



Al Jazeera Academy Examination Handbook For Students and Parents

Centre Number: 97325 (Edexcel)

Centre Number: QA024 (Cambridge)

Centre Number: 74893 (WJEC)

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1 Introduction

Public examinations can be a stressful time for students and parents, so it's important that all those involved are as well informed as possible.

Well-informed students will realise that the rules and regulations are designed to ensure fairness and minimise disturbance.

This booklet is intended to inform you about examination processes and procedures and to answer some of the frequently asked questions. Hopefully, it will prove informative and helpful for you and your parents. Please read it carefully and share with your parents so that they are also aware of the examination regulations and procedures.

The awarding bodies/examination set down strict criteria which must be followed for the conduct of examinations and Al Jazeera Academy is required to follow them precisely. You should therefore, pay particular attention to the JCQ 'information for Candidates' and the 'Warning to Candidates' notices which are on the following pages.

Some of the questions you may have are answered at the back of this booklet. If there is anything you do not understand or any questions that have not been addressed, please ask. If you or your parents have any queries or need help or advice at any time before, during or after the examinations please contact:

Exams Officer- Baasit Arif

Email: barif@aja.edu.qa

**2 Information for
candidates
For written examinations – effective from 1
September 2014**

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

If there is anything you do not understand, especially which calculator you may use, ask your teacher.

A Regulations – Make sure you understand the rules	
1	Be on time for all your exams. If you are late, your work might not be accepted.
2	Do not become involved in any unfair or dishonest practice during the exam.
3	If you try to cheat, or break the rules in any way, you could be disqualified from all your subjects.
4	<p>You must not take into the exam room:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • notes; • a calculator case/instruction leaflet; • a mobile phone, iPod, MP3/4 player, a wrist watch which has a data storage device or any other product with text/digital facilities. <p>Any pencil cases taken into the exam room must be see-through.</p> <p>Remember: possession of unauthorised material is breaking the rules, even if you do not intend to use it, and you will be subject to penalty and possible disqualification.</p>
5	Do not use correcting pens, fluid or tape, erasable pens, highlighters or gel pens in your answers.
6	Do not talk to or try to communicate with, or disturb other candidates once the exam has started.
7	If you leave the exam room unaccompanied by an invigilator before the exam has finished, you will not be allowed to return.
8	Do not borrow anything from another candidate during the exam.
B Information – Make sure you attend your exams and bring what you need	
1	Know the dates and times of all your exams.
2	Arrive at least ten minutes before the start of each exam.
3	If you arrive late for an exam, report to the invigilator running the exam.
4	If you arrive more than one hour after the published starting time for the exam, you may not be allowed to take it.
5	Only take into the exam room the pens, pencils, erasers and any other equipment which you need for the exam.
6	<p>You must write in black ink.</p> <p>Coloured pencils or inks may be used only for diagrams, maps, charts, etc. unless the instructions printed on the front of the question paper state otherwise.</p>
C Calculators, Dictionaries and Computer Spell-checkers	
1	You may use a calculator unless you are told otherwise.

2	If you use a calculator <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • make sure it works properly; check that the batteries are working properly; • clear anything stored in it; • remove any parts such as cases, lids or covers which have printed instructions or formulas; • do not bring into the exam room any operating instructions or prepared programs.
3	Do not use a dictionary or computer spell checker unless you are told otherwise.
D Instructions during the exam	
1	Always listen to the invigilator. Follow their instructions at all times.
2	Tell the invigilator at once: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • if you think you have not been given the right question paper or all of the materials listed on the front of the paper; • if the question paper is incomplete or badly printed.
3	Read carefully and follow the instructions printed on the question paper and/or on the answer booklet.
4	Fill in all the details required on the front of the question paper and/or the answer booklet before you start the exam. Make sure you fill these details in on any additional answer sheets that you use.
5	Remember to write your answers within the designated sections of the answer booklet.
6	Do your rough work on the proper exam stationery. Cross it through and hand it in with your answers. Make sure you add your candidate details to any additional answer sheets that you use.
E Advice and assistance	
1	If on the day of the 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 exam if: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • you have a problem and are in doubt about what you should do; • you do not feel well; • you need more paper.
3	You must not ask for, and will not be given, any explanation of the questions.
F At the end of the exam	
1	If you have used more than one answer booklet and/or any loose sheets of paper, place them in the correct order. Remember to fasten them together with a treasury tag before you leave. Make sure you add your candidate details to any additional answer sheets that you use.
2	Do not leave the exam room until told to do so by the invigilator.
3	Do not take from the exam room any stationery. This includes the question paper, answer booklets used or unused, rough work or any other materials provided for the exam.

3 Before the Examinations

Examinations Boards:

The school uses the following Examination boards: Edexcel, CIE and WJEC.

Timetables

All candidates receive an individual timetable from the school showing your own specific examinations with details of the date, time and duration. Once you receive it, check it carefully. If you think something is wrong, see Mr Baasit (Exams Officer) immediately.

