



# CANDIDATE EXAM HANDBOOK

## 2023/24

This handbook is reviewed and updated annually

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## Introduction

King Alfred's is committed to ensuring that candidates are fully briefed on the examination 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 this handbook

The purpose of this handbook is:

- *To support candidate assemblies*
- *To inform candidates about malpractice in examinations and assessments*
- *To inform candidates about the use of their personal data and copyright*
- *To ensure candidates are provided with all relevant information about their exams and assessments in advance of any exams or assessments being taken*
- *To ensure copies of relevant JCQ information for candidates documents and exam room posters are provided in advance of any exams or assessment being taken*
- *To answer questions candidates may have.*
- *To inform candidates and relevant parents/carers of any exams-related policies/procedures that they need to be made aware of*

## Malpractice

To ensure candidates are aware of what malpractice is and the possible consequences.

- *To maintain the integrity of qualifications, strict Regulations are in place*
- *Malpractice means any act or practice which is in breach of the Regulations*
- *Any alleged, suspected or actual incidents of malpractice will be investigated and reported to the relevant awarding body/bodies*
- *JCQ provides information regarding what constitutes malpractice:*
  - *Introduction of unauthorised material into the examination room*
  - *Breaches of examination conditions*
  - *Exchanging, obtaining, receiving, or passing on information which could be examination related (or the attempt to)*
  - *Offences relating to the content of candidates' work*
  - *Undermining the integrity of examinations/assessments*

Refer to relevant [Information for candidates](#), such as social media, as example:

### **Things not to do on social media:**

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

and/or non-examination assessments and coursework, as example:

### **Research and using references**

...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/>), 25/01/2024. You should retain a copy of the computer-generated content for reference and authentication purposes.

### **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...

## Personal data

- *The awarding bodies collect information about exam candidates*
- *To understand what information is collected and how it is used, you must read the JCQ Information for candidates – Privacy Notice*

## Copyright

- *The copyright of any form of work created by a candidate that is submitted to an awarding body for assessment (referred to as Assessment Materials) belongs to the candidate*
- *By submitting this work, a candidate is granting the awarding body a non-exclusive, royalty-free licence to use their assessment materials (referred to as Assessment Licence)*
- *If a candidate wishes to terminate the awarding body's rights for anything other than assessing his/her work, the awarding body must be notified by the centre and it is at the discretion of the awarding body whether or not to terminate such rights*

## Coursework assessments/non-examination assessments

- *Relevant JCQ information for candidates documents - coursework, non-examination assessments, social media is available on the King Alfred's website- Exams section*
- *Assessments dates are shown on the King Alfred's calendar.*
- *Subject teachers advise of relevant deadlines that must be met (dependent on the assessment type) and how the work is marked*
- *Candidates are informed of their centre assessed marks (please refer to the internal appeals procedure if requesting a review of the centre assessed marks)*
- *Subject teachers advise which NEA work is externally marked/assessed etc.*

The centre will notify candidates, including any private candidates entered through the centre, of their examination entries and the dates and times of their examinations/assessments. The centre ensures that the JCQ Information for candidates documents (coursework, non-examination assessments, on-screen tests, privacy notice, social media and written examinations) are available electronically **prior** to assessments and/or examinations taking place... (Candidates **must** also be familiar with the JCQ *Unauthorised items* and *Warning to candidates posters*. (GR 5.8))

## Written timetabled exams

- *Candidates will receive a statement of entry (to check that personal details and exam entries are correct)*
- *If an entry is not correct, the candidate should discuss with their subject teacher*
- *Candidate will receive an exam timetable (to ensure candidates know the date and time of all their exams/assessments), and all relevant information regarding seating arrangements, exam rooms, etc.*
- *The JCQ information for candidates documents – written examinations, social media are available on the King Alfred's website- Exam section. Candidates must be familiar with the documents*

- *Exam room posters – Warning to candidates, Unauthorised items are available on the King Alfred's website- Exam section*

### **Contingency sessions - Summer 2024**

- Candidates should remain available until June 28<sup>th</sup> in the event that the exam boards require any contingency sessions.

