



# **HILBRE HIGH SCHOOL HUMANITIES COLLEGE**

## **EXAMS POLICY**

## Purpose of the policy

The centre is committed to ensuring that the exams management and administration process is run effectively and efficiently. This exam policy will ensure that:

- all aspects of the centre exam process is documented and other relevant exams-related policies, procedures and plans are signposted
- the workforce is well informed and supported
- all centre staff involved in the exams process clearly understand their roles and responsibilities
- all exams and assessments are conducted in accordance with JCQ and awarding body regulations, guidance and instructions, thus ensuring that

*“... the integrity and security of the examination/assessment system is maintained at all times and is not brought into disrepute”* [JCQ  
General regulations for approved centres1]

- exam candidates understand the exams process and what is expected of them.

This policy is reviewed annually to ensure ways of working in the centre are accurately reflected and that exams and assessments are conducted to current JCQ (and awarding body) regulations, instructions and guidance.

This policy will be communicated to all relevant centre staff. All policies are on the VLE website and the g:/ drive.

## Roles and responsibilities overview

*“The head of centre is responsible to the awarding bodies for making sure all examinations/assessments are conducted according to the instructions, and the qualification specifications issued by the awarding bodies.*

*The head of centre may not appoint themselves as the examinations officer.”* [GR1]

### Head of centre

- Understands the contents, refers to and directs relevant centre staff to annually updated JCQ publications including:  
General regulations for approved centres (GR)  
Instructions for conducting examinations (ICE)  
Access Arrangements and Reasonable Adjustments (AA)  
Suspected Malpractice in Examinations and Assessments (SMEA)  
Instructions for conducting non-examination assessments (NEA) (and the instructions for conducting controlled assessment and coursework)
- Ensures the National Centre Number Register Annual Update (administered on behalf of the JCQ member awarding bodies by OCR) is responded to and approves the Head of Centre formal declaration

- Ensures the exams officer (EO) attends appropriate training events offered by awarding bodies, MIS providers and other external providers to enable the exam process to be effectively managed and administered
- Ensures centre staff are supported and appropriately trained to undertake key tasks within the exams process
- Ensures centre staff undertake key tasks within the exams process and meet internal deadlines set by the EO
- Ensures *“that a teacher who teaches the subject being examined, or a senior member of teaching staff who has had overall responsibility for the candidates preparation for the examination, is not an invigilator during the examination or on-screen test;”* [ICE 6]
- Ensures security within the examination process is managed according to JCQ and awarding body regulations, guidance and instructions
- Ensures risks to the exam process are assessed and appropriate risk management processes/contingency plans are in place

#### **Exam contingency plan**

- See separate Exam contingency plan.

#### **Internal appeals procedures**

- See separate Internal appeals procedures policy

#### **Disability policy (exams)**

- See separate Disability policy (exams)

#### **Access arrangements policy**

- See separate Access arrangements policy
- Ensures staff are only entered for qualifications through the centre where entry through another centre is not available
- Ensures the appropriate steps are taken where a candidate being entered for exams is related to a member of centre staff

*“The examinations officer or quality assurance co-ordinator is the person appointed by a head of centre to act on behalf of the centre in matters relating to the administration of awarding body examinations and assessments.”*

[GR 1]

#### **Exams officer**

- Understands the contents of annually updated JCQ publications including:  
General regulations for approved centres  
Instructions for conducting examinations  
Suspected Malpractice in Examinations and Assessments  
Post-results services (PRS)

- Is familiar with the contents of annually updated information from awarding bodies on administrative procedures, key tasks, key dates and deadlines
- Ensures key tasks are undertaken and key dates and deadlines met
- Recruits, trains and deploys a team of internal/external invigilators; appoints lead invigilators, as required

### **Senior leaders (SLT)**

- Are familiar with the contents, refer to and direct relevant centre staff to annually updated JCQ publications including:  
*General regulations for approved centres*  
*Instructions for conducting examinations*  
*Access Arrangements and Reasonable Adjustments*  
*Suspected Malpractice in Examinations and Assessments*  
*Instructions for conducting non-examination assessments (and the instructions for conducting controlled assessment and coursework)*

### **Special educational needs co-ordinator (SENCo)**

- Is familiar with the contents, refers to and directs relevant centre staff to annually updated JCQ publications including:  
*Access Arrangements and Reasonable Adjustments*
- Leads on the access arrangements and reasonable adjustments process (referred to in this policy as ‘access arrangements’)
- If not the qualified access arrangements assessor, works with the person appointed, on all matters relating to assessing candidates and the administration of the assessment process
- Presents when requested by a JCQ Centre Inspector, evidence of the assessor’s qualification

