



# Bournemouth School

## Candidate Exam Handbook

# 2025/26

This handbook is reviewed and updated annually

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## Introduction

Bournemouth School is committed to ensuring that candidates are fully briefed on the examination and assessment process in place in the centre and are made aware of the required JCQ/awarding body instructions and information for candidates.

## Purpose of this handbook

- To support/complement candidate assemblies
- To inform candidates about:
  - malpractice in examinations/assessments
  - the use of their personal data and copyright
  - all relevant information about their exams and assessments in advance
  - JCQ regulations and information, including student posters
  - Any exams related policies/procedures they need to be aware of.

## Malpractice

Candidates must be aware of what malpractice is and the possible consequences.

- Malpractice means any act or practice which is in breach of the Regulations.
- Any alleged, suspected or actual incidents of malpractice will be investigated and reported to the relevant awarding body/bodies
- Please refer to the school's website for further information regarding (*see appendix 1*)
  - JCQ – *Suspected Malpractice Policies and Procedures*
  - Social Media – Things not to do – *Social Media Infographic*
  - Research and using references – *Coursework Assessments*
  - Plagiarism - *Coursework Assessments*
  - AI & Assessments – *see appendix 4*

## Personal data

The centre will provide relevant personal data including name, date of birth, gender to the awarding bodies for the purpose of examining and awarding qualifications.

Please refer to the school's website: *Privacy Notice for Candidates (see appendix 1)*.

## Coursework assessments/non-examination assessments

You **must** read *Non-Examination Assessments & Coursework Assessments* on the school's website if you are undertaking qualifications that contain elements of coursework assessment (*see appendix 1*).

## Written timetabled exams

Candidates will be provided with a statement of entry to check that personal details and exam entries are correct. Candidates must inform the Examinations Manager if any of the details are incorrect.

Bournemouth School will notify candidates, including any candidates that are no longer members of the school of their examination entries and the dates and times of their examinations. Timetables will be emailed directly to the candidates using their school email address. Candidates that have left the school and are re-sitting their exams will be emailed using the email address they have provided.

Candidates must be aware of the content of the *JCQ Unauthorised items and Warning to Candidates Posters*. These posters will be displayed outside every examination room (*see appendix 2 & 3*). Candidates should also refer to the *Information for Candidates* on the website (*see appendix 1*).

## Contingency sessions - Summer 2026

The awarding bodies will designate a 'contingency session' for examinations, summer 2026. The designation of this session within the common examination timetable is in the event of national or significant local disruption to examinations. It is part of the awarding bodies' standard contingency planning for examinations.

- Contingency day – 24<sup>th</sup> June 2026

## What to do if you identify you have two or more exam papers timetabled at the same time (a timetable clash)

Candidates with a timetable clash will be contacted by the Examinations Manager and all procedures will be explained. Candidates will be supervised at all times by an invigilator.

## Where you will take your exams

Most candidates will sit their exams in the school hall or the assembly room. Candidates with exam access arrangements will be roomed in other areas of the school.

## What time your public exams will start and finish

The awarding bodies' published starting time for all morning examinations is 9.00am and 1.30pm for all afternoon examinations. You should arrive **10 minutes** before the start of the published examination time.

## Supervision during your exams

Exams are supervised by a team of external invigilators (internal invigilators may be used during busy exam sessions).

All invigilators have been trained and must follow strict rules and regulations when conducting exams as directed by JCQ.

## Exam room conditions

Candidates are under formal examination conditions from the moment they enter the room in which they will be taking their examination(s), until the point at which they are permitted to leave.

Candidates must not talk to, attempt to communicate with, or disturb other candidates once they have entered the examination room.

Candidates must listen to and follow the instructions of the invigilator at all times.

Candidates must listen to the invigilators' announcement carefully and complete the relevant actions when requested.

Candidates must not open the question paper until the examination begins.

If candidates breach any of the above conditions, this will be reported to the relevant awarding body.

## Where you will sit in the exam room

Candidates will sit in a predetermined seat. Candidates should check the seating plan which will be displayed in reception.

Exam rooms will be clearly labelled to allow candidates to locate their seat easily.

## How your identity is confirmed in the exam room

A slip will be on your exam desk with your photo, candidate number, exam name, location and seat number.

## What equipment you need to bring to your exams

Candidates should come fully prepared for each exam with:

- A see-through plastic pencil case
- Black pens, pencils, rulers, calculator, protractor and compass
- *For Mock examinations only: A green pen if you are entitled to 25% extra time*
- Any drink bottles must be transparent with all labels removed **(not coloured)**

Use the *JCQ On your exam day checklist* to help you prepare. (see appendix 5)

## Using calculators

Instructions on the question paper will say whether a calculator is allowed or not.