### **On-screen tests**

Please see the King Alfred's website for [Information for candidates – on-screen tests](#)

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

- *Two exams at the same time constitutes a timetable clash*
- *The centre will manage a timetable clash within the same session (where one paper will be taken, followed immediately/after a short supervised break by the next paper(s) in the same session and formal examination conditions will remain in place at all times in the exam room)*
- *The centre will manage a timetable clash over exam sessions with centre supervision arrangements remaining in place, etc.*

### **Where you will take your exams**

The venues for the exams will be shown on the seated timetable. Room codes are as follows:

- *"C Hall" (Centre Hall), "Bcn" (The Beacon), "BC" rooms (rooms at the Baptist Church)*
- *"C6" rooms (rooms in the 6<sup>th</sup> form), "Test" indicates a small room to be advised by the Exams Office*

### **What time your exams will start and finish**

- *The start times of your exams will be shown on your seated timetable*
- *Candidates must remain in the room until the end of the exam*

### **Supervision during your exams**

- *Exams are supervised by a team of external invigilators*
- *Invigilators must follow strict rules and regulations when conducting exams as directed by JCQ, awarding bodies, etc.*

### **Exam room conditions**

- *Candidates should be outside their exam room 15 minutes before the start of the exam. Candidates are invited into the exam room by the invigilators*
- *Candidates are under formal exam conditions from the moment they enter the exam room until they are given permission to leave by the invigilator. Candidates must remain silent when in the exam room*
- *Candidates must listen to and follow the instructions of the invigilator at all times in the exam room*
- *Candidates must not communicate with or disturb other candidates*

- *Information is displayed in the exam room (centre number, subject title, paper number and the actual starting and finishing times, and date, of each exam)*
- *Candidate must complete all relevant information relating to the completion of the front of the answer books (first name and surname that matches their entry information, candidate number etc.) but they must only do this when the invigilator's announcement instructs them to do so.*
- *Candidates must adhere to any relevant information regarding the use of additional answer sheets/answer books, etc.*
- *Candidates must not open the question paper until the examination begins.*
- 

### **Where you will sit in the exam room**

*The seating arrangements are displayed outside the exam room.*

- *The Exam desks are identified by the column and row eg A1, A2 , B1 , B2 etc*
- *Candidates are allocated a seat number for each exam*
- *If you cannot find your desk, please ask the invigilator who will help you.*
- *Do not sit at any other empty desk, only the desk allocated to you.*

### **How your identity is confirmed in the exam room**

You must place your photo ID on the desk so that the invigilators can identify you and complete an accurate register. *If you are sitting in the wrong desk you may be marked as absent for your exam.*

### **What equipment you need to bring to your exams**

*JCQ information regarding authorised equipment that should be brought by the candidate:*

- *You must bring a black pen and any other exam equipment required for the exam, including a calculator unless the exam states "no calculators".*
- *Your equipment must be in a clear pencil case or plastic bag.*

### **Using calculators**

- *Calculators may be used in every exam unless it states otherwise eg the non-calculator GCSE Maths paper and Computer Science*
- *You must be aware of JCQ awarding body instructions regarding the use of calculators in your exams*

### **What you should not bring into the exam room**

*JCQ information regarding unauthorised items including mobile phones, watches , etc*

- *If you bring any unauthorised material into the exam room, this will be reported to the board and they may disqualify you from the exam.*

## Food and drink in exam rooms

You may bring a clear bottle of water, without a label, into the exam. The bottle must be kept on the floor to avoid spoiling your exam paper. Any coloured, opaque bottles or bottles with writing will be removed from the exam room.

Food is not allowed in the exam room.

## What you should wear for your exams

You must wear school uniform for your exams.

## Where your personal belongings will be stored during your exam

Your personal belongings including your bags, coats and phones should be left in the designated bag storage room for that day. The bag storage room will be locked for the duration of the exam.

## What to do if you arrive late for your exam

If you think that you will be late for your exam, you should phone the Exams Office to advise what has happened. If you arrive late, you should go to the Exams Office and you will be advised where to go.

If you arrive very late this will be reported to the exam board who will decide whether or not your paper will be accepted.

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

- *If you are unwell and absent on the day of the exam, you must phone the Exams Office who will advise you what to do.*
- *If you are unwell but manage to attend the exam, you should go to the Exams Office at the end of the exam so that provision may be made for special consideration.*
- *If you feel unwell during the exam, raise your hand and tell the invigilator.*
- *If you are absent from exams for illness or other acceptable reason, the Exams Office may be able to apply for special consideration.*
- *You may need to provide any relevant information and evidence to support an application for special consideration, etc.*

## What happens if you have an unauthorised absence from your exam

If you have an unauthorised absence from an exam you must contact the Exams Office and arrange to pay the cost for the exam entry for the affected subject.

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

In the event of an emergency evacuation the candidates must follow the instructions from the invigilator and must remain silent so that they do not compromise the integrity of the exam.

## Candidates with access arrangements/reasonable adjustments

Access Arrangements are provisions made before the exam in order to ensure that candidates are not disadvantaged.

