

Queen Mary's Grammar School, Walsall

A statement of our policy on **Controlled Assessments**

Approved by the Local Governing Board, November 2017

Principles

The School aims to arrange Controlled Assessments in a way that meets

- DfE (formerly QCDA) requirements and of exam board specifications
- is appropriate to the needs and abilities of all students in the school

The procedures are reviewed annually by the Senior Leadership Team and proposals for change are tabled at a meeting of Local Governing Board.

Aims

• To provide the best conditions for internal assessment for all our students, including establishing a programme that doesn't create subject congestion and is appropriate to the stage of the course for students

Objectives

In pursuing those aims, the school has the following objectives

- Regularly review the policy to ensure that it continues to meet the needs of our students
- Consult with governors before introducing any major changes
- Monitor the procedures established within this policy

Staff procedures and responsibilities

Senior Leadership Team	Heads of Department	Teaching Staff	Exams Office
 To be accountable for 	 To establish appropriate controlled assessments 	 To be aware of the general 	 To make arrangements for
the safe and secure	■ To ensure that 40% of the overall controlled	guidelines for the	invigilation with the Head
conduct of controlled	assessment is taken in the exam period in which the	conducting of controlled	of Department
assessments	qualification is certified	assessments	 To enter students for
 To provide an overview 	 Planning and timing of assessments 	 To be familiar with the 	individual units
of the planning and	• To ensure that (where possible) controlled assessment	requirements of the	 To enter cash in codes for
timing of assessments	takes place in timetabled lesson time and has minimal	controlled assessment in	the terminal exam series
To ensure that (where	wider impact on other subject areas	delivery	Where confidential
possible) controlled	 To establish appropriate arrangements for setting, 	 To supervise controlled 	materials are directly
assessment takes place	marking and storing assessments securely in	assessments at the	received, to be responsible
in timetabled lesson	accordance with the exam board, JCQ and QCDA	appropriate level of	for their receipt, safe
time and has minimal	requirements	control	storage and transmission
wider impact on other	 To make arrangements for invigilation within the 	 To make arrangements for 	 To download and
subject areas	Department or with the Examinations Secretary,	absent candidates to sit	distribute mark sheets for
 To map resource 	including the briefing of cover supervisors/	the assessment in an	teaching staff to use and to
requirements and deal		alternative session	collect and send these to

with any wider issues of delivery of controlled assessment within the school To communicate the yearly timetable to staff Any other unresolved problem which may arise will be referred to the Senior Leadership Team	 invigilators who may not be teaching staff in the department To make arrangements for absent candidates to sit the assessment in an alternative session To recognise the potential needs for re-sits and the knock-on effects of this on timetabling To standardise marking within the department and to make arrangements for moderation which involves all teaching staff To arrange deadlines for the completion of controlled assessments to meet those externally provided by exam boards To ensure that authentication forms are completed in line with the requirements of the Examination Boards To ensure that any cases of malpractice are reported to the Headmaster and exams office To ensure that extra time/assistance for candidates is allowed for through communication with the SENCO and exams office Where appropriate, to arrange for sample material to be used in order to practice for controlled assessments 	 To be familiar with the assessment criteria for marking the work To be involved in internal departmental moderation of the work To ensure that authentication forms are completed in line with the requirements of the Examination Boards 	exam boards to meet deadlines To arrange suitable accommodation for controlled assessment to take place on the rare occasions that it can't be conducted in the classroom
Senior Leadership Team	Heads of Department	Teaching Staff	Exams Office

General procedures for the administration of controlled assessments

- Controlled assessments (with the exception of speaking tests in MFL and final assessment pieces in Music and Art) should be carried out in timetabled lesson time
- Absences from assessments where there is a high level of control should be treated in the same way as with external examinations. Parents will need to complete a pro forma to explain the absence. Opportunities may be available here for candidates to sit the assessment, but cover staff could be used and it should be at a time so as to minimise the disruption to the department (as well as not removing the student from other lessons)
- In cases where the whole cohort are not given the chance to make more than one attempt at an assessment, re-sit opportunities should be limited to cases where there has been significant underperformance. These should be agreed between the Head of Department and the Head of school

Appeals

- Appeals against coursework marks which are internally assessed may be made in accordance with the 'Appeals against Coursework Marks policy'.
- Appeals against coursework marks which are externally assessed may be made in accordance with the procedures of the examination board in conjunction with the Senior Leadership Team and the Exams Office.

