 2025 exam timetable – the afternoon of 11 June 2025 and the morning and afternoon of 25 June 2025. Make sure you are available on all three dates even if you do not have an exam.

If you have any questions about your exams, please ask your teacher or exams officer.





Joint Council for
Qualifications^{CIC}

Information for candidates

Written examinations

With effect from 1 September 2024

Produced on behalf of:



**This document has been written to help you.
Read it carefully and follow the instructions.**

If there is anything you do not understand, especially which calculator you may use, ask your teacher.

A. Regulations – Make sure you understand the rules

- 1 Be on time for all your exams. If you are late, your work might not be accepted.
 - 2 **Do not** become involved in any unfair or dishonest practice during the exam.
 - 3 If you try to cheat, or break the rules in any way, you could be disqualified from all your exams.
 - 4 You **must not** take into the exam room:
 - (a) notes;
 - (b) AirPods, Earphones/Earbuds, an iPod, a mobile phone, a MP3/4 player or similar device, a watch, smart glasses or any other smart device.
- Any pencil cases taken into the exam room **must** be see-through.
- Remember: possession of unauthorised material is breaking the rules, even if you do not intend to use it, and you will be subject to penalty and possible disqualification.**
- 5 If you have a watch, the invigilator will ask you to hand it to them.
 - 6 **Do not** use correcting pens, fluid or tape, erasable pens, highlighters or gel pens in your answers.
 - 7 **Do not** talk to or try to communicate with, or disturb other candidates once you have entered the exam room.
 - 8 You **must not** write inappropriate, obscene or offensive material.
 - 9 If you leave the exam room unaccompanied by an invigilator before the exam has finished, you **will not** be allowed to return.
 - 10 **Do not** borrow anything from another candidate during the exam.

B. Information – Make sure you attend your exams and bring what you need

- 1 Know the dates and times of all your exams. Arrive at least ten minutes before the start of each exam.
- 2 If you arrive late for an exam, report to the invigilator running the exam.
- 3 If you arrive more than one hour after the published starting time for the exam, you may not be allowed to take it.
- 4 Only take into the exam room the pens, pencils, erasers and any other equipment which you need for the exam.
- 5 You **must** write clearly and in black ink. Coloured pencils or inks may only be used for diagrams, maps, charts, etc. unless the instructions printed on the front of the question paper state otherwise.

C. Calculators, dictionaries and computer spell-checkers

- 1 You may use a calculator unless you are told otherwise.
- 2 If you use a calculator:
 - (a) make sure it works properly; check that the batteries are working properly;
 - (b) clear anything stored in it;
 - (c) remove any parts such as cases, lids or covers which have printed instructions or formulae;
 - (d) **do not** bring into the exam room any operating instructions or prepared programs.
- 3 **Do not** use a dictionary or computer spell checker unless you are told otherwise.

D. Instructions during the exam

- 1 Always listen to the invigilator. Always follow their instructions.
- 2 Tell the invigilator at once if:
 - (a) you think you have not been given the right question paper or all of the materials listed on the front of the paper;
 - (b) the question paper is incomplete or badly printed.
- 3 Read carefully and follow the instructions printed on the question paper and/or on the answer booklet.
- 4 **Do not** start writing anything until the invigilator tells you to fill in all the details required on the front of the question paper and or the answer booklet. **Do not** open the question paper until you are told that the exam has begun.
- 5 Remember to write your answers within the designated sections of the answer booklet.
- 6 Do your rough work on the proper exam stationery. Cross it through and hand it in with your answers.

Make sure you add your candidate details to any additional answer sheets that you use, including those used for rough work.

E. Advice and assistance

- 1 If on the day of the exam you feel that your work may be affected by ill health or any other reason, tell the invigilator.
- 2 Put up your hand during the exam if:
 - (a) you have a problem and are not sure about what you should do;
 - (b) you do not feel well;
 - (c) you need more paper.
- 3 **You must** not ask for, and will not be given, any explanation of the questions.

F. At the end of the exam

- 1 If you have used more than one answer booklet and/or any supplementary answer sheets, place them in the correct order.

Place any loose additional answer sheets inside your answer booklet. Make sure you add your candidate details to any additional answer sheets that you use. For CCEA examinations, any loose additional answer sheets should be placed **behind** your script.