### **Progress Leaders (PLs)**

- Ensures teaching staff undertake key tasks, as detailed in this policy, within the exams process (exam cycle) and meet internal deadlines set by the EO and SENCo
- Ensures teaching staff keep themselves updated with awarding body teacher-specific information to confirm effective delivery of qualifications
- Ensures teaching staff attend relevant awarding body training and update events

### **Teaching staff**

- Undertake key tasks, as detailed in this policy, within the exams process and meet internal deadlines set by the EO and SENCo
- Keep updated with awarding body teacher-specific information to confirm effective delivery of qualifications
- Attend relevant awarding body training and update events

### **Invigilators**

- Attend training, update, briefing and review sessions as required
- Provide information as requested on their availability to invigilate
- Sign a confidentiality and security agreement and confirm whether they have any current maladministration/malpractice sanctions applied to them

## Reception staff

- Support the EO in dealing with exam-related deliveries and dispatches with due regard to the security of confidential materials

## Site staff

- Support the EO in relevant matters relating to exam rooms and resources

## Candidates

Where applicable in this policy, the term 'candidates' refers to candidates and/or their parents/carers.

## The exam cycle

The exams management and administration process that needs to be undertaken for each **exam series** is often referred to as the **exam cycle** and relevant tasks required within this grouped into the following stages:

- planning
- entries
- pre-exams
- exam time
- results and post-results

This policy identifies roles and responsibilities of centre staff within this cycle.

## Planning: roles and responsibilities

### Information sharing

#### Head of centre

- Directs relevant centre staff to annually updated JCQ publications including GR, ICE, AA, SMEA and NEA (and the instructions for conducting controlled assessment and coursework)

#### Exams officer

- Signposts relevant centre staff to JCQ publications and awarding body documentation relating to the exams process that has been updated
- Signposts relevant centre staff to JCQ information that should be provided to candidates
- As the centre administrator, approves relevant access rights for centre staff to access awarding body secure extranet sites

### Information gathering

#### Exams officer

- Undertakes an annual information gathering exercise in preparation for each new academic year to ensure data about all qualifications being delivered is up to date and correct

- Collates all information gathered into one central point of reference
- Researches awarding body guidance to identify administrative processes, key tasks, key dates and deadlines for all relevant qualifications
- Produces an annual exams plan of key tasks and key dates to ensure all external deadlines can be effectively met; informs key centre staff of internal deadlines
- Collects information on internal exams to enable preparation for and conduct of [insert the titles these internal exams are referred to in the centre]

### **Head of department**

- Responds (or ensures teaching staff respond) to requests from the EO on information gathering
- Meets the internal deadline for the return of information
- Informs the EO of any changes to information in a timely manner minimising the risk of late or other penalty fees being incurred by an awarding body
- Notes the internal deadlines in the annual exams plan and directs teaching staff to meet these

### **Access arrangements**

#### **SENCo**

- Assesses candidates (or works with the appointed access arrangements assessor) to identify access arrangements requirements
- Gathers **evidence** to support the need for access arrangements for a candidate
- Liaises with teaching staff to gather evidence of **normal way of working** of an affected candidate
- Determines candidate eligibility for arrangements or adjustments that are centre-delegated
- Gathers signed **data protection notices** from candidates where required
- Applies for **approval** through *Access arrangements online* (AAO), where required or through the awarding body where qualifications sit outside the scope of AAO
- Keeps relevant paperwork and evidence on file for JCQ inspection purposes
- Employs good practice in relation to the Equality Act 2010
- Liaises with the EO regarding exam time arrangements for access arrangement candidates
- Ensures staff appointed to facilitate access arrangements for candidates are appropriately trained and understand the rules of the particular arrangement(s)
- Provides and annually reviews a centre policy on the **use of word processors** in exams and assessments

#### **Word processor policy (exams)**

- See separate Word processing policy (exams)

#### **Separate invigilation within the centre**

- The SENCo and EO makes sure that criteria for candidates granted **separate invigilation within the centre** is clear, meets JCQ regulations and best meets the

needs of individual candidates and remaining candidates in main exam rooms and that invigilators are assigned.

