



New Mills School & Sixth Form

A – Z of Exams Booklet

A

Absence from Examinations:

You must attend all examinations to which you are allocated on your personal timetable. Misreading the timetable will **NOT** be accepted as a satisfactory explanation for your absence.

YOU MAY BE INVOICED IF YOU FAIL TO ATTEND AN EXAMINATION THAT HAS BEEN PAID FOR BY THE SCHOOL.

If you are absent from an examination due to illness, please notify New Mills School as early as possible by telephone on 01663 743 284 this number has an answer phone for out-of-hours messages. We shall advise you if a formal medical certificate will be required.

Access Arrangements:



All arrangements with regards to extra time, reader, scribe, rest breaks and the use of a wp, etc., need to go through the Learning Support Department. These concessions must be the students 'Normal Way of Working' in class and progress tests etc.

NO ARRANGEMENTS WILL BE MADE UNTIL LEARNING SUPPORT CONTACT THE EXAMINATIONS DEPARTMENT.

Access To Scripts (ATS):

After the results are published candidates are able to request access to their examination scripts from the awarding bodies for general interest or to help with future learning. There are two types of access to script services available to candidates; these are:

- Original scripts
- Photocopied scripts (A-Level only)

Many candidates often wish to see their examination script in order to decide whether or not to have the paper remarked. If this is the case then **you must request a photocopy of the script.** You are unable to choose the original script option because once a script has been returned to a centre from the awarding bodies then its security has been compromised. If however you are not planning on requesting a remark then you can request the original script.

IF YOU WANT TO REQUEST A SCRIPT THEN YOU MUST COLLECT THE RELEVANT FORM FROM THE EXAMINATIONS OFFICE AND RETURN BY THE APPROPRIATE DEADLINE.

PLEASE NOTE: GCSE STUDENTS ARE ONLY ABLE TO REQUEST ORIGINAL SCRIPTS.

Attendance at the Examinations:

Punctuality is important. Exams start at 9.10am or 1.10pm you must be outside the exams room at least 15 minutes before. Late students may not be given the full exam time.

Awarding Bodies:

These are the organisations that provide qualifications for schools and colleges. Awarding bodies used by New Mills School are; AQA, Pearson (Edexcel), OCR and WJEC.

B

Bags:

Bags must be left outside the hall or at the front of the exam room if you are seated in one of the satellite rooms. You are not allowed to keep them with you at your desk during the exam.

Please DO NOT bring valuables with you when you are sitting examinations.

Bilingual Dictionaries:

Students wishing to use a bilingual dictionary must seek approval through the Learning Support Department. Students must provide their own clean copy for use in exams.

Black Pens:

Awarding bodies request that students use black ball point ink to complete their answer papers, this is because they now scan scripts onto a computer to send to the examiners for marking. Black ink is the only colour their scanners can read. Please do not use Blue, Red, Green or Pencil (unless otherwise instructed) to do your exam, or it may not get marked.

C

Calculators:

Calculators may be used in some examinations: your subject teacher will tell you if they are not allowed. In all cases, calculators are not allowed if they offer any of the following facilities: *language translators; symbolic algebra manipulation; symbolic differentiation or integration; remote communication with other machines or the World Wide Web; data banks; dictionaries; mathematical formulae or text.*



No printed instructions or cases are allowed; if you cannot remove the case from your calculator you must ensure that all instructions are securely covered. **You must bring your own calculator if you need one: you may not use the calculator functions on mobile telephones, which are not allowed in all examination**

rooms, and you may not borrow a calculator from another candidate.

Candidate Number:

Your candidate number is the four digit number printed on your student card. You will be seated, by subject, in candidate number order.

Cashing-In:

Marks for each of the units for which you have entered are “banked” by the appropriate awarding bodies. To “cash-in” these marks for a grade, New Mills School has to add a cash-in code when it submits its exam entries; without this code new marks will be added to the bank but a grade will not be calculated and no award for an AS or A2 level will be made.

For example if you are a second year student who re-sits an AS unit the marks you achieve in this re-sit will only help to improve your A2 grade and not your AS grade unless you ask to be cashed-in.

Centre:

Centres can be schools, colleges or other establishments that have been approved by an awarding body to offer qualifications, enter students for exams and conduct the awarding bodies' exams.

