

# YOUR EXAMS

what you  
need to know





# Your exams

## **This booklet tells you what you need to know about your exams.**

It contains essential information that you must read before your exams start, even if you have sat exams before. It is important that you follow SQA's rules, to make sure that everyone has a fair and equal chance of doing their best work.

If you have any questions about anything in this booklet, speak to your teacher or lecturer. You might also find it useful to share and discuss this information with your parent or carer.

Remember to prepare, stay calm and do your best.

You'll also find lots more helpful information at [\*\*www.sqa.org.uk/learners\*\*](http://www.sqa.org.uk/learners)

## **Assessment arrangements**

If you have a disability or need extra support, you may need an 'assessment arrangement'. You should discuss this with your school or college.



## Timetable

You can see the exam timetable at [www.sqa.org.uk/timetable](http://www.sqa.org.uk/timetable)

Always double-check the times of your exams with your teachers or lecturers, as schools and colleges can change the start times slightly.

Make sure you know what exams you're taking, when they are, and where they are.



### SQA apps

There are free apps to support you at exam time.

The **MyExams** app lets you create and view your personal timetable, add notes, and add your personal timetable to other calendars.



The **MyStudyPlan** app helps you to organise your revision by creating a personal study plan.

You can also create your own personal exam timetable using the online timetable builder.

Find out more at [www.sqa.org.uk/studyplan](http://www.sqa.org.uk/studyplan)

# Preparing for your exams



## Past papers

You can prepare for your exams by practising with previous exam papers.

You can download these, together with instructions for marking them, from [www.sqa.org.uk/pastpaperinfo](http://www.sqa.org.uk/pastpaperinfo)

## Your Scottish Candidate Number

Your Scottish Candidate Number (SCN) is your personal identification number. Our systems use your SCN to record and track all of your achievements.

Your school or college will be able to tell you what your SCN is. Make sure you know it before your exams. You will need to write it clearly on your exam answer booklets.

You should fill in your details, including your SCN, on the card at the back of this booklet. You are allowed to take this card into the exam room, but you must not write anything else on it.

If you write anything else on the card, your exam entry could be cancelled.

## Make sure your details are correct

To make sure you receive your certificate on results day, check that your school or college has the correct details for you, including your correct name and address.

You can check your personal details by logging in to your MySQA account. If you don't already have an account, you can sign up for one at [www.mysqa.org.uk](http://www.mysqa.org.uk)

If any of your personal details change, or are going to change over the summer, you must tell your school or college before you finish for the summer break.



## Your information

We collect information about you from your school or college and your local authority. We also collect information from your exam papers and other assessment materials.

All this information relates to your qualifications and we use it to:

- make arrangements for you to do SQA exams and assessments
- award and issue your Scottish Qualifications Certificate
- provide services you have asked for, such as MySQA
- answer your questions
- investigate possible malpractice.

We also use it for research purposes and to produce statistics.

We may share some of your information with other organisations, including the Scottish Government, UCAS, your school or college, and other organisations that provide our services. You can get more details on how we use your information at [www.sqa.org.uk/privacystatement](http://www.sqa.org.uk/privacystatement)

You can ask for a copy of the information we hold about you. You can find out how to do this at [www.sqa.org.uk/requestpersonalinformation](http://www.sqa.org.uk/requestpersonalinformation)



# Your results



## Getting your results

You will receive your certificate on Tuesday 6 August.

Your school or college will also receive your results. If you have applied to a university or college, which engages with the Universities and Colleges Admission Service (UCAS), they will also receive your results.

If you don't receive your certificate on Tuesday 6 August, contact your school or college immediately. They will be able to tell you your results and will work with us to find out what has happened to your certificate.

## MySQA

MySQA gives you secure online access to your results. You can also sign up to receive your results by text message or e-mail from 8am on Tuesday 6 August. You will still receive your certificate by post.

To get your results by text message or e-mail, you'll need to sign up at **[www.mysqa.org.uk](http://www.mysqa.org.uk)** by 5pm on 16 July, and activate your account by 5pm on 17 July.

Remember, if you change your mobile number or email address after signing up for MySQA, you'll need to update your details to receive your text message or e-mail.





## Support

There are useful videos that help to explain your certificate. You can watch these at **[www.sqa.org.uk/certificate](http://www.sqa.org.uk/certificate)**

You can find answers to the most common questions at **[www.sqa.org.uk/faqs](http://www.sqa.org.uk/faqs)**

You can contact us by filling in a candidate enquiry form online at **[www.sqa.org.uk/candidateenquiryform](http://www.sqa.org.uk/candidateenquiryform)**

Our Candidate Advice Line will be able to help answer questions about your certificate from Tuesday 6 August until Friday 9 August. The number is 0345 279 1000.



## Results Services

Our Results Services are in place to support you:

- during exam time, if your performance in an exam has been affected or you have not been able to go to an exam due to exceptional circumstances, such as a death or serious illness
- after results day, if you have any concerns about your grade.