### **Senior Leaders, Progress Leaders, Teaching staff**

- Support the SENCo in identifying and implementing appropriate access arrangements

## **Internal assessment**

### **Head of centre**

- Ensures an **internal appeals procedure** is in place for a candidate (or parent/carer) to appeal against an internally assessed marks (see Roles and responsibilities overview)
- Ensures a policy for the **management of controlled assessment** is in place for legacy GCSE qualifications, identifying staff responsibilities and examining potential risks

#### **Controlled assessment policy**

- See separate Controlled assessment policy

- Ensures a **non-examination assessment policy** is in place for new GCE and GCSE qualifications

#### **Non-examination assessment policy**

- See separate non-examination assessment policy for new GCE and GCSE qualifications
- Ensures irregularities are investigated and any cases of suspected malpractice reported to the awarding body, as required

### **Senior leaders**

- Ensure teaching staff have the necessary and appropriate knowledge, understanding, skills, and training to set tasks, conduct task taking, and to assess, mark and authenticate candidates' work
- Ensure appropriate internal moderation, standardisation and verification processes are in place

### **Progress Leaders**

- Ensures teaching staff delivering legacy GCSE qualifications follow JCQ *Instructions for conducting controlled assessments* and the specification provided by the awarding body
- Ensures teaching staff delivering legacy GCE unitised AS and A-level qualifications and Entry Level or Project qualifications follow JCQ *Instructions for conducting coursework* and the specification provided by the awarding body
- Ensures teaching staff delivering new GCE & GCSE specifications follow JCQ *Instructions for conducting non-examination assessments* and the specification provided by the awarding body
- For other qualifications, ensures teaching staff follow appropriate instructions issued by the awarding body

### **Teaching staff**

- Ensure appropriate instructions for conducting internal assessment are followed

- Ensure candidates are aware of JCQ and awarding body information for candidates on producing work that is internally assessed

#### **Exams officer**

- Identifies relevant key dates and administrative processes that need to be followed in relation to internal assessment

### **Invigilation**

#### **Head of centre**

- Ensures relevant support is provided to the EO in recruiting, training and deploying a team of invigilators
- Determines if additional invigilators will be deployed in practical exams in addition to the subject teacher

#### **Exams officer**

- Recruits additional invigilators where required to effectively cover all exam periods/series' throughout the academic year
- Collects information on new recruits to identify if they have invigilated previously and if any current maladministration/malpractice sanctions are applied to them
- Provides an annual training event for new invigilators and an update event for invigilators on the conduct of exams
- Ensures invigilators supervising access arrangement candidates understand their role (and the role of a facilitator who may be supporting a candidate) and the rules and regulations of the access arrangement(s)
- Ensures invigilators are made aware of the Equality Act 2010 and are trained in disability issues
- Collects evaluation of training to inform future events

### **Entries: roles and responsibilities**

#### **Estimated entries**

#### **Exams officer**

- Requests estimated or early entry information, where this may be required by awarding bodies, from PLs in a timely manner to ensure awarding body external deadlines for submission can be met

#### **Estimated entries collection and submission procedure**

- Request form sent to Progress Leaders in July before start of next academic year requesting details of courses / course changes and QAN codes and estimated number of students

#### **Head of department**

- Provides information requested by the EO to the internal deadline
- Informs the EO immediately of any subsequent changes to information



## **Final entries**

### **Exams officer**

- Requests final entry information from PLs in a timely manner to ensure awarding body external deadlines for submission can be met
- Informs PLs of subsequent deadlines for making changes to final entry information without charge
- Confirms with PLs final entry information that has been submitted to awarding bodies
- Ensures as far as possible that entry processes minimise the risk of entries or registrations being missed reducing the potential for late or other penalty fees being charged by awarding bodies

### **Final entries collection and submission procedure**

- Class lists sent out to teachers in December before deadline of 21 February for GCE, GCSEs and BTECs requesting all relevant code and entry details plus any other information (including additional pupils) to be returned by 20 January. SLs then receive an entry print off that they are required to check details and sign off and return to the EO. EO then sends entry list and letter to pupils to be signed by parent/carer and returned to confirm all correct. Any queries are dealt with and then entries submitted via A2C

### **Head of department**

- Provides information requested by the EO to the internal deadline
- Informs the EO immediately, or at the very least prior to the deadlines, of any subsequent changes to final entry information, which includes
  - changes to candidate personal details
  - amendments to existing entries
  - withdrawals of existing entries
- Checks final entry submission information provided by the EO and confirms information is correct

## **Entry fees**

- PLs are kept informed of entry (21 February) and amendment deadlines (21 April) and the informed of any late fees which apply for late entries (22 February) or late amendment fees (22 April)

## **Late entries**

### **Exams officer**

- Has clear entry procedures in place to minimise the risk of late entries
- Charges any late or other penalty fees to departmental budgets