- 2 **Do not** leave the exam room until told to do so by the invigilator.
- 3 **Do not** take any stationery from the exam room. This includes the question paper, answer booklets used or unused, rough work or any other materials provided for the exam.



Joint Council for
Qualifications^{CIC}

Information for candidates

On-screen tests

With effect from 1 September 2024

Produced on behalf of:



**This document has been written to help you.
Read it carefully and follow the instructions.**

If there is anything you do not understand ask your teacher.

A. Regulations – Make sure you understand the rules

- 1** Be on time for your on-screen test(s). If you are late, your work might not be accepted.
- 2 Do not** become involved in any unfair or dishonest practice during the on-screen test.
- 3** If you try to cheat, or break the rules in any way, you could be disqualified from all your exams.
- 4** Only take into the exam room the materials and equipment which are allowed.
- 5** You **must not** take into the exam room:
 - (a) notes;
 - (b) AirPods, Earphones/Earbuds, an iPod, a mobile phone, a MP3/4 player or similar device, a watch, smart glasses or any other smart device.

Unless you are told otherwise, you **must not** have access to:

- (c) the internet, email, data stored on the hard drive, or portable storage media such as floppy disks, CDs and memory sticks;
- (d) pre-prepared templates.

Remember: possession of unauthorised material is breaking the rules, even if you do not intend to use it, and you will be subject to penalty and possible disqualification.

- 6** If you have a watch, the invigilator will ask you to hand it to them.
- 7 Do not** talk to or try to communicate with or disturb other candidates once you have entered the exam room.
- 8** If you leave the exam room unaccompanied by an invigilator before the on-screen test has finished, you **will not** be allowed to return.
- 9 Do not** borrow anything from another candidate during the on-screen test.

B. Information – Make sure you attend your on-screen test and bring what you need

- 1** Know the date and time of your on-screen test(s). Arrive at least ten minutes before the start of your on-screen test.
- 2** If you arrive late for an on-screen test, report to the invigilator running the test.
- 3** If you arrive more than one hour after the published starting time for the on-screen test, you may not be allowed to take it.
- 4** Your centre will inform you of any equipment which you may need for the on-screen test.

C. Calculators, dictionaries and computer spell-checkers

- 1 You may use a calculator unless you are told otherwise.
- 2 If you use a calculator:
 - (a) make sure it works properly; check that the batteries are working properly;
 - (b) clear anything stored in it;
 - (c) remove any parts such as cases, lids or covers which have printed instructions or formulae;
 - (d) **do not** bring into the examination room any operating instructions or prepared programs.
- 3 **Do not** use a dictionary or computer spell checker unless you are told otherwise.

D. Instructions during the on-screen test

- 1 Always listen to the invigilator. Always follow their instructions.
- 2 Tell the invigilator at once if:
 - (a) you have been entered for the wrong on-screen test;
 - (b) the on-screen test is in another candidate's name;
 - (c) you experience system delays or any other IT issues.
- 3 You may be given a question paper or the instructions may be on screen. In either case, read carefully and follow the instructions. **Do not** open the question paper until you are told that the exam has begun.

E. Advice and assistance

- 1 If on the day of the on-screen test you feel that your work may be affected by ill health or any other reason, tell the invigilator.
- 2 Put up your hand during the on-screen test if:
 - (a) you have a problem with your computer and are not sure what you should do;
 - (b) you do not feel well.
- 3 You **must not** ask for, and will not be given, any explanation of the questions.

F. At the end of the on-screen test

- 1 Ensure that the software closes at the end of the on-screen test.
- 2 If you are required to print off work outside the time allowed for the on-screen test, ensure that you collect your own work. You **must not** share your work with other candidates. Make sure that another candidate does not collect your printout(s).
- 3 **Do not** leave the exam room until told to do so by the invigilator.
- 4 **Do not** take any stationery from the exam room. This includes rough work, printouts or any other materials provided for the on-screen test.



Joint Council for
Qualifications^{CIC}

Information for candidates

Non-examination assessments

Effective from 1 September 2024

Produced on behalf of:



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This document tells you about some things that you **must** and **must not** do when you are completing your work.

When you submit your work for marking, the awarding body will normally require you to sign an authentication statement confirming that you have read and followed the regulations.