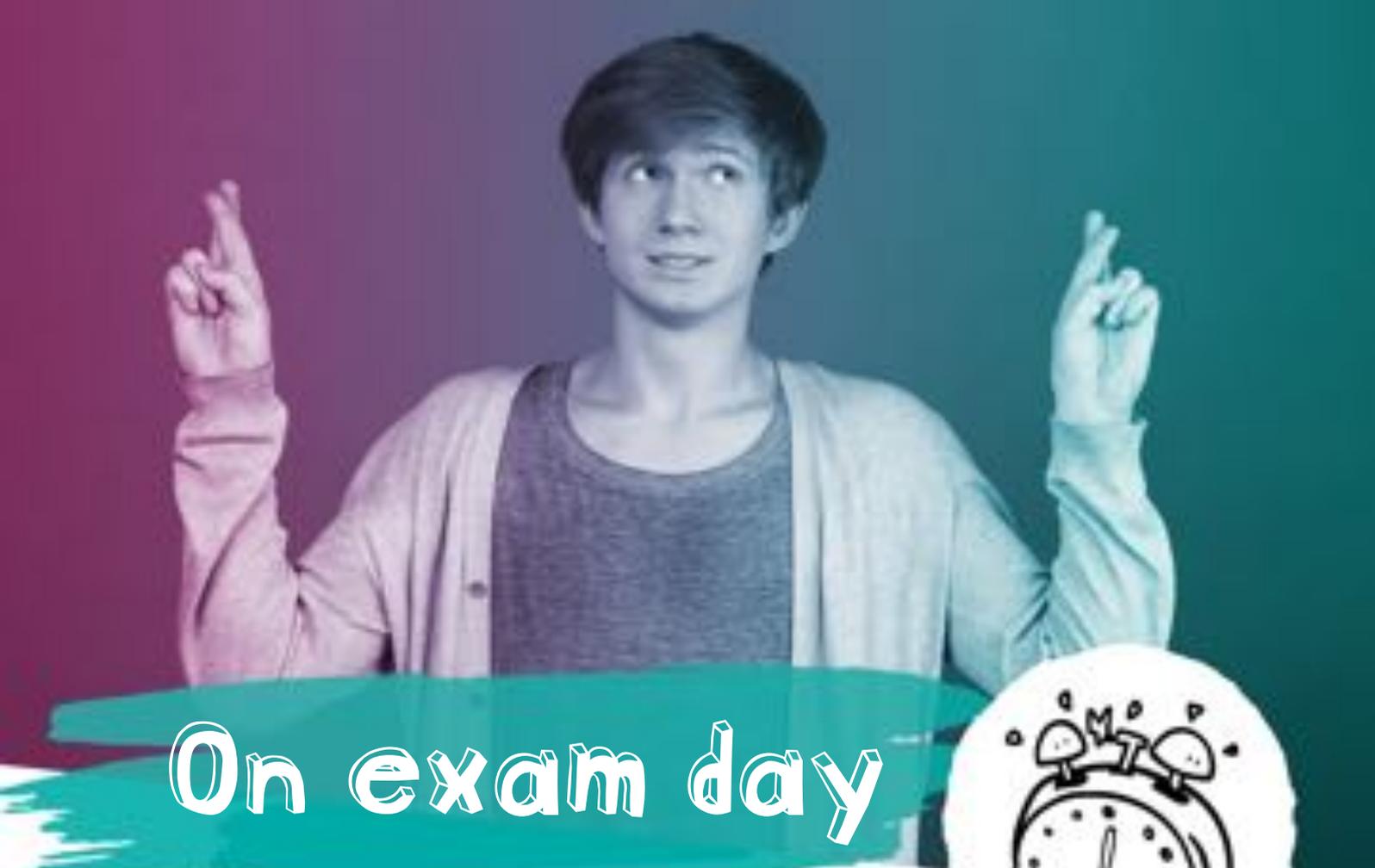
If you don't understand your certificate or you think something is wrong, contact your school or your college's student-records department.



## What if the grade on my certificate doesn't seem right?

You should discuss your concerns with your school or college immediately. If they believe that your grade may be incorrect, they can ask us to review your work. This review can be prioritised if you have a conditional place at university or college that depends on your grade. Your school or college will be able to give you full details about our Results Services. You can also find out more at **[www.sqa.org.uk/resultsservices](http://www.sqa.org.uk/resultsservices)**





# On exam day



## Arriving for your exam

You should be outside the exam room at least 10 minutes before the exam is due to start. If you are late, you must report to the teacher or lecturer in charge of SQA exams. They will let you know if you can sit the exam.

## What if something unexpected happens and my performance is affected on the day, or I cannot take the exam?

You or your parent or carer should contact your school or college as soon as possible.

They will be able to discuss your options and whether or not you would be entitled to 'exceptional circumstances' consideration. For this to happen, your school or college would need to contact us. They must do this within 10 days after the exam, so it's really important that you speak to them as soon as possible.

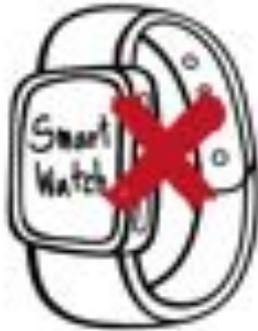
## Prohibited items

Prohibited items are things that you must not have with you at your desk in the exam room, unless they have been approved by us as part of an assessment arrangement.