### **Head of department**

- Minimises the risk of late entries by

- following procedures identified by the EO in relation to making final entries on time
- meeting internal deadlines identified by the EO for making final entries

### **Private candidates**

- Any private candidates (ex pupils only) are charged before any entries are made. EO keeps spreadsheet of details and money is forwarded to finance department

### **Transfer of credit**

#### **Exams officer**

*“Arrangements for GCE AS candidates transferring between specifications or awarding bodies midway through a unitised GCE A-level course (having completed and certificated a GCE AS award)”*

[JCQ GCE AS Transfer of Credit arrangements 2016/17]

- Provides information to relevant centre staff/candidates on transferring credit for GCE AS qualifications
- Meets the awarding body deadline for requesting transfer of credit

#### **Teaching staff**

- Identify affected candidates to the EO

### **Candidate statements of entry**

#### **Exams officer**

- Provides candidates with statements of entry for checking and signing

#### **Teaching staff/Form tutors**

- Ensure candidates check statements of entry and return any relevant confirmation required to the EO

#### **Candidates**

- Confirm entry information is correct or notify the EO or teacher of any discrepancies

### **Pre-exams: roles and responsibilities**

### **Access arrangements**

#### **SENCo**

- Ensures appropriate arrangements, adjustments and adaptations are in place to facilitate access for candidates where they are disabled within the meaning of the Equality Act (unless a temporary emergency arrangement is required at the time of an exam)
- Ensures a candidate is involved in any decisions about arrangements, adjustments and /or adaptations that may be put in place for him/her

- Ensures exam information (JCQ information for candidates information, individual exam timetable etc.) is adapted where this may be required for a disabled candidate to access it
- Allocates appropriately trained centre staff to facilitate access arrangements for candidates in exams and assessments

## **Briefing candidates**

### **Exams officer**

- Issues individual exam timetable information to candidates
- Issues relevant JCQ information for candidates documents
- Where relevant, issues relevant awarding body information to candidates
- Issues centre exam information to candidates including information on:
  - exam clashes (EO to provide to candidates affected)
  - arriving late for an exam
  - absence or illness during exams
  - what equipment is/is not provided by the centre
  - food and drink in exam rooms
  - when and how results will be issued and the staff that will be available
  - the post-results services and how the centre deals with requests from candidates
  - when and how certificates will be issued

### **Access to scripts, enquiries about results and appeals procedures**

- Any requests for Access to scripts - form to be filled in by teacher / PLs and signed by candidate before being passed to EO for processing
- Any requests for enquiries about results or appeals - form to be filled in but teacher and agreed with PL and signed by candidate, then passed within a week of examination, results day to EO to process

## **Dispatch of exam scripts**

### **Exams officer**

- Identifies and confirms arrangements for the dispatch of candidate exam scripts with the DfE 'yellow label service' or the awarding body where qualifications sit outside the scope of the service

## **Estimated grades**

### **Head of department**

- Ensures teaching staff provide estimated grade information to the EO by the internal deadline (where this still may be required by the awarding body)

### **Exams officer**

- Submits estimated grade information to awarding bodies to meet the external deadline (where this may still be required by the awarding body)
- Keeps a record to track what has been sent

### **Internal assessment**

#### **Head of centre**

- Ensures procedures are in place for candidates to appeal internally assessed marks or request a review of the centre's marking of an assessment (when a centre is required to make reviews available)

#### **SENCo**

- Liaises with teaching staff to implement appropriate access arrangements for candidates undertaking internal assessments

#### **Teaching staff**

- Support the SENCo in implementing appropriate access arrangements for candidates undertaking internal assessments
- Ensure candidates are informed of internally assessed marks prior to marks being submitted to awarding bodies

#### **Progress Leader**

- Ensures teaching staff provide marks for internally assessed components of qualifications to the EO to the internal deadline
- Ensures teaching staff authenticate candidates' work to the awarding body requirements
- Ensures teaching staff provide required samples of work for moderation to the EO to the internal deadline

#### **Exams officer**

- Submits marks and samples to awarding bodies/moderators to meet the external deadline
- Keeps a record to track what has been sent
- Logs moderated work returned to the centre
- Ensures teaching staff are aware of the requirements in terms of retention and subsequent disposal of candidates' work

#### **Candidates**

- Authenticate their work as required by the awarding body

### **Invigilation**

#### **Exams officer**

- Provides an invigilation handbook or briefs invigilators accordingly
- Deploys invigilators effectively to exam rooms throughout an exam series (including the provision of a roving invigilator to check the rooms where a candidate and invigilator are accommodated on a 1:1 basis)
- Allocates invigilators to exam rooms according to the required ratios