If there is something that you do not understand, you **must** ask your teacher.

Preparing your work – good practice

If you receive help and guidance from someone other than your teacher, you **must** tell your teacher. They will then record the assistance given to you.

If you worked as part of a group on an assignment, for example undertaking field research, you **must** write up your own account of the assignment. Even if the data you have is the same, you **must** describe in your own words how that data was obtained. You **must draw your own conclusions from the data.**

You **must** meet the deadlines that your teacher gives you. Remember – your teachers are there to guide you. Although they cannot give you direct assistance, they can help you to sort out any problems before it is too late.

Take care of your work and keep it safe. **Do not** leave it lying around where your classmates can find it. **Do not** share it with anyone, including posting it on social media. You must always keep your work secure and confidential. If it is stored on the computer network, keep your password secure. Collect all copies from the printer and destroy those you do not need.

Do not be tempted to use any pre-prepared or generated online solutions and try to pass them off as your own work – this is cheating. Electronic tools used by awarding bodies can detect this sort of copying.

You **must not** write inappropriate, offensive or obscene material.

Research and using references

In some subjects you will have an opportunity to do some independent research into a topic.

The research you do may involve looking for information in published sources such as textbooks, encyclopedias, journals, TV, radio and on the internet.

You can demonstrate your knowledge and understanding of a subject by using information from sources or generated from sources which may include the internet and AI. Remember, though, information from these sources may be incorrect or biased. You **must** take care how you use this material - you cannot copy it and claim it as your own work.

Using information from published sources (including the internet) as the basis for your assignment is a good way to demonstrate your knowledge and understanding of a subject. You **must** take care how you use this material though - you **cannot** copy it and claim it as your own work.

The regulations state that:

‘the work which you submit for assessment **must** be your own’;

‘you **must not** copy from someone else or allow another candidate to copy from you’.

When producing a piece of work, if you use the same wording as a published source, you **must** place quotation marks around the passage and state where it came from. This is known as **referencing**. You **must** make sure that you give detailed references for everything in your work which is not in your own words. A reference from a printed book or journal should show the name of the author, the year of publication and the page number, for example: Morrison, 2000, p29.

For material taken from the internet, your reference should show the date when the material was downloaded and **must** show the precise web page, not the search engine used to locate it. This can be copied from the address line. For example: http://news.bbc.co.uk/onthisday/hi/dates/stories/october/28/newsid_2621000/2621915.stm, downloaded 5 February 2025.

Where computer-generated content has been used (such as an AI Chatbot), your reference **must** show the name of the AI bot used and should show the date the content was generated. For example: ChatGPT 3.5 (<https://openai.com/blog/chatgpt/>), 25/01/2025. You **must** submit a copy of the computer-generated content with your work for reference and authentication purposes.

You may be required to include a bibliography at the end of your piece of written work. Your teacher will tell you whether this is necessary. Where required, your bibliography **must** list the full details of publications you have used in your research, even where these are not directly referred to, for example: Curran, J. *Mass Media and Society* (Hodder Arnold, 2005).

If you copy the words, ideas or outputs of others and do not show your sources in references and a bibliography, this will be considered as cheating.

Plagiarism

Plagiarism involves taking someone else's words, thoughts, ideas or outputs and trying to pass them off as your own. **It is a form of cheating which is taken very seriously.**

Don't think you won't be caught; there are many ways to detect plagiarism.

- Markers can spot changes in the style of writing and use of language.
- Markers are highly experienced subject specialists who are very familiar with work on the topic concerned – they may have read the source you are using, or even marked the work you have copied from!
- Internet search engines and specialised computer software can be used to match phrases or pieces of text with original sources and to detect changes in the grammar and style of writing or punctuation.

Penalties for breaking the regulations

If it is discovered that you have broken the regulations, one of the following penalties will be applied:

- you will be awarded zero marks for your work;
- you will be disqualified from that component for the examination series in question;
- you will be disqualified from the whole subject for that examination series;
- you will be disqualified from all subjects and barred from entering again for a period of time.

The awarding body will decide which penalty is appropriate.

REMEMBER - IT'S YOUR QUALIFICATION SO IT NEEDS TO BE YOUR OWN WORK.



Joint Council for
Qualifications^{CIC}

Information for candidates

Coursework assessments

Effective from 1 September 2024

Produced on behalf of:



This document tells you about some things that you **must** and **must not** do when you are completing coursework.

