

Guidance for External Examinations and Coursework Key Stage 5

This School Policy is designed to promote quality, consistency, accuracy and fairness in assessment and awarding. In all cases, the final awarding decisions are taken by the Awarding Bodies: AQA; OCR; Edexcel and WJEC.

This document covers the School's policy in dealing with the Awarding Bodies, the Joint Council for Qualifications (JCQ), internal departments, officers of the School and any other parties involved in awarding matters.

Examinations and Procedures Relating to Examinations

Examinations policy is decided by the Senior Leadership Team (SLT) with reference to the guidance and regulations supplied by the JCQ and the Awarding Bodies. The Examinations Officer is responsible to the Head of Centre for the day to day administration of the examinations system.

All candidates should note that the Awarding Bodies are often unable to process appeals and queries relating to the examinations process, timetabling, internal assessment or complaints from students or parents. All queries of this type must be raised in the first instance with the School Examinations Officer. Should a complaint relating to the administration of some part of the exams process be made against the Examinations Officer, this must first be notified to Mr T Bird, Deputy Headteacher (Learning).

At the time of the examinations, candidates must be aware of the JCQ '**Warning to Candidates**', a copy of which is posted outside of each examination room.

During examinations, candidates must:

- 1** follow any instructions given to them by the Examinations Officer, member of the Examinations Office staff or any invigilator present.
- 2** be aware that the possession of a mobile phone, iPod, MP3/4 player, smartwatch or any other electronic communication/storage device in an examination room, whether switched on or not, is an offence under JCQ regulations. School policy is that any such item brought into the examination room must be switched off and handed to an invigilator; it will be kept in a secure area until the end of the examination. Failure to observe this regulation may result in the loss of all results for the examination.
- 3** be aware that it is their responsibility to arrive at their examination with all equipment necessary for the completion of their examination. **This equipment includes black pens, pencils, rulers and calculators.**

Students are allowed to bring bottled water (no other type of drink) into the examination room but regulations state that if they do the bottle must be seen through and ALL labels must be removed.

The School undertakes to run the examinations system in accordance with the published JCQ guidance, given in the Instructions for the Conduct of Examinations (ICE) document, and others.

Remark Procedure

A request for a remark can be raised by a student, teacher or parent. **Any such request must be made prior to deadlines set by JCQ; that is 20th September for May/June examinations and 4 weeks from the publication of results for all other examinations.** Students and parents must be aware that results could go down and students must sign the appropriate consent form before any remark request is processed.

A remark request will be supported by the School if a result is considered unexpected. In all other cases the student/parent is free to continue with the remark request but will be charged the appropriate fee as set by the particular examination board.

The Finance Department will contact the student/parent for payment of the fee at the time the request is made.

Examination Re-sits and Charging Policy

All re-sit examination entries will be made as a result of discussions taking place between the student, subject teacher and Subject Leader. The cost of any re-sit required by a student of compulsory school age will be met by the School. The School will also pay the entry fee for all first attempts at examinations/modules in KS5. The cost of any subsequent AS or A Level re-sit must be met in full by the student/parent/guardian. Taking a large number of retake examinations can detract from students making progress on new modules. Invoices will be issued and payment required prior to final examination entry. Absence from an examination caused by a student withdrawing themselves may incur a charge.

Withdrawal Procedure

A candidate may be withdrawn from an examination if he/she has failed to complete the course requirements. Such a decision will only be made after discussions involving the student, Subject Leader, SLT link and parent. Once a decision to withdraw has been made, a formal notification (available from the Examinations Office), will be sent to the student/parent by the Subject Leader. A copy of this letter should be given to the Examinations Officer.

Access Arrangements/Special Consideration

The School is mindful of the fact that some students have additional educational needs that impact on examinations.