- Liaises with the SENCo regarding the facilitation and invigilation of access arrangement candidates

### **SEnCo**

- Liaises with the EO regarding facilitation and invigilation of access arrangement candidates

### **Invigilators**

- Provide information as requested on their availability to invigilate throughout an exam series

## **JCQ inspection visit**

### **Exams officer or Senior leader**

- Accompanies “*the Inspector throughout the course of his or her centre visit, including inspection of the centre’s secure storage facility.*” [ICE Introduction]

## **Seating and identifying candidates in exam rooms**

### **Exams officer**

- Ensures that all candidates have examination card which includes a photograph of the candidates so that they can be identified when necessary

#### **Verifying candidate identity procedure**

- Invigilators are aware that each exam card put out for every exam has a picture of candidate along with their examination details which includes full legal name and examination number
- Provides seating plans for exam rooms according to JCQ and awarding body requirements

### **Invigilators**

- Follow the procedure for verifying candidate identity provided by the EO (exam cards)
- Seat candidates in exam rooms as instructed by the EO/on the seating plan

## **Security of exam materials**

### **Exams officer**

- Has a process in place to record confidential materials delivered to the centre and issued to authorised staff
- Has in place a recording system to track confidential materials taken from or returned to secure storage throughout the time the material is confidential
- Receives, checks and securely stores question papers and other exam materials according to JCQ and awarding body requirements

### **Reception staff**

- Follow the process to record confidential materials delivered to the centre and issued to authorised staff

## **Teaching staff**

- Adhere to the recording system to track confidential materials taken from or returned to secure storage throughout the time the material is confidential

## **Timetabling and rooming**

### **Exams officer**

- Produces a master centre exam timetable for each exam series
- Identifies and resolves candidate exam clashes
- Identifies exam rooms and specialist equipment requirements
- Allocates invigilators to exam rooms according to required ratios
- Liaises with site staff to ensure exam rooms are set up according to JCQ and awarding body requirements
- Liaises with the SENCo regarding rooming of access arrangement candidates

### **SEnCo**

- Liaises with the EO regarding rooming of access arrangement candidates
- Liaises with other relevant centre staff to ensure appropriate arrangements, adjustments and adaptations are in place to facilitate access for disabled candidates to exams

### **Site staff**

- Liaise with the EO to ensure exam rooms are set up according to JCQ and awarding body requirements

## **Transferred candidate arrangements**

### **Exams officer**

- Liaises with the host or entering centre, as required
- Processes requests to the awarding body deadline
- Where relevant (for an internal candidate) informs the candidate of the arrangements that have been made for their transferred candidate arrangements

## **Internal exams**

### **Exams officer**

- Prepares for the conduct of internal exams under external conditions
- Provides a centre exam timetable of subjects and rooms
- Provides seating plans for exam rooms
- Requests internal exam papers from teaching staff
- Arranges invigilation

### **SEnCo**

- Liaises with teaching staff to make appropriate arrangements for access arrangement candidates

## **Teaching staff**

- Provide exam papers and materials to the EO
- Support the SENCo in making appropriate arrangements for access arrangement candidates

## **Exam time: roles and responsibilities**

### **Access arrangements**

#### **Exams officer**

- Provides cover sheets for access arrangement candidates' scripts where required for particular arrangements
- Has a process in place to deal with emergency access arrangements as they arise at the time of exams
  - applies for approval through AAO where required or through the awarding body where qualifications sit outside the scope of AAO

### **Candidate absence**

#### **Candidate absence policy**

- Candidates and parents/carers are sent JCQ regulations along with school examination instructions during the entry process and are asked to sign consent to acknowledge they and the candidates understand that if they are unfit to sit an examination they must give the EO plenty of notice and provide a medical note with reasons for absence

#### **Invigilators**

- Are informed of the policy/process for dealing with absent candidates through training
- Ensure that confirmed absent candidates are clearly marked as such on the attendance register and seating plan

#### **Candidates**

- Are re-charged relevant entry fees for unauthorised absence from exams

### **Candidate behaviour**

See *Irregularities* below.

### **Candidate belongings**

See *Unauthorised materials* below.