Where the use of a calculator is allowed, candidates are responsible for making sure that their calculators meet the awarding bodies' regulations.

A calculator must not be able to offer any of these facilities:

- Language translators;
- Symbolic algebra manipulation;
- Symbolic differentiation or integration;
- Communication with other machines or the internet.
- Should not contain any pre-stored information

## What you should wear for your exams

Candidates should wear their normal school uniform.

## Where your personal belongings should be stored during your exam

Candidates should store their belongings in their school locker.

## What to do if you arrive late for your exam

Candidates who arrive late for the start of their exam may be allowed to enter the examination room and sit the exam. This is at the discretion of the centre (Bournemouth School).

## What to do if you are unwell on the day of your exam

Candidates or their parent/guardian should contact the centre (Bournemouth School) as soon as possible. The Examinations Manager will contact you as soon as possible to discuss the situation.

## What happens in the event of an emergency in the exam room

Invigilators are trained to deal with any situation that may arise. Please follow their instructions.

## Candidates with access arrangements/reasonable adjustments

Candidates will work closely with the SEND department and be fully informed of any access arrangements that are put in place for them.

## Results

A Level Results Day – Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> August 2026

GCSE Results Day – Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> August 2026

Details of results days and post-results services will be communicated via the school newsletter in July 2026.

## Certificates

Certificates will (usually) arrive at the centre in early November.

GCSE certificates: These will be distributed via tutor groups in Year 12.

A Level certificates and GCSE certificates (for year 11 students who have left Bournemouth School):

Candidates should visit the school's website for further information - <https://www.bournemouth-school.org/examinations/>

**Documents that can be found on our website:**

**<https://www.bournemouth-school.org/examinations/>**

**JCQ Privacy notice for Candidates**

**JCQ Information for candidates – written examinations**

**JCQ Information for candidates – social media infographic**

**JCQ Information for candidates – preparing for exams**

**JCQ Information for candidates – non-examination assessments**

**JCQ Information for candidates – coursework assessments**

**JCQ Malpractice Information**

### JCQ *Unauthorised items* poster

This poster will be displayed outside each exam room. You **must** note that "*Possession of unauthorised items, such as a mobile phone or any watch, is a serious offence and could result in **DISQUALIFICATION** from your examination and your overall qualification.*"



AQA

City &amp; Guilds

CCEA

NCFE

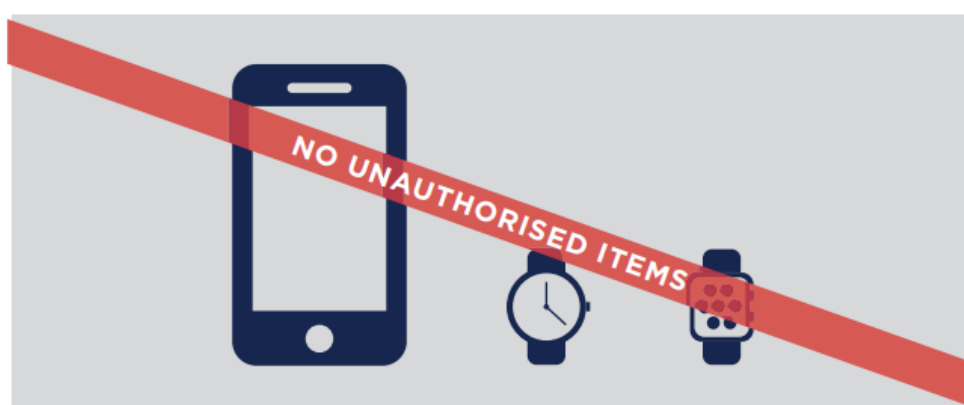
OCR

Pearson

WJEC

## NO MOBILE PHONES NO WATCHES

NO TECHNOLOGICAL OR WEB-ENABLED  
POTENTIAL SOURCES OF INFORMATION



Possession of unauthorised items, such as a mobile phone  
or any watch, is a serious offence and could result in

# DISQUALIFICATION

from your examination and your overall qualification.

This poster must be displayed in a prominent place outside each examination room.



**JCQ *Warning to candidates* poster**

This poster will be displayed outside each exam room. You **must** note all the warnings.

**Warning to candidates**

 AQA	 City & Guilds	 CCEA	 NCFE	 OCR	 Pearson	 WJEC
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**1**

You **must** be on time for all your examinations.