The teacher responsible for the Controlled Assessment Policy is Mr R J Langton, Head of School

The teacher responsible for curricular complaints is: The Head of school, Mr RJ Langton

Appendix 1 - Controlled assessment risk management process

SLT Senior Leadership Team HODs Heads of Department EO Examinations Office

Risks and issues	s Possible remedial action		Staff
	Forward planning	Action	
Timetabling			
Assessment schedule clashes with other activities	Plan/establish priorities well ahead (e.g. start of academic year) for all subjects or lines of learning	Plan dates in consultation with school calendar – negotiate with other parties	SLT HODs EO
Too many assessments close together across subjects or lines of learning	Plan assessments so they are spaced over the duration of the course	Space assessments to at least allow candidates time between assessments	SLT HODs EO
		Liaison with Heads of Department to produce timetable that is then published	
Accommodation			
Insufficient space in classrooms for candidates	Once group sizes are known at the start of the year, flag instances where regular classroom space may not be suitable to conduct controlled assessment	Use more than one classroom or multiple sittings where necessary – including the gym/main hall as with an exam	SLT HODs EO
Insufficient facilities for all candidates	Careful planning ahead and booking of rooms / centre facilities	Survey ICT facilities (including laptops) and book in advance	SLT HODs EO
Downloading awarding body set tasks			
IT system unavailable on day of assessment	Download tasks well ahead of scheduled assessment date in all cases	Book IT equipment well ahead and download tasks before scheduled date of assessment	SLT HODs EO
Teaching staff/assessors unable to access task details	Test secure access rights ahead of schedule every year and every session	Ensure teaching staff/assessors have access rights for correct area of awarding body secure extranet sites ahead of time	SLT HODs EO
Loss of task details in transmission	Download tasks well ahead of scheduled assessment date	Report loss to awarding body for replacement; download again	SLT HODs EO

Absent candidates			
Candidates absent for all or part of assessment (various reasons)	Plan alternative session(s) for candidates		SLT HODs EO
Candidates have a scheduling clash for exams or assessment	Always consider candidate timetables well ahead and decide on priorities in advance to scheduling clashes	Check before booking the date; provide an alternative date, where necessary and consult awarding body procedures for dealing with timetabling clashes	SLT HODs EO
		N.B. retakes of controlled assessment are limited	
Control levels for task taking			
Assessment is undertaken under incorrect level of control (time, resources, supervision and collaboration)	Ensure teaching staff/assesors know what level is applicable and understand what is involved. Provide training if required	Seek guidance from the awarding body	SLT HODs EO
Supervision			
Student study diary/plan not provided or completed*	Ensure teaching staff/assessors are aware of the need for study diary/plans to be completed early in course	Ensure candidates start, continue and complete study diary/plans that are signed after every session	SLT HODs EO
Teaching staff/assessors do not understand supervision of controlled assessment is their responsibility	Ensure teaching staff/assessors understand nature of controlled assessments and their role in supervision	Exam board staff training	SLT HODs EO
Suitable supervisor has not been arranged for an assessment where teaching staff/assessors are not supervising	A suitable supervisor must be arranged for any controlled assessment where a teacher/assessor is not supervising, in line with the awarding body specification.	Advance planning and communication with the exams office	SLT HODs EO
Task setting			
Teaching staff/assessors fail to correctly set tasks	Ensure teaching staff/assessors understand the task setting arrangements as defined in the awarding body specification**	Seek guidance from the awarding body/exam boards training and feedback	SLT HODs EO
Assessments have not been moderated as required in the awarding body specification	Check specification and plan required moderation appropriately	Seek guidance from the awarding body/exam boards training and feedback	SLT HODs EO

Security of materials			
Assessment tasks not kept secure before assessment	Ensure teaching staff understand importance of task security	Request/obtain different assessment tasks	SLT HODs EO
Candidates' work not kept secure during or after assessment	Define appropriate level of security, in line with awarding body requirements, for each department as necessary	Take materials to secure storage	SLT HODs EO
Insufficient or insecure storage space	Look at provision for suitable storage early in the course	Find alternative spaces. Establish policy of storage and communicate this to staff.	SLT HODs EO
Deadlines			
Deadlines not met by candidates	Ensure all candidates are briefed on deadlines/penalties for not meeting them	Mark what candidates have produced by deadline and seek guidance from awarding body on further action.	SLT HODs EO
Deadlines for marking and/or paperwork not met by teaching staff/assessors	Ensure teaching staff/assessors are given clear deadlines (prior to awarding body ones) to complete marking/paperwork so the exams office can process and send off marks ahead of AB deadlines	Seek guidance from awarding body	SLT HODs EO
Authentication			
Candidate fails to sign authentification form	Ensure all candidates have authentication forms to sign and attach to work when it is completed before handing in	Find candidate and ensure form is signed	SLT HODs EO
Teaching staff/assessors fail to complete authentication forms or leave before completing authentication	Ensure teaching staff/assessors understand importance of authentication forms and the requirement of a signature	Return form to staff for signature. Ensure forms are signed as work is marked, not at end of season	SLT HODs EO
Marking			
Teaching staff/assessors interpret marking descriptions incorrectly	Ensure appropriate training and practicing of marking. Plan for sampling of marking during the practice phase.	Arrange for remarking. Consult awarding body specification for appropriate procedure	SLT HODs EO
Centre does not run standardisation activity as required by the awarding body	Plan against the requirements for standardisation for the awarding body when and how this activity will be conducted.	Check with the awarding body whether a later standardisation event can be arranged.	SLT HODs EO