### **Candidate late arrival**

#### **Exams officer**

- Ensures that candidates who arrive very late for an exam are reported to the awarding body as soon as practically possible after the exam has taken place
- Warns candidates that their work may not be accepted by the awarding body

### **Invigilators**

- Are informed of the policy/process for dealing with late/very late arrival candidates through training
- Ensure that relevant information is recorded on the exam room incident log

#### **Candidate late arrival policy**

- Candidates and parents/carers are sent JCQ regulations along with school examination instructions during the entry process and are asked to sign consent to acknowledge they and the candidates understand that if they are late / very late to an exam the awarding body will be informed as per regulations and they have the right not to accept the exam paper

## **Conducting exams**

### **Head of centre**

- Ensures venues used for conducting exams meet the requirements of JCQ and awarding bodies

### **Exams officer**

- Ensures exams are conducted according to JCQ and awarding body instructions
- Uses an *exam day checklist* to ensure each exam session is fully prepared for, unplanned events can be dealt with and associated follow-up is completed

## **Dispatch of exam scripts**

### **Exams officer**

- Dispatches scripts as instructed by JCQ and awarding bodies
- Keeps appropriate records to track dispatch

## **Exam papers and materials**

### **Exams officer**

- Organises exam question papers and associated confidential resources in date order in secure storage
- Attaches erratum notices received to relevant exam question paper packets
- Collates attendance registers and examiner details in date order
- Regularly checks mail or inbox for updates from awarding bodies
- In order to avoid potential breaches of security, ensures prior to question paper packets being opened that another member of staff or an invigilator checks the time, date and paper details



- Where allowed by the awarding body, only releases exam papers and materials to teaching departments for teaching and learning purposes after the published finishing time of the exam, or until any clash candidates have completed the exam

## **Exam rooms**

### **Head of centre**

- Ensures only approved centre staff are present in exam rooms
- Ensures information relating to food and drink that may be allowed in exam rooms is clearly communicated to candidates

#### **Food and drink in exam rooms**

- Candidates and parents/carers are sent JCQ regulations along with school examination instructions during the entry process and are asked to sign consent to acknowledge they and the candidates understand that only clear water bottles are allowed into the exam room

### **Exams officer**

- Ensures exam rooms are set up as required in the regulations
- Provides invigilators with appropriate resources to effectively conduct exams
- Briefs invigilators on exams to be conducted on a session by session basis
- Ensures sole invigilators have an appropriate means of summoning assistance
- Ensures invigilators understand how to deal with candidates who may need to leave the exam room temporarily
- Provides authorised exam materials which candidates are not expected to provide themselves
- Ensures invigilators and candidates are aware of the emergency evacuation procedure
- Ensures invigilators are aware of arrangements in place for a candidate with a disability who may need assistance if an exam room is evacuated

### **Senior leaders**

- Ensure a documented emergency evacuation procedure for exam rooms is in place
- Ensure arrangements are in place for a candidate with a disability who may need assistance if an exam room is evacuated

#### **Emergency evacuation policy**

- See separate Emergency evacuation policy

### **Site staff**

- Ensure exam rooms are available and set up as requested by the EO
- Ensure grounds or centre maintenance work does not disturb exam candidates in exam rooms
- Ensure fire alarm testing does not take place during exam sessions

## **Invigilators**

- Conduct exams in every exam room as instructed in training/update events and briefing sessions

## **Candidates**

- Are required to remain in the exam room for the full duration of the exam

## **Irregularities**

### **Head of centre**

- Ensures any cases of suspected malpractice (by centre staff, candidates, invigilators) are investigated and reported to the awarding body as required

### **Managing behaviour**

- Invigilators are aware of procedure to deal with behavioural issues and make sure it is recorded in incident log (copies in every exam room), if after first warning the disruptive behaviour continues, invigilator contacts EO who then will speak to candidate(s) and if further action required EO to contact SLT

### **Senior leaders**

- Ensure support is provided for the EO and invigilators when dealing with disruptive candidates in exam rooms
- Ensure that internal disciplinary procedures relating to candidate behaviour are instigated, when appropriate

### **Exams officer**

- Provides an exam room incident log in all exam rooms for recording any incidents or irregularities
- Actions any required follow-up and reports to awarding bodies as soon as practically possible after the exam has taken place

### **Invigilators**

- Record any incidents or irregularities on the exam room incident log (for example, late/very late arrival, candidate or centre staff suspected malpractice, candidate illness, disruption or disturbance in the exam room, emergency evacuation)

## **Malpractice**

See *Irregularities* above.