OUR CENTRE NUMBER IS 23414

YOU WILL NEED TO WRITE THIS ON ALL OF YOUR EXAM PAPERS.

Certificates:



Certificates can be collected at presentation evening – further details will be sent out closer to the time but this usually takes place once all the certificates have been received from the exam boards.

Certificates can normally be collected from New Mills School reception Mid December. Certificates will not be given to a 3rd party unless written permission from the student is given to the 3rd party.

Certificates for students not leaving will be retained by the exams department for safe keeping until they leave New Mills School completely.

Please note that centres may destroy any unclaimed certificates by a secure method (e.g. shredding or incineration) after holding them for a period of 12 months from the date of issue.

TIP: YOU MUST KEEP ALL YOUR CERTIFICATES SAFE AS IN MOST CIRCUMSTANCES THEY CANNOT BE REPLACED

Change of Address:

It is important that you tell us as a matter of urgency if you move address. Letters about results etc. may not reach you.

Change of Name:

It is important that you tell us as a matter of urgency if you change your name. Evidence to confirm this must be brought at the time i.e. Passport, Birth Certificate. Awarding bodies will charge approx. £40 per certificate to change them.

Cheating:

Candidates caught cheating in examinations – including being in possession of or using a mobile telephone, smart/apple watches, pagers, mp3 players, ipods, unauthorised aids or notes but also copying from or communicating with other candidates – **will** be reported to the awarding bodies.



EVEN IF THE ITEMS ARE IN YOUR POCKET AND YOU HAVE NO INTENTION OF USING THEM YOU WILL STILL BE REPORTED TO THE AWARDING BODY CONCERNED.

PENALTIES INCLUDE EXCLUSION FROM NEW MILLS SCHOOL AND DISQUALIFICATION FROM ALL EXAMINATIONS FOR UP TO FIVE YEARS. SEE THE JCQCIC “NOTICE TO CANDIDATES”.

Clashes:

If you have an examination clash involving different subjects, you will notice the changes in times on your timetable. Please ensure you are still arriving for the first exam on that day.

ALL INFORMATION ON A CLASH LETTER OVERRIDES ALL OTHER INSTRUCTIONS

If you have a clash involving two or three examinations in the same subject, you will sit your papers one after the other as long as the total published examination time does not exceed three hours. No break will be allowed in between the papers, unless to use the toilet. If the total time does exceed three hours, the papers will be split between the morning and afternoon session. If you are in this position, you will have to go into quarantine between the two sessions and will, therefore, need to bring a packed lunch and a drink with you.

Conduct in the Examination Room:

You must be silent in the examination room, including the times when you come in and go out. Once you have entered an examination room, you are not allowed to leave unescorted until the end of the examination, and only then when you are given permission to do so.

YOU WILL NOT BE ALLOWED TO LEAVE AN EXAM EARLY EVEN IF YOU HAVE FINISHED

Should you require any assistance, please raise your hand clearly and wait for an invigilator to come to you.

Please do not write on your examination desk: this constitutes vandalism and you will be charged for the removal of graffiti.



Controlled Assessment:

Tasks or Assignments set by the awarding bodies with defined control levels for each stage. GCSE controlled assessments are done under exam conditions and count towards your overall grade.

Coursework:

All coursework will be carried out during the academic year. All deadlines are issued by departments and if you have any problems with regards to these you must speak to the relevant department staff.

D

Data Protection Form:

All students who have been granted access arrangements must complete and sign this form with the examinations department before concessions can be put in place with the awarding bodies.

Dictionaries:



You may not use a dictionary in an exams unless dictionaries are specifically permitted by the subject specification or special arrangements have been approved by the awarding bodies.

If you think you might be entitled to the use of a dictionary please see the Learning Support department.

E

Enquiries About Results (EARs):

The awarding bodies offer the option of having a script remarked, at a fee, if a candidate or member of teaching staff is unhappy with the marks. There is a choice of three different types of remarks; these are:

- Clerical check
- Full remark
- Priority remark

A clerical check is simply when the relevant awarding body checks that the number of marks given has been added up correctly.

