

Your guide to the changes for 2021

In response to the impact of Covid-19 we have made changes to a number of our qualifications.

The changes are designed to reduce the pressure on teachers and students in the 2020/21 academic year, and to safeguard against ongoing public health concerns.

This guide documents the changes we have made for students who are being entered for our Entry Level Certificates in summer 2021:

- Art and Design
- Computer Science
- Geography
- PE
- Science

Please use this document alongside the relevant subject specification from our website.

The following Entry Level Certificates should continue to be delivered as outlined in the current specifications:

- History
- Maths
- English
- Latin

Overview of the changes for Art and Design (R310)

- The Externally Set Task has been removed.
- Students only need to be entered for Component 1, Portfolio (Entry Code R310).
- The Portfolio will be worth 100% of the qualification.
- There will be no visiting moderation.
- Centres will need to submit work digitally (more details to follow).

Overview of the changes for ELC Computer Science (R354)

We have relaxed the current NEA (Programming Project) supervision requirements:

- Students can undertake the Programming Project at home, working outside of formal supervision.
- Although not directly supervised, teachers are expected to still actively monitor their students' progress.
- The Programming Project will continue to be internally assessed and externally moderated.
- A Centre Authentication Form (CCS160) as well as candidate authentication forms must still be completed.
- [JCO instructions](#) must still be followed. Particular note should be made to Sections 5, 6 and 7.

Overview of the changes for ELC Geography (R407)

The 'Fieldwork notebook' task can already be performed without leaving the school environment as can the 'Personal Project' task. This is confirmation (rather than a change) that fieldwork can be virtual or 'in the field'. This means the fieldwork can be 'classroom based' or can be carried out in the school grounds.

Overview of the changes for ELC PE (R463)

- The required number of sport activities will be reduced from four to two.
- Candidates may take any two activities (it could be one team and one individual, two team, or two individual).
- Learners have a free choice between individual and/or team activities. The requirement to be assessed in a team activity is removed.
- Learners may choose to be assessed in the role of leader in one of their two activities, this may be in the same activity they are also performing in.
- There will be no visiting moderation.
- Centres will need to submit their moderation evidence via filmed evidence (there will be a postal and digital option – more details on digital submission to follow).

Overview of the changes for Science (R483)

- Students are required to complete 8 'Can-Do' tasks rather than 16. Each completed task is worth one point.
- There are no mandatory 'Can Do' tasks. Teachers can choose any tasks if they meet the skill requirement.
- We encourage Centres to use demonstrations or simulations (including via video), to ensure that students can still experience the 'Can-Do' tasks that they are not able to complete.
- The number of 'End-of-Item' tests that students need to complete has been reduced from 36 to 24.
- Each 'End-of-Item' test is worth up to 3 points each in 2021, instead of the current 2 points each.
- The marking boundaries for each paper will be:
 - 3-5 marks – 1 point
 - 6-8 marks – 1.5 points
 - 9-11 marks – 2 points
 - 12-15 marks – 3 points
- Centres can submit their best 24 tests, up to a total point score of 72.
- Centres need to ensure students complete at least one 'End-of-Item' test each from Biology, Chemistry and Physics.
- Centres can use alternative arrangements for the 'Practical Task' if candidates are unable to do practical work. Students can plan a method and can carry out the recording and analysis of data. This data can be given to them by the teacher if carrying out the practical is not feasible.
- Some alternative 'Practical Tasks' will be available from our website to support you.
- Centres will need to complete an amended 'Candidate Record Card' for 2021, which is available on the [OCR website](#).

Contact Us

OCR's team of expert Subject Advisors are there to support you. If you would like to contact us, you can do so at:

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