

23 March 2021

Dear Parents / Carers and Year 11 Students

**Re - Year 11 Internal Examination Series 2021**

I am writing to give further information regarding the way in which grades will be determined this summer.

Grades will be determined using centre assessment and will reflect the standard at which a student is performing. The evidence used for each subject is explained below.

**GCSE subjects**

For all GCSE subjects except Art and Photography, the primary source of evidence will be an internal examination series in May. Some subjects will also use in-class assessments as evidence of performance and I will write separately giving details of these.

The internal examination series will take place under full exam conditions, just as a normal exam series would. Exams will take place on the following dates:

DATE	TIME	SUBJECT	TIME	SUBJECT
<b>Monday 10 May 2021</b>	08:45	English Literature		
<b>Tuesday 11 May 2021</b>	08:45	Geography	13:30	Business
<b>Wednesday 12 May 2021</b>	08:45	English Language		
<b>Thursday 13 May 2021</b>	08:45	History	13:30	French - Spanish
<b>Friday 14 May 2021</b>	08:45	Chemistry		
<b>Monday 17 May 2021</b>	08:45	Media	13:30	P.E.
<b>Tuesday 18 May 2021</b>	08:45	Biology		
<b>Wednesday 19 May 2021</b>	08:45	Psychology	13:30	Computer Science
<b>Thursday 20 May 2021</b>	08:45	Mathematics		
<b>Friday 21 May 2021</b>	08:45	Physics		

We want to assess as broad a range of the content of each specification as possible without disadvantaging any student. Therefore, we are making public the outline content of the May exams:

Subject	Exam Details	Internal Assessment Content
Business	1 x 1h15m	Questions will cover themes 1 and 2: Business risk and reward; USP; net cash flow; impact of competition; business calculations; e-commerce; motivating staff; organisational structures; the design mix; customer service; recruitment; stock control; dealing with suppliers; ethics and the environment.
Computer science	1 x 1h	Aspects of paper 1: Principles of Computer Science will be assessed. A revision list is available from Computer Science teachers.
English language	1 x 1h45m	A full paper 1 assessment: explorations in creative reading and writing.
English literature	1 x 1h45m	A full paper 1 assessment covering each student's Shakespeare text (Romeo and Juliet <b>or</b> The Merchant of Venice) and 19 <sup>th</sup> Century text (A Christmas Carol <b>or</b> Jekyll & Hyde). The Shakespeare text question will be on a character. The 19 <sup>th</sup> Century text question will be on a theme.
French	1 x 2h	There will be reading and writing sections to the assessment.  Topic details to follow when available.
Geography	1x 2h	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▲ The challenge of natural hazards (including tropical storms, tectonic hazards and climate change)</li> <li>▲ The living world (including ecosystems, hot deserts and tropical rainforests)</li> <li>▲ Coastal landscapes in the UK (including coastal processes, landforms and management)</li> <li>▲ Urban issues and challenges in LICs/NEEs (including urbanisation, and challenges in LIC/NEE cities)</li> <li>▲ The changing economic world (including Nigeria and the UK)</li> </ul>
History	1 x 1h45m	Crime and punishment and Norman Conquest.
Mathematics	1 x 1h30m	A calculator is allowed in this assessment. Please ensure you bring yours.  A specific topic list has been constructed to support students with their revision. This list is available from maths teachers.
Media	1 x 1h	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▲ The GQ magazine front cover. Students will be assessed on their knowledge of either media language or representations.</li> <li>▲ TLC's music video for <i>Waterfalls</i>. This will focus on either media language, representations or historical context.</li> <li>▲ Taylor Swift and Pharrell Williams. In this section the students could be asked about the set music videos we have studied, the websites for these artists or their use of social media. The questions here could be about media language, representations, audiences or industry so the entire unit should be revised.</li> </ul>
P.E.	1 x 1h	Non examined coursework and practical will still contribute 40% towards the final grade.  Paper 1 topics: Applied anatomy and physiology and physical training, will be assessed in May.
Psychology	1 x 1h45m	Students will complete a full paper 2 assessment.  A revision list is available from student's teachers.
Science	3 x 1h15m (Foundation)  3 x 1h45m (Higher)	Students will complete a full paper 2 assessment in Biology, Chemistry and Physics.  A revision list is available from Science teachers.
Spanish	1 x 2h	There will be reading and writing sections to the assessment.  Topic details to follow when available.

Art and Photography grades will be based on coursework portfolios only. Staff across these subjects are updating students as to how to improve their work and how the portfolio will be assessed.

### Applied subjects

BTEC subjects are required to submit an overall qualification grade based on various sources of evidence including completed units, partially completed internal assessments and assessments based on exam board materials.

Evidence for applied subjects will come from:

Subject	Evidence of Performance
Dance BTEC	All three components will be internally assessed and will contribute to the overall grade. Unit 3: performing to a brief, will not require an external performance.
Engineering BTEC	Units 1 (Exploring the engineering sector and design applications) and 2 (investigating an engineering project) have been completed.  Teachers will assess unit 3 internally and submit an overall grade to the exam board.
Hospitality WJEC	The external examination unit was completed in Year 10.  Teachers will assess unit 2 (hospitality and catering in action) internally and submit a grade to the exam board.
IT BTEC	Components 1 and 2 are partially completed. Evidence will be taken from both units.  Unit 3 assessments will take place in lessons under exam conditions and cover aspects of the unit taught in class.
Music RSL	Two units have already been completed: instrumental study and music style development.  Teachers will assess live music performance unit and combine this with the completed units.
Performing Arts BTEC	Units 1 (Exploring the performing arts) and 2 (developing skills and techniques) have been completed.  Teachers will assess unit 3 internally and submit an overall grade to the exam board.
Sport CNAT	The external examined unit was completed in Year 10. The course grade will be determined across all internal units.

I will be writing to you separately with details of the in-class assessments and the revision programme to support all Year 11 students.

If you have any questions regarding the process, please contact me on [psutherland@thespirescollege.com](mailto:psutherland@thespirescollege.com)

Yours sincerely



**Mr P Sutherland**  
**Vice Principal**