When you submit your work for marking, you will be asked to sign an authentication statement confirming that you have read and followed these regulations.

If there is anything that you do not understand, you **must** ask your teacher.

In some subjects you will have an opportunity to do some independent research into a topic. The research you do may involve looking for information in published sources such as textbooks, encyclopedias, journals, TV, radio and on the internet.

You can demonstrate your knowledge and understanding of a subject by using information from sources or generated from sources which may include the internet and AI. Remember, though, information from these sources may be incorrect or biased. You **must** take care how you use this material - you **cannot** copy it and claim it as your own work.

The regulations state that:

‘the work which you submit for assessment **must** be your own’;

‘you **must not** copy from someone else or allow another candidate to copy from you’.

If you use the same wording as a published source, you **must** place quotation marks around the passage and state where it came from. This is called ‘referencing’. You **must** make sure that you give detailed references for everything in your work which is not in your own words. A reference from a printed book or journal should show the name of the author, the year of publication and the page number, for example: (Morrison, 2000, p29).

For material taken from the internet, your reference should show the date when the material was downloaded and **must** show the precise web page, not the search engine used to locate it. This can be copied from the address line. For example: http://news.bbc.co.uk/onthisday/hi/dates/stories/october/28/newsid_2621000/2621915.stm, downloaded 5 February 2025.

Where computer-generated content has been used (such as an AI Chatbot), your reference **must** show the name of the AI bot used and should show the date the content was generated. For example: ChatGPT 3.5 (<https://openai.com/blog/chatgpt/>), 25/01/2025. You **must** submit a copy of the computer-generated content with your work for reference and authentication purposes.

You may be required to produce a bibliography at the end of your work. This **must** list the full details of publications you have used in your research, even where these are not directly referred to, for example: Curran, J. *Mass Media and Society* (Hodder Arnold, 2005).

If you copy the words, ideas or outputs of others and do not show your sources in references and a bibliography, this will be considered as cheating.

Preparing your coursework – good practice

If you receive help and guidance from someone other than your teacher, you **must** tell your teacher. They will then record the nature of the assistance given to you.

Your parent/carer may provide you with access to resource materials and discuss your coursework with you. However, they **must not** give you direct advice on what should or should not be included.

If you worked as part of a group on an assignment, you **must** each write up your own account of the assignment. Even if the data you have is the same, the description of how that data was obtained and the conclusions you draw from it should be in your own words.

You **must** meet the deadlines that your teacher gives you. Remember – your teachers are there to guide you. Although they cannot give you direct assistance, they can help you to sort out any problems before it is too late.

Take care of your work and keep it safe. **Don't** leave it lying around where your classmates can find it. **Don't** share it with anyone, including posting it on social media. You **must always** keep your work secure and confidential. If it is stored on the computer network, keep your password secure. Collect all copies from the printer and destroy those you do not need.

Don't be tempted to use any pre-prepared or generated online solutions and try to pass them off as your own work – this is cheating. Electronic tools used by awarding bodies can detect this sort of copying.

You **must not** write inappropriate, offensive or obscene material.

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- Internet search engines and specialised computer software can be used to match phrases or pieces of text with original sources. They can detect changes in the grammar and style of writing or punctuation.

Penalties for breaking the regulations

If it is discovered that you have broken the rules, one of the following penalties will be applied:

- you will be awarded zero marks for your work;
- you will be disqualified from that unit for that examination series;
- you will be disqualified from the whole subject for that examination series;
- you will be disqualified from all subjects and barred from entering again for a period of time.

The awarding body will decide which penalty is appropriate.