*A candidate should raise any concerns, prior to the start of their GCE/GCSE courses, with the SENCO who will investigate their concerns. If appropriate the student may be tested by an assessor.*



- *Parents of candidates are informed in writing of the approved arrangements that are in place for the candidate.*
- *The candidates seated timetable shows where their exams will take place, etc.*

## **Results**

- *Provisional statements of results will be available for collection on results days. The results are provisional as there is a window for applications for reviews. The outcome of the review may affect the grade and therefore change the provisional result.*
- *Candidates will be advised what time they may collect their results.*
- *Senior members of centre staff will be available on the Summer results days immediately after the publication of results in order to advise candidates.*
- *Results will also be emailed during the afternoon of results day to candidates' KA email address.*
- *If the candidate is unable to collect their result they may give a written and signed note to a relation or friend authorising them to collect on their behalf.*

## **Post-results services**

- *Candidates may request Access to their scripts, Reviews of results and Appeals, if appropriate. They should seek advice from the centre.*
- *Requests for all post-results services must be made through the centre*
- *Candidates should discuss their requests with the Exams Office and complete the required paperwork and pay any fees prior to their request being actioned.*
- *Candidates are informed about the deadlines, fees and charges for these services in their results envelope.*

## **Certificates**

- *Certificates are available/distributed in the sixth form on the Wednesday during the last week of term in December. Students should sign and collect their certificates and keep them safe.*
- *If candidates are still at school they may collect during the lunch break that day. All candidates who have left should collect between 15:30 and 18:00.*
- *If a candidate is unable to collect their certificate, they should give a written and signed note to a relation or friend authorising them to collect. If that person brings the note, they will be able to sign and collect the certificates.*
- *If certificates are not collected, they will be held by the centre for 12 months. After that candidates will need to contact the boards and purchase a copy themselves.*

## **Internal appeals procedure**

### **King Alfred's Internal Appeals Procedure.**

- *The centre's internal appeals procedure for exam related issues is available from the Exams Office.*
- *The procedure covers what the student should do if they are not happy with the teacher mark for their internally assessed work. Teachers will give students their mark and a*

*timescale to raise any concerns. Students must raise a formal concern before the mark is submitted to the exam board in order to allow for the mark to be reviewed.*

- *The student must submit the form in a given timescale before the marks are sent to the board.*

### **Complaints policy**

The King Alfred's Complaints policy relating to exams is available from the Exams Office.

**JCQ Information for candidates - coursework**

You **must** read this information if you are undertaking qualifications that contain elements of coursework assessment.

*Information for candidates - Coursework 2023-2024*

<http://www.jcq.org.uk/exams-office/information-for-candidates-documents>

Please see the JCQ documents on the Exams section on the KA website

### **JCQ Information for candidates – non-examination assessments**

You **must** read this information if you are undertaking qualifications that contain components of non-examination assessment.

*Information for candidates – non-examination assessments 2023-2024*

<http://www.jcq.org.uk/exams-office/information-for-candidates-documents>

Please see the JCQ documents on the Exams section on the KA website

### **JCQ Information for candidates – on-screen tests**

You **must** read this information if you will be taking any externally assessed on-screen tests as part of your qualification(s).

*Information for candidates – on-screen 2023-2024*

<http://www.jcq.org.uk/exams-office/information-for-candidates-documents>

Please see the JCQ documents on the Exams section on the KA website

**JCQ Information for candidates – written exams**

You **must** read this information before you take any externally assessed timetabled written exams.

*Information for candidates – written exams 2023-2024*

<http://www.jcq.org.uk/exams-office/information-for-candidates-documents>

Please see the JCQ documents on the Exams section on the KA website

**JCQ Information for candidates – Privacy Notice**

You **must** read this notice as it contains "*Information About You and How We Use It*"

*Information for candidates – Privacy Notice*

<http://www.jcq.org.uk/exams-office/information-for-candidates-documents>

Please see the JCQ documents on the Exams section on the KA website

**JCQ Information for candidates – social media**

You **must** read this information to help you stay within examination/assessment regulations when using social media.

*Information for candidates – social media*

<http://www.jcq.org.uk/exams-office/information-for-candidates-documents>

Please see the JCQ documents on the Exams section on the KA website



**JCQ *Unauthorised items* poster**

This poster will be displayed outside each exam room. You **must** note that "*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.*"

*Unauthorised items* poster

<http://www.jcq.org.uk/exams-office/exam-room-posters>

Please see the JCQ documents on the Exams section on the KA website

**JCQ *Warning to candidates* poster**

This poster will be displayed outside each exam room. You **must** note all the warnings.

*Warning to candidates* poster

<http://www.jcq.org.uk/exams-office/exam-room-posters>

Please see the JCQ documents on the Exams section on the KA website