You must also check that all personal details (date of birth, spelling of names) are accurate as these will appear on certificates and it may be difficult to change them once certificates are awarded. You will also receive an individual timetable

A few candidates may have a clash where two exams are timetabled at the same time. The school will make special timetable arrangements for these candidates. You must check your individual timetable and see Mr. Baasit if you're unsure of what to do. If you think there is a clash on your timetable that has not been resolved, please see Mr. Baasit immediately.

Candidate name

Candidates are entered under the name format of first name + middle name + (legal) surname e.g. Abdulla Jassim Al Maadeed. Candidates must use their legal name on all exam documentation even if they use a different name in school for all other purpose. The reason for this is that exam certificates are legal documents.

Candidate Number

Each candidate has a four - digit candidate number. This is the number you will enter on examination papers. It is shown on the top of your statement of entry however you don't need to worry about remembering it as it will be on a card on your exam desk.

UCI Number

In addition to a candidate number, each candidate must have a Unique Candidate Identify (12 numbers and 1 letter) which is shown on the top of statements of entry. This number will usually begin with the school centre number (97325) unless you have transferred from another school that had already issued you with your UCI. Your UCI is used for administration purposes and it is not necessary for you to remember it.

4 During the examinations

Examination Regulations

A copy of the 'Information for Candidates', which is issued by JCQ on behalf of the Awarded bodies, is printed at the front of this booklet. All candidates must read this carefully and note that **to break any of the examination rules or regulations could lead to disqualification from all subjects**. The school must report any breach of regulations to the Awarding Body.

Attendance at Examinations:

- Students must sign in and out daily at reception when attending for examinations
- At Al Jazeera Academy, examinations start at times in line with the English system. This is to ensure the security and integrity of the examinations. Morning examinations usually start between 9.00am and 12.00pm and afternoon examinations usually start between 2.30pm and 4pm. Please check all times carefully.
- Candidates are responsible for checking their own timetables and arriving at school on the correct date and time. Candidates should arrive at least 15 minutes prior to the start of their examination.
- Full school uniform must be worn by all students.

- Jackets, Abayas, bags and personal belongings must be left outside the exam room. We cannot guarantee the security of your personal belongings, bags and personal items must be left outside the exam room. You are advised to make use of your school locker.
- If you bring your own equipment it must be visible to the invigilators at all times. You must either use a transparent pencil case or clear plastic bag. Pens must be black and correction pens are not allowed.
- If you bring your own calculator to exams candidates should make sure their calculators conform to the examinations regulations. Remove any cover or instructions and make sure batteries are new.
- Examination regulations are very strict regarding items that may be taken into the examination room (please see 'Information for Candidates' at the front of this booklet). If you break these rules it could result in disqualification.
- You must sit at the correct desk according to the seating plan. You will be notified of your seat number and this will be indicated on the desk.
- **Mobile phones MUST NOT BE BROUGHT INTO THE EXAMINATION ROOM.** If a mobile (or any other type of electronic communication or storage device) is found in your possession during an examination (even if it is turned off) it will be taken from you and a report made to the appropriate Awarding body with disqualification a likely consequence.
- Do not attempt to communicate with or distract other candidates.
- No food is allowed in the examination room (with the exception of students with a medical condition – please see Mr Baasit if further clarification is needed).
- Bottles of water may be taken into the examination room however they must be clear without any labels.

- Do not write on the examination desk.
- Do not draw graffiti or write offensive comments on the examination paper – if you do, the exam board will refuse to accept your paper.
- Listen carefully to instructions and notices read out by the invigilator – there may be amendments to the exam paper that you need to know about.
- Check that you have the correct exam paper – check the subject, unit and tier.
- Read all instructions carefully and number your answers clearly.
- Candidates must stay in the examination room for the whole duration of the examination. If you have finished the paper use any time remaining to check over your answers and ensure you have completed your details correctly.
- At the end of the examination all work must be handed in – remember to cross out any rough work. If you have more than one answer book or loose sheets of paper ask for a tag to fasten them in the correct order. Also ensure your name and candidate number is written on each additional piece of paper.
- Invigilators will collect your exam paper before you leave the room. Absolute silence must be maintained during this time.
- Remain seated in silence until told to leave the examination room. Please leave the room in silence and show consideration for other candidates who may still be working.

- If the fire alarm sounds during the examination the invigilator will tell you what to do. Please do not panic. If you have to evacuate the room you will be asked to leave in silence and in the order in which you are sitting. Leave everything on the desk. You must not attempt to communicate with anyone else during the evacuation. When you return to the exam room do not start writing until the invigilator tells you to. You will be allowed the full working time for the examination and a report will be sent to the awarding bodies detailing the incident.

Invigilators:

- The school uses a range of staff invigilators to conduct the examinations. Students are expected to behave in a respectful manner towards all invigilators and follow their instructions at all times.
- Invigilators are in the examination rooms to supervise the conduct of the examination. They will distribute and collect the examination papers, tell candidates when to start and finish the examination, hand out extra paper if required and deal with any problems that occur, for example if a candidate feels ill.
- Please note that invigilators cannot discuss the examination paper with you or explain the questions.