Prohibited items include the following:



Mobile phone



Electronic devices such as iPods, tablets, smartwatches or any other device that can connect to the internet or stores information



Books, notes, sketches or paper including anything written on your clothes or body



Pencil case/calculator case



Calculator - except in specified exams



Dictionary - except in specified exams

Before you go to your seat in the exam room, check your bags and pockets carefully to make sure you do not have these things with you. You must not take any prohibited item to your seat. You should plan ahead and leave them in a safe place.

When specific items are allowed in an exam, you must make sure that they meet SQA regulations. Your teacher or lecturer will be able to give you more information. You must make sure that the items do not give you access to prohibited information. You are not allowed to share any equipment during an exam.



## Question papers and answer booklets

It is important to read the instructions on the front of your question paper and check the subject and level are correct.

In some exams, you will get a separate question paper and answer booklet. You must fill in your details clearly on the front of the question paper or answer booklet. If you use extra sheets of paper, you must write your name, Scottish Candidate Number (SCN) and school or college name on each sheet and put these inside your answer booklet.

If you need extra paper, raise your hand and ask the invigilator. In some subjects, you will find extra pages or graph paper at the end of the answer booklet.

Work through your question paper until you see the statement END OF QUESTION PAPER. There will be nothing else you need to answer after this.

In a question paper, pages that don't have any questions or instructions will say BLANK PAGE on them. No page should be completely blank. If you find a completely blank page before the END OF QUESTION PAPER statement, tell the invigilator.





## Writing your answers

You must use a pen with black or blue ink. Do not use gel pens as these can fade.

It is important that you write legibly. The markers will do their best to read your work, but they might not be able to award marks if your writing is difficult to read. When writing on unlined pages, try to leave a space of about 1cm between lines.

In some subjects, poor spelling and punctuation could also result in marks not being awarded. If you have any concerns about this, or about your handwriting, speak to your teacher or lecturer.

Remember to cross out any rough work, or any unwanted answers if you make more than one attempt at a question.

## Leaving the exam room

If you finish early or have done as much of the exam as you can, you can raise your hand and ask the invigilator for permission to leave. If the exam is longer than one hour, the invigilator may allow you to leave after 30 minutes. If the exam is less than one hour, you must stay in the exam room until the end of the exam.

You must give your answer booklet, question paper and any data booklets to the invigilator before you leave. You could lose all marks for the paper concerned if you don't give your answer booklet to the invigilator before leaving the exam room.



A photograph of a student in a classroom, wearing a grey sweater, sitting at a desk and writing in a notebook with a pen. The background is slightly blurred, showing other students at desks.

# On exam day

## Desks

In most schools and colleges, you will be given a desk or seat number for each exam. Make sure you know this number before the exam.

## Invigilators

The people who supervise exams are called 'invigilators'. Their job is to make sure your exams take place according to the rules and that the rules are applied fairly. You must listen to and follow any instructions the invigilators give you.

If anything unexpected happens to you during an exam, such as feeling unwell, you should tell the invigilator immediately.





## Fairness

Everyone should have a fair chance to do their best during exams. Cheating and causing a disturbance during an exam are unfair to other candidates. Examples of cheating and unfair behaviour (candidate malpractice) include the following:

- Having prohibited items with you at your seat in the exam room.
- Pretending to be someone else or getting someone else to take an exam for you.
- Disruptive behaviour in the exam room.
- Using rude, abusive, offensive or discriminatory language or images in your answer booklets.
- Copying from another candidate.
- Collusion - working with other candidates on an individual task that must be your own work.
- Plagiarism - failing to acknowledge sources properly and/or submitting someone else's work as if it were your own.

Any cheating or unfair behaviour can have serious consequences for your results and your future. This could include losing marks, getting a lower grade or having your qualification cancelled. Your school or college can explain more about this.

# DO'S & DON'TS

## REMEMBER

✓	<b>DO</b>	Arrive in good time – at least 10 minutes before the exam starts.
✓	<b>DO</b>	Bring the right equipment – black or blue ink pens etc.
✓	<b>DO</b>	Check that you don't have any prohibited items with you at your seat.
✓	<b>DO</b>	Check you have been given the correct exam paper.
✓	<b>DO</b>	Put your name, SCN and the name of your school or college on every piece of work you hand in (including additional answer booklets and answer sheets).
✓	<b>DO</b>	Write legibly.
✓	<b>DO</b>	Read all instructions and listen carefully for any announcements from the invigilator.
✓	<b>DO</b>	Cross out any rough work that is not part of your answer.
✓	<b>DO</b>	Stay in the room until the exam is finished. You can only leave early with permission from the invigilator.



**Important notes:**

- Write your centre name, your name, date of birth and SCN on the card.
- If there is any unauthorised information found on the card it could result in your exam entry being cancelled.
- Immediately tell your school or college about any change to your permanent home address.
- You cannot get a replacement card if this one is lost or damaged.



Customer Contact Centre

T: 0345 279 1000 W: [www.sqa.org.uk](http://www.sqa.org.uk)

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