**2**

**Possession of a mobile phone** or other unauthorised material **is not allowed** even if you do not intend to use it. You will be subject to penalty and possible disqualification from the examination or qualification.

**3**

You **must not** talk to, attempt to communicate with or disturb other candidates once you have entered the examination room.

**4**

You **must** follow the instructions of the invigilator.

**5**

You **must not** sit an examination in the name of another candidate.

**6**

You **must not** become involved in any unfair or dishonest practice in any part of the examination.

**7**

If you are confused about anything, only speak to an invigilator.

**The *Warning to candidates* must be displayed in a prominent place outside each examination room. This may be a hard copy A3 paper version or an image of the poster projected onto a wall or screen for all candidates to see.**

## JCQ AI and assessments poster for students

This poster is a quick guide to help you to better understand the rules for use of AI in assessments.



# AI and Assessments

## A quick guide for students



### What is AI?

- AI stands for artificial intelligence and using it is like having a computer that thinks
- AI tools like ChatGPT or Snapchat My AI can write text, make art and create music by learning from data from the internet, but watch out – they can also make things up and be biased





### How can AI be misused in assessments?

AI misuse is when you take something made using AI and say it's your own work.

## THIS IS CHEATING!



### How do I make sure I don't misuse AI?



- Know the rules**
  - You're **not allowed** to use AI tools when you're in an exam
  - Your teachers will tell you if you're allowed to use AI tools when doing your coursework – the rules will depend on your qualification
  - Even if you're allowed to use AI tools, you can't get marks for content just produced by AI – your marks come from showing your own understanding and producing your own work
- Reference reference reference!**

If you're allowed to use AI tools, you must reference them clearly

  - Name the AI tool you used
  - Add the date you generated the content
  - Explain how you used it
  - Save a screenshot of the questions you asked and the answers you got
- Declare it's all your own work**

When you hand in your assessment, you have to sign a declaration. Anything without a reference must be all your own work. If you've used an AI tool, don't sign the declaration until you're sure you've added all the references

### What happens if I misuse AI?

If you've misused AI, you could lose your marks for the assessment – you could even be disqualified from the subject.

## DON'T RISK IT!



## REMEMBER

Misusing AI is cheating!

Know the rules  
Talk to your teachers  
Reference clearly

JCQ *On your exam day* poster

# On your exam day

This checklist will help you to be as prepared as possible for your exams so that you can focus on doing your best on the day.

## Before sitting your exams, ensure you know:

- ☐ the date, time and location of each of your exams. You might find it helpful to write this information in a calendar or planner.
- ☐ who to contact at school or college in case there's an emergency that makes you late or unable to sit your exam.

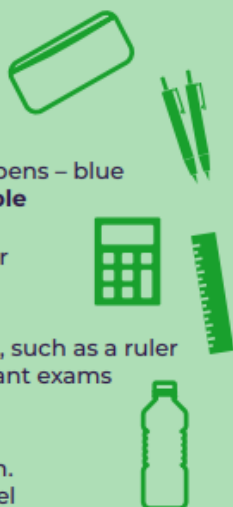
## What you cannot take into your exams:

- ☐ any type of phone
- ☐ revision notes
- ☐ any type of watch (this includes analogue, digital and smart watches)
- ☐ smart devices (e.g. AirPods, smart glasses or tablets)



## What you will need:

- ☐ a clear pencil case
- ☐ at least two black ink pens – blue pens are **not acceptable**
- ☐ an approved calculator for relevant exams
- ☐ appropriate apparatus, such as a ruler or protractor, for relevant exams
- ☐ a clear water bottle if you wish to take one in. It **must not** have a label



## Other important information:

- ☐ Listen carefully to the invigilator's instructions, which will be specific to your exam. If you are unsure of anything, please raise your hand and wait for the invigilator to respond.
- ☐ Fill in your details on the front of your answer booklet.
- ☐ If you need an additional answer sheet, raise your hand and wait for an invigilator to provide one. Remember to add your details to this sheet.
- ☐ If you need to use the toilet or feel unwell, raise your hand and wait for an invigilator to escort you from the exam room.
- ☐ Remember to stay silent – talking to a fellow candidate could result in disqualification from all your exams.

## Contingency sessions:

- ☐ There are contingency sessions within the Summer 2026 exam timetable on the morning and afternoon of 24 June 2026. Make sure you are available on 24 June 2026.

If you have any questions about your exams, please ask your teacher or exams officer.



You can also find useful information about preparing for exams at [www.jcq.org.uk/exams-office/information-for-candidates-documents](http://www.jcq.org.uk/exams-office/information-for-candidates-documents)