

The Summer Examination Season

The summer examination season is a **significant milestone in every Year 11 student's journey**. It represents the culmination of many years of learning, preparation and hard work, with the grades students achieve helping to shape their options for further education, training and employment.

The main written examination season begins in **May**, with examinations taking place in the Sports Hall. However, it is important to remember that some formal assessments take place **earlier in the academic year** and may contribute towards students' final grades. Students should therefore approach every assessment with the same level of preparation and commitment.

A full list of examinations, including those taking place before May, can be found on the examinations page of our school website:

[The Ilfracombe Academy – Exam Information](#)

How Parents and Carers Can Support

Parents and carers play a **vital role in supporting students during their final preparations and throughout the examination season**. Clear communication and consistent expectations between home and school can help students establish positive routines and approach their examinations with confidence.

You can support your child by:

- **Prioritising excellent attendance** throughout the examination season and supporting your child to attend every examination.
- **Helping them create a realistic revision timetable** for study outside of school, particularly during the weeks leading up to the examinations and throughout the examination season.
- **Familiarising yourself with the homework and revision activities** set by teachers, including any guidance, resources and opportunities for additional practice.
- **Encouraging students to prepare thoroughly and maintain high expectations of themselves**, both during their revision and in the examinations themselves.
- **Supporting healthy routines**, including sufficient sleep, regular meals, appropriate breaks and time away from screens. These routines can help students maintain their concentration and wellbeing during what can be a demanding period.

Examination Equipment

The school will provide key equipment for students throughout the examination season, including:

- **A clear water bottle** that complies with JCQ examination regulations.

- **Pencil cases and required stationery**, placed on examination desks where appropriate.
- **Calculators** for all examinations where they are permitted and required.

Where students have their own **scientific calculator**, we encourage them to bring it to relevant examinations, provided it complies with the examination regulations and they are familiar with using it.

Special Consideration

The **Joint Council for Qualifications (JCQ)** provides national guidance on special consideration for students who experience circumstances that may have a significant effect on their performance in an examination. Circumstances may include, but are not limited to, illness, bereavement or other significant adverse circumstances occurring before or during an examination.

In certain circumstances, a student may be eligible for a **special consideration application**. Where an application is approved, the awarding body may make an adjustment to the student's result in accordance with JCQ regulations. Special consideration is **not automatically granted** and any adjustment is determined by the relevant awarding body in line with the published criteria.

If your child experiences significant circumstances that may affect their ability to perform in an examination, please **contact the school as soon as possible**. This will allow us to provide appropriate support, consider the circumstances and, where applicable, make an application for special consideration.

The **Joint Council for Qualifications (JCQ)** make it clear that students are expected to complete all of their summer examinations except where there are **exceptional circumstances** that prevent them from doing so. Any circumstance which may prevent a student from completing a summer examination **must be communicated and discussed with the school at the earliest opportunity**.