

Qualification and assessment Publication policy

2023

Who and what is this policy for:

This policy sets out which assessment materials we publish on our website and provides information about copyright of our materials.

Pearson Education Ltd – Our Mission and Values

At Pearson, our purpose is simple: to add life to a lifetime of learning. We believe that every learning opportunity is a chance for a personal breakthrough. That's why our c.20,000 Pearson employees are committed to creating vibrant and enriching learning experiences designed for real-life impact. We are the world's leading learning company, serving customers in nearly 200 countries with digital content, assessments, qualifications, and data. For us, learning isn't just what we do. It's who we are. Visit us at www.pearsonplc.com

We are regulated by the UK qualifications regulators Ofqual (England), SQA Accreditation (Scotland), CCEA Regulation (Northern Ireland) and Qualifications Wales (Wales). Our regulatory policies are integral to our approach and articulate how we meet regulatory requirements. These policies are designed to support centres and students and set out clearly our approach to the design, delivery, and award of Pearson qualifications and services.

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1. Scope of policy

- 1.1** This policy applies to the following regulated and self-regulated Pearson qualifications: Level 1/Level 2 GCSEs (9-1), Level 1/Level 2 International GCSEs (9-1), Level 3 Advanced Subsidiary GCEs, Level 3 Advanced GCEs, International Advanced Subsidiary and International Advanced Levels. The policy explains when assessment materials for timetabled examinations are made available to approved centres and members of the public. The assessment materials are available for the lifecycle of the specification.

2. Question papers, mark schemes and examiner reports

- 2.1** Past question papers, mark schemes and examiner reports are offered free of charge on our website, 'restricted access' to teachers at Edexcel exam centres for 12 months after an exams series and then 'open access' to all users thereafter. Teachers and exams officers at Pearson Edexcel centres require an Edexcel Online login to access assessment materials during the 12-month restricted access period. Access to Edexcel Online is managed by exams officers in each Pearson Edexcel centre. Question papers, mark schemes and examiner reports are released with restricted access, depending on the series as follows:

Assessment Material (for timetabled examinations) Type	January Series <i>The timescales referenced refer to restricted access only</i>	Summer Series <i>The timescales referenced refer to restricted access only</i>	Autumn Series <i>The timescales referenced refer to restricted access only</i>
Question Paper	2-4 weeks before results day.	7-8 weeks before results day.	2-4 weeks before results day.
Mark Scheme	2-4 weeks before results day.	4-5 weeks before results day.	2-4 weeks before results day.
Examiner reports	1 week after results day	1 week after results day	1 week after results day

- 2.2** Past question papers, mark schemes and examiner reports are normally kept under restricted access to teachers with Edexcel Online access for 12 months. This is to allow centres to use these materials as unfamiliar mock assessments or practice resources with their students. Under extenuating circumstances, Pearson may take the decision to keep past assessment materials under restricted access for longer than 12 months if there is a legitimate business reason for doing so (for example, cancellation of an examination series).
- 2.3** Private candidates may request access to restricted access assessment materials after they have made an entry to facilitate preparation for exams.

3. Other assessment materials

- 3.1** Some of the qualifications covered by this policy include the publication of restricted access pre-release assessment materials, prior to an exam series to allow students to carry out research or investigations. Private candidates may request these using the process outlined in 2.3. Pre-release materials will be made 'open access' 12 months after the exam series.

4. Specifications

- 4.1** The current specifications for all regulated and self-regulated qualifications covered by this policy are available to download free of charge from our website. You can find these on the relevant qualification pages.

5. Access to scripts

- 5.1** Candidate consent is required before requesting copies of student scripts. Please read the JCQ Post Results Services Guide. Candidate consent can only be obtained after results have been published.
- 5.2** Centres can view and download scripts which have been **marked online** free of charge from our self-service portal. The scripts show the marks awarded but are largely unannotated by examiners. The portal can only be accessed by Edexcel Online users

who have the 'Exam Viewer' profile ticked on Edexcel Online. Exams officers in centres can give teachers access to 'Exam Viewer'.

- 5.3 If scripts have been **marked 'traditionally'** (i.e. not online), teachers or exams officers will need to request them, free of charge, by the published deadline, using the Post Results section of Edexcel Online.
- 5.4 Exams officers may use the annotations service to gain access to any occasional notes made by examiners on scripts during marking. Any comments are to inform marking rather than to explain to teachers or students the application of the mark scheme.
- 5.5 Private candidates must contact the Edexcel centre where their entry was made to request access to their scripts or to make use of the annotations service.
- 5.6 Further information on how to access scripts can be found on our webpage.

6. Assessment material availability

	How long after live exam series are papers available?	Purpose	How are they accessed?	Who has access?
Question papers and mark schemes	2-8 weeks depending on series.	Teachers can download and use as practice materials.	Website, with Edexcel Online login.	Teachers and staff at Pearson Edexcel centres with an Edexcel Online login.
Examiner reports	1 week after results day for each exam series.	To allow teachers to receive feedback on the exam series from examiners.	Website, with Edexcel Online login.	Teachers and staff at Pearson Edexcel centres with an Edexcel Online login.
Question papers, mark schemes and examiner reports	From 1 August for the previous year's May/June exam series and 12 months after the last exam in the series for all	Anyone can download and use as practice materials and to inform their teaching and learning.	Website.	Publicly available on the Pearson website.

	How long after live exam series are papers available?	Purpose	How are they accessed?	Who has access?
	other exam series.			
ExamWizard	2-8 weeks after results days.	Teachers can download and use as practice materials.	ExamWizard platform, using Edexcel Online login.	Edexcel Online Users.
Access to Scripts	From results day each exam series	To allow teachers and students to review their students' scripts with a view to understanding how the student performed on the question paper, or for teaching and learning.	Via ScriptViewer on Edexcel Online.	Edexcel Online users with the appropriate profile and post-results candidate consent.

7. Copyright

- 7.1 All the materials we publish are protected by copyright legislation. However, we allow Pearson centres to access our materials for some purposes and in certain contexts. Please read our full copyright policy [here](#).

8. Regulatory references

- 8.1 UK regulators require all awarding organisations to establish and maintain their compliance with regulatory conditions and criteria. As part of this process, policies that relate to Pearson's status as an awarding organisation will reference any conditions and criteria that they address.
- 8.2 This policy addresses the following regulatory criteria and conditions:

Qualification regulator or relevant governing body	Regulatory rule or guidance document	Regulatory condition, criteria, or principle
Ofqual	<u>General Conditions of Recognition</u>	E3
CCEA Regulation	<u>General Conditions of Recognition</u>	E3
Qualifications Wales	<u>Qualification Wales Standard Conditions of recognition</u>	E3
SQA Accreditation	<u>Regulatory Principles (2021)</u>	5
SQA Accreditation	<u>Regulatory Principles (2021)</u>	7
JCQ	<u>General Regulations for approved centres</u>	5.13

9. Policy review date

9.1 This policy will be reviewed in March 2024.

10. Useful contacts and further information

10.1 For questions about copyright, you can contact Copyright Manager directly by email at copyright@pearson.com.