Progress Leaders and the Additional Needs Co-ordinator will co-ordinate the collection of all information relating to additional educational needs following the regulations and guidance set down by JCQ. Details of students entitled to special arrangements for examinations will then be forwarded to the Examinations Officer for processing prior to the deadlines set by JCQ. Any special arrangements will also apply to controlled assessments. Any relevant supporting information from parents should be addressed for the Examinations Officer's attention.

Assessed Coursework Procedure at Monmouth Comprehensive School

Candidates must be aware of the regulations regarding the submission of coursework, particularly those relating to the proper acknowledgement of sources. Failure to do so can result in the Awarding Bodies or the JCQ setting penalties which can include official reprimands, loss of examination marks or in extreme cases the loss of all examination results and banning from future examinations.

1. Coursework is defined as any piece of written, practical or oral work which is marked by the School or an external moderator and which contributes to an external examination grade.
2. Irregularities in coursework discovered prior to the student signing a declaration of authentication will not be reported to the Awarding Body but dealt with as an internal disciplinary matter. The work will not gain any credit.
3. An irregularity in coursework discovered after the signing the declaration of authentication by the student will be reported to the Awarding Body which may lead to disqualification from the subject.
4. Students must read and understand fully the **Notice to Candidates** from the Joint Council for Qualifications about Coursework regulations. A copy will be displayed in each form room.
5. All students are given the appropriate level of support and guidance and equal opportunity to complete the work.
6. Coursework must be handed in by the agreed published departmental deadline which is earlier than the final deadline for the Awarding Body. This is to enable work to be marked and standardized.
7. You will be given clear instructions by the department as to the time and place for handing in the work.
8. The work must be handed in by you and not given to another student in the School to hand in.
9. If you are absent on the deadline day a parent/guardian must bring the work to school to be handed in to meet the deadline. If it is impossible to deliver the work to school, you must contact the School by phone on the day to give an explanation.
10. If coursework has not been completed by the deadline, the incomplete work must be handed in by the deadline to receive a mark. There will be no further opportunity to complete this work for an improved mark.
11. Normally there will be no extension of a coursework deadline if you are absent for a few days during the period that the work has to be completed.
12. If there are any special circumstances e.g. an exchange, play rehearsal or extended absence covered by a medical note, there is the possibility of an

extension but this must be negotiated with the School. A note will be given to the Subject Leader to confirm the extension and parents will be informed if necessary.

Coursework Appeals Procedure

1. The Joint Council for Qualifications Code of Practice requires schools to have a published appeals procedure relating to internal assessment decisions.
2. The grounds for appeal relate only to the procedure used in arriving at internal assessment decisions and do not apply to the judgements themselves.
3. Appeals must be made in writing to the **Examinations Officer, Monmouth Comprehensive School by 31 May** of the year that the coursework was assessed.
4. The appeals procedure is available for inspection.

Information for Students

Most subjects have a coursework component whose marks contribute to the final grade. It is most important that students keep to the deadlines for the submission of coursework.

Many students are extremely conscientious and our experience has shown that this can create problems. Students should act on the advice of their teachers in regard to:

- The amount of time to be spent on any coursework task
- The need for planning on long term projects
- The identification of areas for improvement.

Our approach to coursework planning and deadlines is a reflection of the importance of this element of the course and our intention to support students in every way in order to reduce stress and pressure. This is why we have a procedure to ensure that all our students are treated fairly regarding the meeting of coursework deadlines. Please read this very carefully.

Coursework Deadlines

The coursework deadlines issued are the dates after which a teacher or a department cannot accept a piece of coursework unless there are extenuating circumstances. Coursework will then be marked, standardised and moderated prior to submission to the examination board.

Success in coursework modules requires students to be both organised and committed. Teachers and departments will set individual deadlines, on a week by week basis, with their students to complete components of the coursework. By following the schedule laid down by their teacher students will receive regular feedback and have the opportunity to review and improve as they proceed. **It is**

therefore vital that if last minute panic and underachievement is to be avoided that internal deadlines are met.