A full remark the awarding body sends your examination paper to a different examiner, this time a senior examiner, and asks them to remark it using the same mark scheme.

A priority remark is exactly the same as a full remark but is **only available in the summer** for GCE papers where a candidate's university place is at stake.

If you're not satisfied with the grade you have achieved the first thing you may think about is getting your papers remarked, however, remarking is very costly and not often effective. Therefore it is important to consider the following:

- **ARE YOU CLOSE TO THE GRADE BOUNDARY?**

Remarks usually only alter a grade by a few UMS marks, if any at all. If you are therefore very close to a higher grade boundary a remark may be worth considering but if you require a substantial amount of marks to achieve a higher grade then the likelihood is that your mark will not change.

- **YOUR GRADE CAN GO DOWN AS WELL AS UP**

Remark means having your entire paper remarked therefore your grade can quite easily go down as well as up. If your grade does get lowered you cannot refuse it and ask for the original higher grade to stand. You must be aware that this is the chance you take when asking for a remark.

- **COST**

Remarks are very expensive and the likelihood is that your mark will not change.

IF YOU WANT TO REQUEST A REMARK THEN YOU MUST COLLECT THE RELEVANT FORM FROM THE EXAMINATIONS OFFICE AND RETURN BY THE APPROPRIATE DEADLINE.

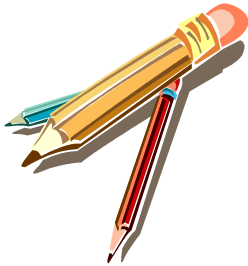
End of Examinations:

The invigilators will collect your exam papers before you leave the examination room. Absolute silence must be maintained during this time and until you are outside the building – remember that other examinations may be continuing as you leave.

You may not take any examination materials (additional paper, answer booklets, question papers etc.) from any examination room.

Equipment:

All students must remember to bring their own equipment to any examination that they have. These include pens, pencils, rulers, rubbers and a pencil sharpener. Borrowing from other candidates is **not** allowed.



Please note that the JCQ regulations state that a BLACK ball point pen must be used in all examinations.

For diagrams, use an **HB pencil** and a **ruler**. Gel pens, highlighters, correcting fluids and correcting pens may not be used in any answer booklets.

Exam rooms do have limited supply of equipment but these are limited and for emergencies only.

TIP: Equipment for students who fail to come prepared is no longer available

Why not buy an exam pack containing your essential exam equipment needs available now from the Admin Office – only £1.00 (Calculator NOT included)

Examination Dates:

The examination dates are nationally set by the awarding bodies and **NOT** by New Mills School.

THESE DATES CAN THEREFORE NOT BE CHANGED



Examinations Office:



The Exams Office is open Monday – Friday from 8.30am until 4.00pm./3.30pm Fridays. We will be happy to help with any queries that you have during this time. Alternatively, you can email Ms Wakelin Exams Officer exams@newmillsschool.co.uk

Examination Regulations:

It is your responsibility to familiarise yourself with the JCQcic 'Notice to Candidates' regulations, a copy of which is given to you with your statements of entry. A copy of these regulations is also available on New Mills School website and will also be displayed outside all examination rooms.

Extended Project:

A-Level 3 qualification involving a single piece of work that requires a high degree of planning, preparation, research and independent working. Learners explore in depth a topic based on their own interest and aspirations. The extend project may be completed as a stand-alone qualification.

Extra Time:

Will only be granted to an individual if they have evidence of a learning difficulty or disability. Students can be assessed by the Learning Support Department, who will identify whether there is a need for students to have up to 25% or in extreme circumstances up to 50% extra time.

F

Food and Drink:

Food is not allowed into an examination room unless special permission has been given for medical reasons.



You are only allowed to take into the examination room a drink of water. This must be in a clear plastic bottle and all **labels must be removed**. You will not be able to leave the exam room to refill a bottle of water and invigilators cannot leave the exam room to do this for you. Therefore please ensure that you have enough water to last you the whole exam.

Any other type of drink is not permitted – this is incase you spill your drink over your exam paper. If only water is spilt there is a greater chance that your exam paper can be saved.

G

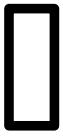
Grades:

Pass Grades at GCSE are from A* - G. Pass grades at AS and A Level are A – E. Pass Grades at BTEC are Pass, Merit, Distinction.

