



Joint Council for  
Qualifications<sup>CIC</sup>

# Information for candidates

On-screen examinations

Effective from 1 September 2026

Produced on behalf of:



©JCQ<sup>CIC</sup> 2026

**This document has been written to help you.  
Read it carefully and follow the instructions.**

If there is anything you do not understand ask your teacher.

## **A. Regulations – Make sure you understand the rules**

- 1** Be on time for your on-screen exam(s). If you are late, your work might not be accepted.
- 2 Do not** become involved in any unfair or dishonest practice during the on-screen exam.
- 3** If you try to cheat or break the rules in any way, you could be disqualified from **all** your exams.
- 4** Only take into the exam room the materials and equipment which are allowed for that exam.
- 5** You **must not** take any unauthorised material into the exam room, including:
  - (a) notes;
  - (b) earphones or earbuds (e.g. AirPods), MP3/4 players or similar devices, smart devices, smart glasses, tablets (e.g. iPads or iPods);
  - (c) a mobile phone;
  - (d) a watch (e.g. analogue, digital and smartwatch);

Unless you are told otherwise, you **must not** have access to:

- (e) AI tools, email, graphics packages or computer aided design software, portable storage media, e.g. memory sticks, social media sites, spreadsheets or the internet;
- (f) prepared templates.

**Bringing unauthorised material into the exam room is breaking the rules, whether you intend to use it or not. You will be subject to sanctions and possible disqualification.**

- 6 Do not** talk to, try to communicate with or disturb other candidates once you have entered the exam room.
- 7** If you leave the exam room unaccompanied by an invigilator before the on-screen exam has finished, you **will not** be allowed to return.
- 8 Do not** borrow anything from another candidate during the on-screen exam.

## **B. Information – Make sure you attend your on-screen exam and bring what you need**

- 1** Know the date and time of your on-screen exam(s). Arrive at least ten minutes before the start of your on-screen exam.
- 2** If you arrive late for an on-screen exam, report to the invigilator running the exam.
- 3** If you arrive more than one hour after the published starting time for the on-screen exam, you may not be allowed to take it.
- 4** Your centre will inform you of any equipment which you may need for the on-screen exam.

## C. Calculators, dictionaries and computer spellcheckers

- 1 You may use a calculator unless you are told otherwise.
- 2 If you use a calculator:
  - (a) make sure it works properly; check that the batteries are working properly;
  - (b) clear anything stored in its memory and **make sure it is in exam mode;**
  - (c) remove any parts such as cases, lids or covers which have printed instructions or formulae;
  - (d) **do not** bring any operating instructions or prepared programs into the exam room.
- 3 **Do not** use a dictionary or computer spellchecker unless you are told otherwise.

## D. Instructions during the on-screen exam

- 1 Always listen to the invigilator. Always follow their instructions.
- 2 Tell the invigilator at once if:
  - (a) you have been entered for the wrong on-screen exam;
  - (b) the on-screen exam is in another candidate's name;
  - (c) you experience system delays or any other IT issues;
  - (d) your access to the on-screen exam has not been set up correctly;
  - (e) adjustments to the on-screen exam have not been made for you, e.g. additional time has not been added, computer reading software or speech recognition software has not been uploaded.
- 3 You may be given a question paper or the instructions may be on screen. In either case, read carefully and follow the instructions. **Do not** open the question paper until you are told that the exam has begun.

## E. Advice and assistance

- 1 If, on the day of the on-screen exam, you feel that your work may be affected by ill health or any other reason, tell the invigilator.
- 2 Put up your hand during the on-screen exam if:
  - (a) you have a problem with your computer and are not sure what you should do;
  - (b) you do not feel well.
- 3 You **must not** ask for, and will not be given, any explanation of the questions.

## F. At the end of the on-screen exam

- 1 Ensure that the software closes at the end of the on-screen exam.
- 2 If you are required to print off work outside the time allowed for the on-screen exam, ensure that you collect your own work. You **must not** share your work with other candidates. Make sure that another candidate does not collect your printout(s).
- 3 **Do not** leave the exam room until told to do so by the invigilator.
- 4 **Do not** take any stationery from the exam room. This includes rough work, printouts or any other materials provided for the on-screen exam.