

Summer 2021 Specific Arrangements & Contingency

A contingency day is usually the final day of a short period beyond the last examination of the season, dictated by JCQ. This period is always put in place in case there is a local/national disaster that prevents any exams taking place nationally on a given day. Students are advised to be available until they have sat their final examination in case an exam needs to be rescheduled nationally.

This year, due to Covid-19, the Government stated in December 2020 that should candidates be ill with Covid-19 or isolating when they are timetabled to take their examinations in Summer 2021, there will be an additional 3 week examination contingency period in July, which will take place beyond the final scheduled examinations so contingency papers can be sat.

In December 2020, the contingency period for Summer 2021 was reported as being from **28 June to 16 July 2021. Please take this period into account if booking holidays.** Students should ensure they are fully available up to and including 16 July 2021 in case a contingency paper needs to be sat during this additional examination period.

What happens if a student is ill or isolating and misses an exam paper?

Should a student miss some, or all, of the papers in a subject but has completed sufficient non-examination assessment (as a result of real sickness or the need to self-isolate) then they can still achieve a grade through the special consideration process. Students who miss exams will be expected to provide evidence to support the process.

What happens if a student misses ALL of their papers in a subject due to sickness related to Covid-19 or the need to self-isolate?

If unable to access the special consideration process (e.g. if there is no non-examination assessment for the qualification), they will be able to sit a contingency paper. The contingency papers will be sat in a period spanning dates 28 June to 16 July 2021 and timetabled to allow at least a 10 day gap after each subject's final paper in the main exam series. The specific details of this timetable is yet to be reported (as of December 2020).

What happens if a student misses All of their papers in a subject during BOTH the summer series and the contingency series?

If there is legitimate and evidenced reason, and there is no non-examination assessed element required to access the special consideration process, a validated teacher assessment may be used to award a grade. (Further information to follow from DfE/Ofqual).