## **Special consideration**

### **Exams officer**

- Processes appropriate requests for special consideration to awarding bodies
- Gathers evidence which may need to be provided by other staff in centre or candidates
- Submits requests to awarding bodies to the external deadline

### **Special consideration policy**

- EO responsible for collating any evidence from pastoral team, teachers, PLs, parents/carers for candidates who require special consideration. File compiled and applications made once examinations have been completed by the candidate

### **Candidates**

- Provide appropriate evidence to support special consideration requests, where required

### **Unauthorised materials**

#### **Arrangements for unauthorised materials taken into the exam room**

- Candidates and parents/carers are sent JCQ regulations along with school examination instructions during the entry process and are asked to sign consent to acknowledge they and the candidates understand that if no unauthorised items will be allowed into the exam room and bags and coats are to be left outside the exam room. Mobiles and other devices to be collected before the exam by the invigilator assigned to their row. EO requests mobiles are handed in and any watches taken off and placed in front of them on the desk and checked by invigilators

### **Invigilators**

- Are informed of the arrangements through training

### **Internal exams**

#### **Exams officer**

- Briefs invigilators on conducting internal exams
- Returns candidate scripts to teaching staff for marking

#### **Invigilators**

- Conduct internal exams as briefed by the EO

### **Results and post-results: roles and responsibilities**

### **Internal assessment**

#### **Head of department**

- Ensures teaching staff keep candidates' work, whether part of the moderation sample or not, secure and for the required period stated by JCQ and awarding bodies
- Ensures work is returned to candidates or disposed of according to the requirements

## Managing results day(s)

### Senior leaders

- Identify centre staff who will be involved in the main summer results day(s) and their role
- Ensures senior members of staff are accessible to candidates after the publication of results

### Exams officer

- Works with senior leaders to ensure procedures for managing the main summer results day(s) (a results day programme) are in place

#### Results day programme

- Details of results days are provided in schools general instructions to candidates and also published in fortnightly newsletter before the end of term

### Site staff

- Ensure the centre is open and accessible to centre staff and candidates, as required

## Accessing results

### Exams officer

- Informs candidates in advance of when and how results will be released to them
- Accesses results from awarding bodies under restricted release of results, where this is provided by the awarding body
- Resolves any missing or incomplete results with awarding bodies
- Issues statements of results to candidates on issue of results date
- Provides summaries of results for relevant centre staff on issue of results date

## Post-results services

### Head of centre

- Ensures internal appeals procedures are available where candidates disagree with a centre decision
  - not to support an enquiry about results
  - not to appeal against the outcome of an enquiry about results(Ofqual has announced a series of changes to reviews of marking and appeals which may affect the centre's internal appeals procedures during 2016/17)

### Exams officer

- Provides information to candidates and staff on the services provided by awarding bodies and the fees charged (see also above *Briefing candidates* and *Access to scripts, enquiries about results and appeals procedures*)
- Publishes internal deadlines for requesting the services to ensure the external deadlines can be effectively met

- Provides a process to record requests for services and collect candidate informed consent and fees where relevant
- Submits requests to awarding bodies to meet the external deadline
- Tracks requests to conclusion and informs candidates and relevant centre staff of outcomes
- Updates centre results information, where applicable

### **Teaching staff**

- Meet internal deadlines to request the services and gain relevant candidate informed consent
- Identify the budget to which fees should be charged

### **Candidates**

- Meet internal deadlines to request the services
- Provide informed consent and fees, where relevant

### **Analysis of results**

- Provides analysis of results to appropriate centre staff
- Provides results information to external organisations where required
- Undertakes the secondary school and college (key stage 4/16-18) performance tables September checking exercise

### **Certificates**

Certificates are provided to centres by awarding bodies after results have been confirmed.

#### **Issue of certificates procedure**

- On results day a letter is enclosed in each candidates envelope giving details of the date from when they can collect certificates (mid November) and advising them to collect as school are only required to retain certificates for 1 year before destroying

### **Candidates**

- May arrange for certificates to be collected on their behalf by providing the EO with written authorisation; authorised persons must provide ID evidence on collection of certificates (parent/carers or siblings)

#### **Retention of certificates policy**

- EO retains certificates for 7 years and then they are disposed of confidentially (shredded)

## **Review: roles and responsibilities**

### **Exams officer**

- Provides SLT with an overview of the exam year, highlighting what went well and what could be developed/improved in terms of exams management and administrative processes within the stages of the exam cycle
- Collects and evaluates feedback from staff, candidates and invigilators to inform review

### **Senior leaders**

- Work with the EO to produce a plan to action any required improvements identified in the review

## **Retention of records: roles and responsibilities**

### **Exams officer**

- Keeps records as required by JCQ and awarding bodies for the required period
- Keeps records as required by the centre's records management policy
- Provides an exams archiving policy that identifies information held, retention period and method of disposal

#### **Exams archiving policy**

- See separate exams archiving policy

## **Beyond the scope of this policy**

The following required policies are considered beyond the scope of the exams policy.

