Advance Information Student Guide

1 What is advance information?

Advance information is new for 2022. It's part of the package of support available for your summer exams this year, in recognition of the disruption to your education caused by the pandemic.

The aim of advance information is to help guide and prioritise your revision. It will give you information on the focus of the content of exams in summer 2022 for most subjects. You can access the advance information when it is published by exam boards on their websites on 7 February 2022.

2 How do I use it?

Advance information can help guide and prioritise your revision. For example, advance information for some subjects may let you know that one part of the assessment will focus on a reduced range of specification content. You may then wish to prioritise that content in your revision.

To support your progression and best possible performance in the examinations, your revision plans should take account of everything you have been taught. Advance information will not necessarily cover all aspects of specification content that will be assessed in the 2022 examinations, so to make the best use of past papers you should revise a broad range of content.

This will always be the best preparation for success in an exam, particularly in questions which ask you to draw on information, skills and examples from across the specification content (these are known as 'synoptic questions'). Using full past papers can also help you to familiarise yourself with the style of exam questions as part of your exam preparation.

One final note - generally, the topics in advance information will be listed in the order they appear in your specification, not the order they may be in the exam papers.

3 Will advance information be available for all my subjects?

Advance information will be available for most subjects. For a small number of subjects, there are other adaptations in place to support you and so advance information will not be provided.

Advance information will not be provided for GCSE, AS and A Levels in Art & Design as these courses do not have written exams and are graded through Non-Exam Assessments (NEA) instead. This year, these subjects with be graded on your portfolio of work only.

- Advance information will also not be provided in GCSE English Literature, History, Ancient History and Geography where flexibility in what is taught has already been introduced for 2022.

- Advance information may look different across the subjects and specifications. For instance, advance information for topic-based practical subjects such as Science will differ from that for subjects with set texts such as Drama.

Different exam boards will also have variations in the advance information between specifications for the same subject. This is because the specification and assessment designs are different. Therefore, the advance information which your exam board will provide will be specifically relevant to you and your specification.

If you have any questions on whether your subject will have advance information, please ask your teacher.

4 Where can I find advance information and when?

You can find the relevant advance information for your exams through your exam boards or via the JCQ website. They will make their advance information publicly available on their websites by the end of the day on 7 February 2022. Your teachers are also aware that advance information will be available for your subjects, and they will advise you on how to use this to guide your revision.

5 Will I be able to take advance information into my exams?

No. While intended to help you with your revision, advance information is not something you will be allowed to take into the exams with you. As in any year, your exam papers will clearly set out the questions you need to answer.

6 What do I have to do now?

For now, continue as normal with your studies and revision. Exam boards will make their advance information available on their websites on 7 February 2022. If you do have any questions, please speak to your teachers, or directly contact the relevant exam board.