5 Absence from examinations:

- If you experience difficulties during the examination period (e.g. illness, injury, and personal problems) please inform the school at the earliest point so we can help or advise you.
- Only in 'exceptional circumstances' are candidates allowed special consideration for absence from part of an examination. It is essential that medical or other appropriate evidence is obtained on the day of the

difficulty. The candidate/parent must produce this without delay in all cases where an application is to be made for special consideration. Please note that feeling stressed or unwell does not qualify for Special Consideration.

- For the award of a grade by Special Consideration, the candidate must have completed a certain amount of external assessment. This would include the examination and/or coursework/controlled assessment.
- **If you are ill or going to be late on the day of your exam, you or your family should notify the school immediately on +974 77864120**
- If you are unable to attend due to illness you or your family must complete a self certification form (available from the Exams Officer) as soon as possible. This must give specific information about why you could not sit the paper. Without this the exam boards will not issue final grades for the missed paper.

6 Exam check list

- Aim to arrive at school 15 minute prior to an exam AT LEAST. It is much better to leave yourself a safety margin on timings in case of problems with the journey.
- When taking exams, bags and coats should be left in the cloakroom.
- There is absolutely no talking or communication between students once you enter the exam hall. If you have any questions, you should raise your hand once seated and an invigilator will come see you.
- Please dress sensibly for the exam. Temperature in the exam room can fluctuate in May and June.

- No food allowed on the exam hall (if you have a special requirement – please see Mr Baasit, the Exam Officer before the exam).
- Water bottles are allowed in the exam hall if necessary. These should be clear bottles with a spill-proof cap. There should be no label on the bottle.

7 After the Examinations

Notification of Results:

- GCSE results will be available for collection on Thursday 23th August 2018.
- AS Level Results will be available for collection on Thursday 16th August 2018.
- Cambridge Results will be available on 14th August 2018
- If you wish for any other person (including family members) to collect your results on your behalf, you must give them written authorisation and the person collecting the results will need to bring a form of identification with them.
- No results will be given out by telephone under any circumstances.

Certification Collection

The actual Exam Certificates will be available from November onwards. Students will need to collect and sign for their certificates in person or provide written permission for a member of their family to collect the certificates. We are not required to keep certificates for longer than a year so any certificates not collected will be destroyed. Copies can then be obtained from the relevant exam boards.

8 Frequently Asked Questions

Q. What do I do if there's a clash on my timetable?

The school will reschedule exams internally (on the same day) where there is a clash of exam papers. If the exams do not exceed three hours in duration then candidates will sit one paper after the other. If they exceed three hours then candidates will sit one paper in the morning and the other in the afternoon. In these circumstances, candidates will be supervised and must not have any communication with other candidates. If you have any queries please ask the Exam Officer.

Q. What do I do if think I have the wrong paper?

The Invigilator will ask you to check before the exam starts. If you think something is wrong put your hand up and tell an invigilator immediately.

Q. What do I do if I forget the school Centre Number?

The Centre number is 97325. It will be clearly displayed in the examination venue.

Q. What do I do if I have an accident or I am ill before the exam?

Inform the school at the earliest possible point so we can help or advise you. In the case of an accident that means you are unable to write it may be possible to provide you with a scribe to write your answers but will need as much prior notice as possible.

You will need to obtain medical evidence (from your GP or hospital) if you wish the school to make an appeal for Special Consideration on your behalf (see below).

Q. What is an Appeal for special consideration?

Special consideration is an adjustment to the marks or grades of a candidate who is eligible for consideration. The allowance for special Consideration is from 0% (consideration given but addition of marks considered inappropriate) to 5%

(reserved for exceptional cases). Parents should be aware that any adjustment is likely to be small and no feedback is ever provided. Candidates will only be eligible for special consideration if they have fully prepared and covered the whole course by performance in the examination or in the production of coursework is affected by adverse circumstances beyond their control. Examples of such circumstances may be illness, accident or injury, bereavement, domestic crisis. The examinations officer must be informed immediately, so that necessary paperwork can be completed and the candidate will be required to provide evidence to support such application.

Q. What do I do if I fall ill during the exam?

Put your hand up and an invigilator will assist you. You should inform an invigilator if you feel ill before, or during an exam and if you feel this may have affected your performance.

Q. If I am late can I still sit the examination?

Provided you are not more than 1 hour late, it **may** still be possible for you to sit the examination. You should get to school as quickly as possible and report to Reception. A member of staff will escort you to the exam venue.

You must not enter an examination venue without permission after an examination has begun.

Q. If I miss the examination can I take it another day?

No. Timetables are regulated by the examination boards and you may only attend on the given date and time.

Q. Do I have to wear school uniform?

Yes. Normal school regulations apply to uniform.

Q. Why can't I bring my mobile into the exam room?

Being in possession of a mobile phone (or any other electronic communication device, e.g. iPod, headphones, MP3 players) is regarded as cheating and is

subject to severe penalty from the awarding bodies. Besides it is against our school rules to bring a mobile phone to school at any time.

Q. How do I know how long the exam is?

The length of the examination is shown on your individual timetable under the heading 'Duration'. The Invigilator will tell you when to start and finish the exam. They will write the finish time of the exam on a flip chart or board.