

WINGATE SCHOOL - EXAMS EXPLAINED

At Wingate School external exams take place at the end of Year 10 & 11 and periodically during Years 12 & 13 although the main bulk of exams are in May and June each year. We purchase exams from Edexcel Pearson based in the UK. These are explained in the Year 10 Options Booklet and the Sixth Form Prospectus, both of which can be found on the school website and both are updated annually.

Students and parents have to register for exams in late January. Late entries or changes to entries attract increased fees. The form given to students to be completed, shows the cost of each exam, the cost of each unit for some A Levels and the entry deadline date.

IGCSEs - International General Certificate of Education:

This is a 2 year course, in Year 10 and Year 11, culminating in a number of final exams in May and June of Year 10 & 11. The number of subjects is dependent on each student but range from 6 subject exams to 9. The number of exams depends on the subject. For example, in Geography there are 3 written exams whereas in Physical Education "PE" there is a coursework element and 1 written exam. The Year 10 Options Booklet has details.

Traditionally, the results of these exams are released in late August by Pearson Edexcel. Final grades range from A* to U. A* to C grades are classed as high level passes and grades C to G as a pass. Only a grade U is a fail.

The UK Department for Education (DFE) has instructed exam boards to change to a numerical system from 9 to 1 or U. International exam boards are slowly changing over in the next 2 to 3 years. When your child's exam results are released, there is very likely going to be a mix of letters and numbers for the next few years.

Levels 9 to 1 explained:

New grading structure	Current grading structure
9	
8	A*
7	A
6	B
5	C
4	
3	D
2	E
1	F
	G
U	U

As you can see there is not a direct correlation between the old system and the new.

New grade 5 (B/C) will be known as a 'strong pass' and a grade 4 (C) will be a 'standard pass'.

International schools and organisations will still recognise the new system

We do not allow retakes of IGCSE exams in Wingate unless a student is part of the Sixth Form or

ex-students may request to resit as an external student but only the following May and June.

GCE, A levels - General Certificate of Education, Advanced Levels:

Students sit AS Level exams at the end of Year 12 and A2 Levels at the end of Year 13. The number of exams taken, as with IGCSEs, depends on the subject. Final grades at A2 are from A* to E, below an E is a fail.

The AS and the A2 exam results are combined to form the final A Level grade. The AS result is a stand alone recognised result and attracts points towards University entrance.

Subjects studying IAL syllabus', take a number of components eg. Maths, take 6 component exams, 3 at AS (IAS) and 3 at A2 (IAL). The totals for each are added together to give a final IAS and IAL grade. Individual components can be resat to boost an overall mark but please see the note on resits below.

However, Languages are a 'Linear' system. This means the final exams in Year 13 are tested on the whole 2 year course and AS exams (if taken) are stand alone and do not form part of the final grade. Please refer to the Sixth Form Prospectus for more details,

Resits:

IGCSE - you can only resit the following in May & June.

IAL Units: Students have the opportunity to resit individual units in January and May/June each year. However, the highest mark of the previous 2 unit exams will be given as the overall mark. So should a student sit a 3rd time, then the last exam results are taken into consideration and the first exam result is superseded. Consequently, final results can go down as well as up.

Warning for Resits: Students resitting units during their Year 12 & 13 risk being distracted from their final exams especially in Year 13.

It is the exam board's intention that every student has the same experience and opportunity when taking their examinations, regardless of which school or where in the World the exam is taken. It is our aim therefore, to ensure this is always the case for your child.

The integrity of exams is considered to be of paramount importance

We hope this helps to explain our exams system.

There is also an External Exams Policy on the Policies area of the school website.

Mr M Howells
Head of Wingate School

Date of review: August 2024