REMEMBER - IT'S YOUR QUALIFICATION SO IT NEEDS TO BE YOUR OWN WORK



Information for Candidates

Information About You and How We Use It

You have entered general or vocational qualifications such as GCSE, A-level, functional skills qualifications etc with one or more of the awarding bodies listed above. In order to be able to provide examinations and assessments, the awarding body needs to collect and use information about you. This notice provides you with a high level summary of the information the awarding body is required by law to give you about what happens to that information. For more detail see each awarding body's full Privacy Notice:

AQA	https://www.aqa.org.uk/about-us/privacy-notice
CCEA	http://ccea.org.uk/legal/privacy_policy
City & Guilds	https://www.cityandguilds.com/help/help-for-learners/learner-policy
NCFE	https://www.ncfe.org.uk/legal-information
OCR	https://www.ocr.org.uk/about/our-policies/website-policies/privacy-policy/
Pearson	https://qualifications.pearson.com/en/about-us/qualification-brands/gdpr.html
WJEC	https://www.wjec.co.uk/home/privacy-policy/

Who we are and how to contact us

Each awarding body is a separate organisation. Your school or examination centre will be able to confirm to you which awarding body is delivering each qualification you are undertaking and you will receive a statement confirming what qualifications you have been entered for and which awarding body. You will find links to each awarding body's website and information on how to contact them here: <https://www.jcq.org.uk/contact-our-members/>

Information about you and from where it is obtained

Each awarding body whose qualifications you enter will need to use a variety of information about you. This includes obvious identification details such as your name, address, date of birth and your school or examination centre. It also includes information about your gender, race and health, where appropriate. This information is provided by you or your parents/guardians and/or by your school or examination centre.

Each awarding body will create certain information about you such as a candidate number, examination results and certificates.

You will find further information about this in the awarding bodies' full Privacy Notice (see links above) or by contacting the awarding body (see above).

What happens to the information about you

The awarding bodies use the information about you to deliver the examinations and assessments which you have entered. This includes making a variety of arrangements for you to sit the examinations or assessments, marking, providing you and your school or centre with results and certificates. The awarding bodies also use some of the information about you for equality monitoring and other statistical analysis.

The awarding bodies may share information about your results with official bodies such as the Department for Education and the examinations regulators (e.g. Ofqual in England) and also relevant local authorities and the Universities and Colleges Admissions Service (UCAS). An awarding body may also use information about you to investigate cheating and other examination malpractice and will share information about malpractice with other awarding bodies.

The awarding bodies take the security of the information about you that they hold seriously.

You will find further, technical information about what the awarding bodies do with information about you, why and the legal basis in the awarding bodies' full Privacy Notice, which can be accessed here (see links on page one) or by contacting the awarding body (see above).

Your rights

The law gives you a number of rights in relation to the information about you that the awarding bodies hold. Those rights are:

- Access – you are entitled to ask each awarding body about the information it holds about you.
- Rectification – you are entitled to ask each awarding body to correct any errors in the information that it holds about you.
- Erasure – in certain circumstances you are entitled to ask each awarding body to erase the information about you that it holds.
- Object to or restrict processing – in certain circumstances you are entitled to ask each awarding body to stop using information about you in certain ways.
- Complain – you are entitled to complain to the Information Commissioner (the body regulating the use of personal information) about what each awarding body does with information about you.

You will find further information about your rights in relation to information about you in the awarding bodies' full Privacy Notice, which can be accessed here (see links on page one) or by contacting the awarding body (see above).

How long the information about you is held

Each awarding body retains information about you only for as long as it is needed. Some of the information is needed only during the period in which you are undertaking the examination or assessment and is securely destroyed a short while afterwards. Other information about you, such as your name, gender, address, qualification and subjects entered and the results, are held indefinitely and for at least 40 years.

Each awarding body has its own retention policy that sets out what information it retains, how it is retained and for how long. You can find out more about retention policies by contacting each awarding body (see above).

How to find out more about the information about you that the awarding bodies use