H

Headwear:

Only headwear worn for religious beliefs can be left on during the exam. Sports caps, woolly hats, bandanas etc. will not be allowed.



Illness:

If you become ill during your exams, advise your teachers and the exams department so that advice can be given on the best course of action.

Invigilator:

An invigilator is someone who watches over candidates in an examination to ensure that JCQ^{cic} exam conditions are met. You must follow all instructions and orders given to you by an invigilator.



JCQ^{cic} Joint Council for Qualifications:

Represents all the awarding bodies that offer general qualifications ie GCSE and 'A'. JCQ ensures that learners of all ages and level of ability have access to qualification and is responsible for producing administration rules for general qualifications e.g. regulations on access arrangements.

JCQ^{cic} Inspectors:

On the spot adhoc inspections are made to all centres during the examinations period to ensure that all centre staff and students are adhering to the general regulations laid down by all awarding bodies.



Knowledge:

"Knowledge is power. Information is liberating. Education is the premise of progress, in every society, in every family". [Kofi Annan](#)

Work hard, learn your subjects and excel in your exams/qualifications.



Late Arrivals:

Any candidate arriving after 9.30am or 1.30pm may be allowed into the examination room; however you should be warned that if you do this then the awarding bodies may not accept your exam script.

PLEASE ALSO NOTE YOU MAY NOT BE ENTITLED TO THE FULL AMOUNT OF TIME FOR THE EXAM THAT YOU ARE SITTING.

Location of Examinations:

These will be shown on your examination timetable. It is essential to check the location of your examination carefully.

Please allow enough time to find the correct room/location.

M

Malpractice:

Malpractice is any practice which is a breach of the JCQcic regulations or which; compromises the integrity of any qualification or the validity of an examination result or certificate. This malpractice can occur in the course of any exam or assessment, including the preparation and authentication of any coursework, the presentation of any practical work, the compilation of portfolios of assessment evidence and the writing of any exam paper.

Mobile Telephones & other Electronic Equipment:

Mobile telephones, Smart Watches and, other electronic equipment are not allowed into examination or satellite rooms. New Mills School and awarding bodies' regulations forbid you to bring in any of these devices into any examination room or any room being used for quarantine, either before or after an examination, so you are strongly advised not to bring such devices with you on examination days. If you do bring in such devices, please hand them to the invigilator, switched off, when you enter your exam room. Alternatively, you can leave them in your bag at your own risk.



If a **mobile telephone, or other electronic device** is found in your possession in an examination or quarantine room – **even if it is turned off** – it will be taken from you and a report made to the appropriate awarding body. The awarding bodies now operate a no-tolerance policy on all candidates discovered to be in infringement of the regulations and have advised New Mills School that students discovered to have a communications device with them during an examination or quarantine face disqualification from the subject concerned, see penalties section for more details. In addition, New Mills School Head Teacher is likely to take action against you under New Mills School's disciplinary procedures. **Please do not risk disqualification:** either leave your mobile telephone at home or hand it in to the invigilators.

N

New GCSE grades:

As you are aware the government has recently announced radical changes to the structure and assessment of GCSEs. We are moving away from the familiar system of A*-G grades to a new system of grading with numbers. Please [CLICK HERE](#) to visit our website for more information.

O

Overnight supervision:

Overnight supervision would only be required, at your digression, if you have examinations totalling more than 6 hours in one day. You will be required to be kept under supervision by your parents until the following morning when you will sit the rest of your examinations that should have been sat the previous day.



Overnight supervision is required so that you do not come into contact with anyone else who has already sat exams which you have not. Therefore whilst in supervision you will not be able to have a mobile phone in your possession, use the internet or have any contact with the outside world.

A parental declaration form must be completed in the presence of the Principal and Examinations Manager 7 days before the examination in question.

P

Penalties:

The JCQcic issues the following penalties depending on the offence that was committed:

1. Warning
2. Loss of all the marks gained for a single piece of coursework
3. Loss of all the marks gained for a component
4. Loss off all marks gained for a unit
5. Disqualification from the unit
6. Loss of all the marks gained from all components/units in all qualifications taken during the exam series.
7. Disqualification from the whole qualification
8. Disqualification from all qualifications taken in that exam series
9. Barred from entering for one or more examinations for a set period of time.

