

## **INSTRUCTIONS FOR SWSS PROVIDING PREDICTED GRADES IN THE EVENT FUTURE EXAM SITTINGS ARE CANCELLED**

This information is collated based on the experience of dealing with Edexcel and over 100 exam centres across the UK this Summer 2020. Exam centres, Edexcel, the government and SWSS reserve the right to make changes to this for any future exam sitting.

Additional info can be found on our website at [www.southwestscienceschool.com/coronavirus](http://www.southwestscienceschool.com/coronavirus)

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### **WHY HAVE THESE INSTRUCTIONS?**

Exams are currently going ahead. Prepare as if they are. However, there is concern that they may be cancelled again. It is advised to prepare for this possibility also. In theory the preparation for each should be the same. Good predicted grade prep is excellent real exam prep.

If exams are cancelled and you want a grade you must provide extensive evidence to your exam centre. You can complete less than what is suggested below (less marking for us), but you are drastically lowering your chances of your predicted grade being accepted by your exam centre. Exam centres have already stated they will be expecting more stringent evidence and checks if exams are to be cancelled again. We need to complete the following as a bare minimum and be ready to add more.

### **INSTRUCTIONS**

#### **1. CHOOSE YOUR EXAM CENTRE CAREFULLY**

Not all centres will accept evidence for a predicted grade. Do not delay in finding out how your exam centre will respond if exams are cancelled again.

Ensure you know (in writing) what will happen if exams are cancelled. In particular confirm:

- You will be allowed to submit evidence for a predicted grade.
- What evidence they will accept (every centre is different).
- What happens if they do not accept a prediction? Will they defer you to the next sitting, give you a full / partial refund or neither?

You may wish to consider changing exam centre. SWSS will not be held responsible for your grade and / or evidence not being accepted by your exam centre.

## **2. COMPLETE THE WHOLE COURSE FROM BEGINNING TO END**

View all videos, complete all assignments (and more importantly mini mocks), read all revision sheets and complete all online assignments / games.

A large part of your evidence is in the form of an attendance report. It shows when you viewed videos, assignments, mini mocks and revision sheets, for how long and how many times. It is your responsibility to ensure you have done this.

Only completing 50% of the course or only submitting online assignments is unlikely to be accepted by your centre unless you can prove that you completed the course elsewhere. Sufficient evidence might be work marked by a tutor or evidence from another provider. Unfortunately, stating you completed it from a textbook alone is unlikely to be accepted by the centre.

Parents and guardians may wish to access the student's computer and teacher marked grades periodically. To do this:

- Sign into the student's account.
- Click on the small arrow in the top right-hand corner (to the right of your name and profile picture if you added one).
- Click on grades.
- Click on your subject.

Encourage students to fill in missing assignments if needed. Not all lessons will have a computer or teacher marked piece of work. Aim for over 95% in all online assignments. They are generally multiple choice so not a good representation of the level you will get in your exam. If completed in the time frame, closed book and under exam conditions the end of year exam, practical tests and full mock exam are better indicators of your final level. We use online assignments and games to show course effort and completion.

Note: We may update the course to include more online assignments. We will notify the exam centre if this occurs.

## **3. COMPLETE THE COURSE OVER TIME**

Students who completed the whole course in March after finding out exams were cancelled struggled to be accepted by their exam centre. Ideally, we need to see consistent progress over an absolute minimum of 6 months (ideally 1 – 2 academic years).

## **4. HAND IN ALL MARKED WORKED BY THE DEADLINE**

Please see the table on the next page for deadlines associated with your chosen exam sitting. Whether exams are cancelled or not these deadlines apply. They reflect where you should be in the course for your exam sitting. Please note:

- All work will be marked after the deadline for submission.
- Handing in early will not mean your work is marked early.
- Handing in late will mean your work is not marked.
- You have one opportunity to complete.
- The length of time you take to complete a piece of marked work is recorded by the computer. Your exam centre will see this. Taking days/weeks to complete something intended to be closed book is not going to look great with your exam centre. Only start when you have time to finish.
- The full mock exam at the end of your course can be invigilated via zoom for a nominal fee if you wish.
- Feedback and / or scores will be found in the location you submitted the work.

**Note for autumn sitters:** Edexcel do not normally offer this sitting. Ofqual have suggested GCSE exams will be in November so we are working towards this despite the chance they can change. The marking deadlines reflect that you should have already completed the course. We have selected these new dates to provide your exam centre with marked work completed over time. If you have deferred but already completed some work you can choose to keep it or have it deleted to be completed under the new deadlines. The new score will be the final score.

WORK	LOCATION	AUTUMN SITTING DEADLINE	JANUARY SITTING DEADLINE	SUMMER 2021 SITTING DEADLINE
End of year 1 exam	Biology – BT3 Chemistry – CT3 Physics – PT3 Human bio – HBT3	27.06.2020	24.07.2020	28.08.2020
Practical test 1	R01	24.07.2020	11.09.2020	5.02.2021
Practical test 2	R01	28.08.2020	18.09.2020	12.02.2021
Full mock exam	To be confirmed	1.10.2020	1.12.2020	1.04.2020

## 5. STORE WRITTEN MINI MOCKS AND ASSIGNMENTS

Do not upload to the website. Store them in case you are requested for them at a later date. Mini mocks hold more weight with your exam centre than an assignment.

## 6. COMPLETE EVERYTHING ABOVE

We cannot personalise evidence for every student. The scores from your mock exam, all marked work (see table on next page) and some key online assignments will be used to

predict your grade via a computer algorithm. This must be supported by a good attendance record. You will not be informed of your predicted grade. This will be sent to your exam centre. Not completing one of the pieces above will drastically affect your predicted grade from us. It also increases the risk of your exam centre requesting additional evidence which students will then have to find elsewhere as the deadlines will have passed for marking.

We hope you are keeping well in this difficult time and understand the uncertainty is extremely stressful. You have our support throughout.