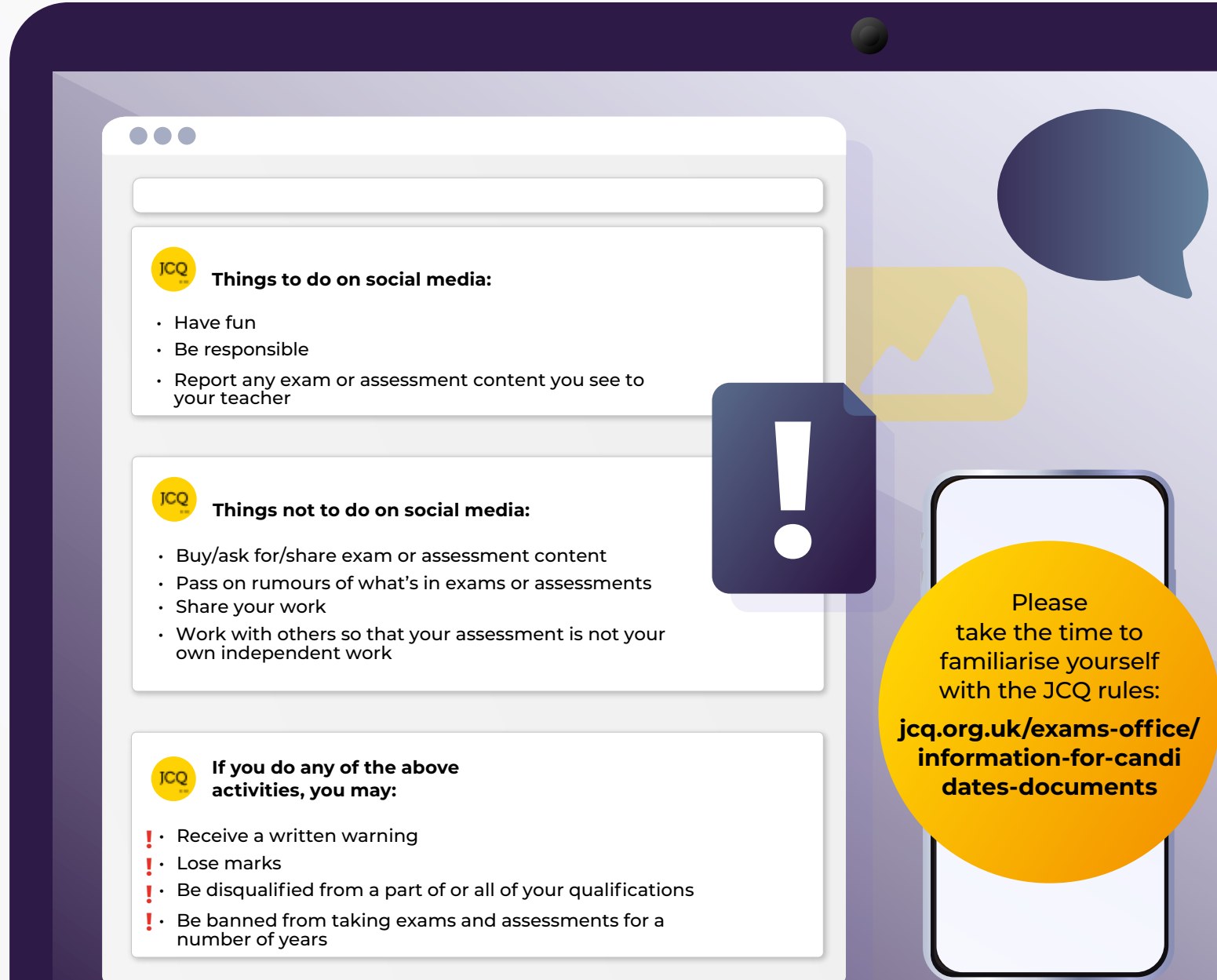
To find out more about the information about you that the awarding bodies collect and use, including what happens to that information and why, you can review the awarding bodies' full Privacy Notice, which can be accessed here (see links on page one) or contact the awarding body. You will find links to each awarding body's website and information on how to contact them here: <https://www.jcq.org.uk/contact-our-members/>.

Please note

It is important to note that this notice concerns only how the awarding bodies use information about you (called your "personal data"). Complaints about how an awarding body handles your personal data can be made to the Information Commissioner (www.ico.org.uk). Information about the examinations and assessments themselves, including the rules about assessments, can be found on the JCQ Exams Office pages (www.jcq.org.uk/exams-office). The awarding bodies are regulated by Ofqual (<https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/ofqual>) in England; Qualifications Wales (www.qualificationswales.org) in Wales, and the Council for the Curriculum, Examinations and Assessment (<http://ccea.org.uk/regulation>) in Northern Ireland.

While we like to share our experiences online, when it comes to exams and other assessments, we have to be careful.