The table below shows the types of offences for possession of a mobile phone and what number penalty you may be awarded as a result.

<u>Offence</u>	<u>Warning</u> (Penalty 1)	<u>Loss of marks</u> (Aggregation still permitted) (Penalty 2-4)	<u>Loss of certification opportunity</u> (Penalties 5-10)
Mobile Phones	In the Examination or quarantine room but not in the candidates possession, and rings or beeps	In the candidates possession, but no evidence of being used or being active	In the candidates possession and evidence of it being used or active (rings, beeps, used as calculator)

Plagiarism:

There are many definitions of plagiarism, but they all have in common the idea of taking someone else's intellectual effort and presenting it as one's own. The Joint Council's *Guidelines for Dealing with Instances of Suspected Malpractice* defines plagiarism as: "The failure to acknowledge sources properly and/or the submission of another person's work as if it were the candidate's own."

Prohibited Material:

The following items must not be brought into any examination room:

- bags, etc.;
- books (unless set texts for specific examinations – please note, post-its and excessive annotations are not permitted in open book exams - **ALL BOOKS WILL BE CHECKED PRIOR TO THE EXAM BEGINNING**), notes, letters, diaries or other printed material;
- calculator cases/Lids or instruction books;
- mobile telephones, or other electronic devices;
- Smart Watches etc
- pencil cases (use a transparent plastic bag as a substitute);
- glasses cases
- personal stereos of any description.

Q

Quarantine:

You will be supervised immediately after your examination until the end of your quarantine period. In quarantine, you may revise for your next examination or talk quietly with fellow candidates. Please be respectful of invigilators and ensure that classroom furniture and/or equipment and books are left as they were found – neat, clean and tidy. You must take your litter with you or place it in the bins provided. **You will be notified on your timetable of your quarantine arrangements if applicable.**

If you are required to go into quarantine over a lunch period, you must bring a packed lunch and a drink with you on that day as you will not be allowed to use the canteen. **Mobile telephones, pagers and electronic devices are not allowed into any quarantine room.**

R

Readers:

Students with learning/processing difficulties and/or disabilities may be entitled to a reader. A reader is someone that will read information from the exam paper and your own written work when requested.

Remarks: (See Enquiries about results)

Re-sits:

If you re-sit any AS units in your second year then any improvement will only count towards your A2 grade unless you ask to be cashed-in for a new AS grade.

However please note that there is no guarantee that you will achieve a better grade simply by re-sitting an examination. There are various things to consider before opting to re-sit an exam; these include:

- Do you think that you will be able to improve on your performance?
- Will you have enough time to revise for a re-sit unit as well as devote the necessary time to the new units in which you will be examined?
- Remember marks from all of your units are added together to produce your final grade.
- Will re-sitting exams give you too full a timetable in the summer?
- There are costs associated with re-sit exams.

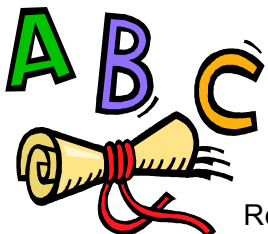
Resit forms will be made available for students after the Christmas break, each resit will cost around £25.00 per unit.

PLEASE NOTE: AFTER THE RE-SIT DEADLINE ANY RE-SIT REQUESTS WILL BE SUBJECT TO ADDITIONAL FEES IMPOSED BY THE AWARDING BODIES AND NEW MILLS SCHOOL.

Results:

AS & A2 levels

Students may collect their results from New Mills School on Thursday 17 August 2017. Results for students will be available for collection in the Sixth Form coffee bar from 10.00 am until 12.00 noon



GCSEs

Students may collect their results from New Mills School on Thursday 24 August 2017. Results for students will be available for collection in the Sixth Form coffee bar from 10.00 am until 12.00 noon

Results will not be handed to a third party unless written permission is given to them by you and brought in with their proof of identification.

S

Scribe:

Is a person who writes down what a candidate dictates when the candidate is unable to write. Permission is required from an awarding body in advance, though it can be given at short notice for unexpected occurrences. Also known as an 'amanuensis'.