**Child protection policy**

**Data protection policy**

**DBS policy**

All the above policies are standard school policies available on VLE website.

## **EXAMINATION ENTRY**

Students will be given a print out of their examination entries which should be checked very carefully. Any student who has concerns regarding their subject entries or level at which they have been entered should discuss these with their subject teacher but ultimately, staff reserve the right to enter students at the level they feel appropriate.

Entry fees will be paid for by Hilbre High School Humanities College.

A level students wishing to resit one or more module to improve their results should discuss the options with their subject teacher (old specifications only). Hilbre High School Humanities College will pay for a resit in one module per subject. Students wishing to resit extra modules should make the payment to the examinations officer prior to entry.

## **NOTICE TO GCE/GCSE EXAMINATION CANDIDATES**

### **Internal Assessment Procedure - Appeal**

This is to let you know how to appeal about the procedures used in internal assessment for work that contributes to a GCSE/GCE award.

- The procedure at this examination centre (HILBRE HIGH SCHOOL HUMANITIES COLLEGE) will be supervised by Ms C Arkwright. Information will be available from the Examination Office. Mr Bellamy will be aware of the details of all appeals in progress, and advised of their outcome.
- Any appeal will be considered by at least three members of Hilbre High School Humanities College staff, including your teacher.
- You will be allowed to be supported in the presentation of your case by a parent, guardian or friend.
- A written record of all appeals will be held in the Examinations Office. This will include a record of the outcome, including the reasons for that outcome. A copy will be sent to you.
- All appeals will include a review of the procedure used at Hilbre High School Humanities College to award marks for internal assessments to ensure that this complies with the requirements of the Awarding Body, and the published Code of Practice.
- Appeals should be made in writing by the candidate's parent/carer to the Examinations Officer at least two weeks before the date of the final written examination paper in the subject that exam session. An internal appeal will be resolved by the date of the final written examination paper of the session.
- Hilbre High School Humanities College will inform the Awarding Body of the outcome of any appeal which has implications for the conduct of examinations or the issue of results at Hilbre High School Humanities College and full details of any appeal will be made available to the Awarding Body on request.



## APPEALS PROCEDURE FOR STUDENTS FOLLOWING RELEASE OF MARKS FROM THE AWARDING BODIES “ENQUIRIES ABOUT RESULTS”

Any student that is unhappy with a mark awarded from an awarding body upon issue of results should follow the following procedure:-

- Contact subject teacher as soon as possible (*but no later than 3 days before the published deadline for Enquiries about Results*) in person to discuss mark, raise concerns and discuss the best way forward. The Exams Officer will advise on what options are available to query the mark and the costs involved.
- Students should be aware that Enquiries about Results (EARs) can result in marks being raised, confirmed or **lowered**. Students should sign a consent form to confirm that they understand the consequence of an enquiry.
- Subject teacher to review marks and discuss with HoF to agree the way forward taking into account the break down of marks and grade boundaries and the students predicted grades. If the Faculty agree to support the enquiry please follow (3) below if not the subject teacher should advise the student as per (4) below.
- A student may appeal against a decision not to support an EAR's. Appeals should be made in writing to the Principal no later than *5 working days before the published deadline for EARs*. The appeal should be in writing and state the full details of the complaint and the reasons for the appeal, the appeal should be signed and dated and include a daytime contact telephone number of the student. This information will be reviewed by the Principal or another member of the schools Leadership Group if the Principal is unavailable and the outcome of the appeal will be communicated by telephone where possible or 1st class post within 24 hours of receipt. This decision is final.
- (3) If the subject team agree that the school supports an enquiry, the request together with the students consent form should be made to the Exams Officer *before the published deadline for EARs*. The cost of the enquiry will be taken from the faculty budget. If the enquiry is successful, the fee will be refunded.
- (4) If the school does not support the enquiry, the student may still proceed in some cases (please contact the Exams Officer to check) with the enquiry but all costs involved need to be paid by the student at the time the enquiry is made. No enquiry will be made unless the fees are paid. Requests should be made in person to the Exams Officer *before the published deadline for EAR's*. If the enquiry is successful, the fee will be refunded to the student.
- Outcomes following EARs will be made in writing by the Exams Officer to the student as soon as they have been received from the Awarding Bodies.