- Sharing ideas online can be helpful when you're studying or revising
- However, sharing certain information (see information on the right) can break the rules and could affect your results
- If you're not sure what you can and can't discuss online, check with your teacher
- If you receive exam content on social media, you must tell your teacher
- Don't be caught out by scammers selling fake exam papers



Things to do on social media:

- Have fun
- Be responsible
- Report any exam or assessment content you see to your teacher

Things not to do on social media:

- Buy/ask for/share exam or assessment content
- Pass on rumours of what's in exams or assessments
- Share your work
- Work with others so that your assessment is not your own independent work

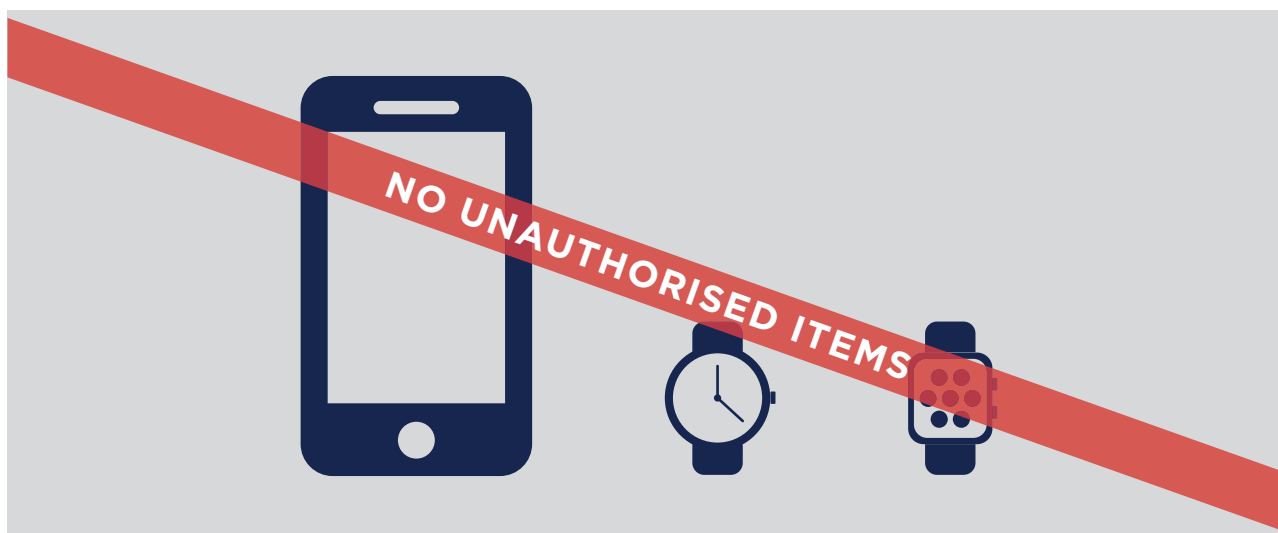
If you do any of the above activities, you may:

- ! • Receive a written warning
- ! • Lose marks
- ! • Be disqualified from a part of or all of your qualifications
- ! • Be banned from taking exams and assessments for a number of years

Please take the time to familiarise yourself with the JCQ rules:
[jqc.org.uk/exams-office/information-for-candidates-documents](https://www.jcq.org.uk/exams-office/information-for-candidates-documents)

NO MOBILE PHONES NO WATCHES

NO POTENTIAL TECHNOLOGICAL/WEB
ENABLED SOURCES OF INFORMATION



Possession of unauthorised items, such as a mobile phone
or any watch, is a serious offence and could result in





DISQUALIFICATION

from your examination and your overall qualification.

This poster must be displayed in a prominent place outside each examination room.

Warning to candidates



 Questions matter AQA	 City & Guilds	 Rewarding Learning CCEA	 Oxford Cambridge and RSA OCR	 Pearson	 WJEC
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1

You **must** be on time for all your examinations.

2

Possession of a mobile phone or other unauthorised material **is not allowed** even if you do not intend to use it. You will be subject to penalty and possible disqualification from the exam/qualification.

3

You **must not** talk to, attempt to communicate with or disturb other candidates once you have entered the examination room.

4

You **must** follow the instructions of the invigilator.

5

You **must not** sit an examination in the name of another candidate.

6

You **must not** become involved in any unfair or dishonest practice in any part of the examination.

7

If you are confused about anything, only speak to an invigilator.

The *Warning to candidates* must be displayed in a prominent place outside each examination room. This may be a hard copy A3 paper version or an image of the poster projected onto a wall or screen for all candidates to see.