Source Referencing:

Students must acknowledge the sources from which they have accessed information whilst undertaking the controlled assessment/coursework. This must include detailed references (web page, author, page numbers etc.) of any source material. **(Also see Plagiarism).**

Special Consideration:

The awarding bodies will not apply special consideration for anything other than serious reasons. Special consideration can only be applied for if a significant event has affected your performance on the day of the examination and you can provide appropriate evidence. Please see the exams officer immediately if you feel that you may have been affected by a circumstance beyond your control.

Statements of Entry:

Produced by New Mills School, statements of entry list all the exam units that you are entered for in a particular examination series. It is essential that you check all details on these statements very carefully to ensure that:

- a) you have been entered for the right examinations – in particular if you have applied for re-sits or if there are several different tiers available.
- b) all of your personal details are correct, in particular with regards to spelling, as this information will be printed on your examination certificates. Whilst it will be relatively simple to change now once certificates have been issued substantial costs will be involved if you notice any errors.

T

Times:

Unless otherwise stated, all examinations at New Mills School commence at **9.10 am** (morning papers) and **1.10 pm** (afternoon papers).



YOU SHOULD BE READY TO ENTER THE EXAMINATION ROOM AT LEAST 15 MINUTES BEFORE THE PUBLISHED STARTING TIME.

If you arrive one hour after the published start time for examinations you will not be permitted to sit the examination.

Timetables:

You will be given your exam timetable which is **personal to you ONLY**, please check it carefully! This will include changes of times/days to accommodate your clashes. If there are any errors (e.g. name, date of birth, sex, examination entry), please notify the Exams Office immediately. Dates are given on the timetable(s) issued to you. Check carefully to see if the examination is in the morning or the afternoon – extra time may not be permitted if you are late. Take special note of any re-arrangements due to a timetable clash.

YOU, AND YOU ALONE, ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR CHECKING YOUR EXAMINATION TIMETABLE. IF YOU HAVE ANY QUERIES THEN PLEASE CONTACT THE EXAMS OFFICE IMMEDIATELY.

U

UCI Number:

A UCI (unique candidate identifier) number is a number which every candidate is given and is used to link all entries and results for a candidate across an exam series and between different exam boards and centres. It is important that you give the number you were given at school to New Mills School when you enrol. It can be found on your certificates/result slips.

ULN Number:

A ULN (unique learner number) is a 10-digit number allocated to learners which will be theirs for life. Each learner will need a ULN so that they and educational providers, government agencies and awarding bodies can follow their learning progress.

University Tests:

Some universities and New Mills Schools require you to take an admissions test as well as standard qualifications (i.e. A-Levels) if you are applying for certain courses in certain subjects.

V

Valuables:

Candidates must leave valuables at home.



W

Warning:

All the awarding bodies make it clear that:

- their official examination sessions must be run under strictly fair conditions, with no form of deception. This rule includes any form of communication between students during an examination, as well as any other practice that could conceivably be seen as an attempt to deceive.
- anyone attempting unfair practices can expect cancellation of examination entries and possible exclusion from GCSE/AS and A2 level examinations for a period of up to five years.

(see Cheating, Malpractice, Penalties and Plagiarism)

Word of Advice:

Remember to have something to eat and drink before taking your examinations, especially on hot days, when we do experience a number of students who become dehydrated and are unable to complete their exams due to a lack of fluid intake.



Word Processors:

Students who have been granted the use of a word processor in their written exams will use a New Mills School lap top or computer that has had spell check/grammar removed as a condition of the JCQ Adjustments for Candidates with Disabilities and Learning Difficulties Regulations.

X

X Marks:

On your results could indicate that you were absent, withdrawn from your unit or transferred to another centre.

Y

Year End:

Y13 student's last exam at New Mills School is Friday 29th June . There will be a leavers' assembly held in the Sixth form coffee bar – date to be confirmed.

Y11 student's last exam at New Mills School is Friday 16th June. There will be a leavers' assembly held in school – date to be confirmed.

Z

Zero Mark:

In accordance with the penalty recommendations in the JCQ document *Suspected Malpractice in Examinations and Assessments*; the award of a zero mark is awarded for the unit in question, when a student is suspected of Malpractice.

