**SQA Update: Move to ‘Scenario 2’ Announced**

It has now been confirmed in Parliament that the SQA are moving to ‘Scenario 2’. Exams will go ahead as planned, however revision support will be given to students to help them prepare for the exam diet. This additional support material will be published the week beginning 7th of March, an overview of the update guidance so far can be found [here](https://www.sqa.org.uk/sqa/100366.html?utm_source=marketo&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=2022.02.01-SupportForLearners-ES-TW&utm_content=button&mkt_tok=NTA1LVlCSC0zMDAAAAGCVC-Iv1_vz3IciDPZ8Kkncq461PdeBf4C_cpykr05SQvd1RxdCNvSe_4huxgPS9vk4jf5c6Icauy60zMj9Rc0dBOGjCCWeLkPQrbY-BL0). The support material provided will vary in format due to the bespoke nature of subjects and will be available for all subjects with an exam.

The SQA have provided a Q&A, please see the below for further information or click [here](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kfr3ocaDqIQ&t=1s) to see a short video from the SQA outlining the changes.

**SQA Q&A ‘Scenario 2’**

**Why are you publishing the revision support in March? Why not publish now?**

It is important that learners have had the opportunity to complete the learning for their courses and focus on their coursework before their attention moves more fully to preparing for exams. It is also important that this information is not provided too far in advance to avoid the narrowing of learning and teaching, which would negatively impact learners’ breadth of course knowledge and understanding, and the next steps in their learning.

**Why do different courses have different types of revision support?**

This is because the question papers (exams) are different for each course – they assess different types and volume of knowledge, understanding and skills, and contain different questions that are focused on the learning of specific courses. The revision support will also take account of any modifications we made to the question papers at the start of the session, which also vary between courses.

In some courses we will advise learners which topic(s), context(s) or content will or will not be assessed in the exam. This will allow learners to focus their revision on what will be in the exam. It is not possible to take this same approach for courses where the exam will assess content from across the whole course or where the topics or content cannot be separated easily. For some courses, this additional information has already been provided.

For other courses we will provide study guides, with hints and tips to help learners prepare for the exams. A small number of courses will have study guides which learners can take into the exam, where appropriate.

**Why aren’t you providing revision support for all courses?**

We are providing revision support for all courses that have an exam. Some courses will not have revision support either because they don’t have an exam or because we removed the exam for 2022 as part of the modifications to assessment.

**Will modifications be made to the timing of exams if the current situation continues, to give centres and learners more time to catch up on learning and/or topics missed due to illness or isolation?**

No. The timing of the exams cannot be moved for a range of reasons, including allowing sufficient time for marking and informing learners of their results in good time to make decisions about their next steps.

**Why won’t this year’s exam exceptional circumstances service include disruption in the lead up to exams?**

We had already anticipated that learners across the country would be affected by ongoing disruption to learning and teaching this year, due to the Covid-19 pandemic. To address this, we made significant modifications to the course assessments (coursework and exams) at the start of the session to help reduce the volume of assessment and ease learner workload.

We are also providing revision support for learners in response to further disruption to learning and teaching, to help learners prepare during the lead up to the 2022 exams.

**What if a learner is self-isolating at the time of the exam?**

If a learner is unable to attend the exam because they are self-isolating, they will be eligible for the exam exceptional circumstances service. This service covers Covid-19 related absence, including personal illness and self-isolation, in line with current public health guidance.

We will ensure our specific guidance for this service, in relation to Covid-19, is kept up to date to reflect any changes in public health guidance.

**Will SQA take different approaches to reviewing alternative assessment evidence for the exceptional circumstances and appeals services?**

No, we will use the same approach for both services. The evidence will be judged against the national standard for that course

**How is the 2022 appeals service different from the post-results service that normally operates after exams?**

The 2022 appeals service will involve SQA appointees reviewing alternative assessment evidence that the learner has completed through the year. SQA will also conduct a clerical check on the exam script. Learners’ grades through the appeals process will be based on the higher grade of the two types of evidence. All learners will have free direct access to the 2022 appeals service.

No alternative evidence is considered as part of the post-results service that normally operates  following an exam diet. The post-results service involves a clerical check or marking review of the learner’s exam script to check that the learner was awarded the correct grade, and requests can only be made by centres.

**Does moving to Scenario 2 mean the exams are going ahead or could they still be cancelled?**

It is still the clear intention for the 2022 exams to take place during April to June. Moving to Scenario 2 means that SQA will publish revision support in early March to help learners with their revision during the final run up to the exams. The Scottish Government will only cancel the exams if public health advice restricts physical gatherings at the time the exams are due to take place.

**If exams are cancelled, when will that decision be made and communicated?**

Exams will not be cancelled unless public health restrictions mean that physical gatherings are not permitted at the time of exams. This decision cannot be taken until nearer the time when the public health situation is clear.

**What happens if the exams are cancelled?**

If the exams are cancelled, we will move to Scenario 3. This means teachers, lecturers and training providers will be asked to determine a provisional result for each learner, based on their professional judgement of alternative assessment evidence.

This alternative assessment evidence is assessments that learners have already completed during the course, such as prelims, practical activities, performances, and class tests – and which teachers and lecturers have already used as a basis for determining estimate grades.

There will be **no requirement** for schools, colleges, and training providers to undertake additional assessments if the exams are cancelled, as this would place excess workload on teachers, lecturers, training providers and learners.