

NOTICE TO CENTRES

FAO: Exams Officer and Head of Science

Date: September 2011

Subject: Changes to timings of examination papers for GCE A Level sciences

A Level Biology (H421), Human Biology (H423), Chemistry A (H434) and Physics A (H558)

The GCE A Level examination papers for the sciences are required to include some questions providing additional 'stretch and challenge' for candidates, in order to generate evidence for the award of A* grades. OCR has received comments from centres that, for the above specifications, the additional demand of these questions has meant that significant numbers of candidates have found it difficult to complete examination papers in the time available.

We are pleased to be able to respond to these comments. At OCR's request, Ofqual has approved an increase in the time allowed for the A2 examination papers for these specifications, as shown below.

Specification	Unit	Current timing	Revised timing
GCE A Level Biology, H421	F214	1 hour	1 hour 15 min
	F215	1 hour 45 min	2 hours
GCE A Level Human Biology, H423	F224	1 hour	1 hour 15 min
	F225	1 hour 45 min	2 hours
GCE A Level Chemistry A, H434	F324	1 hour	1 hour 15 min
	F325	1 hour 45 min	2 hours
GCE A Level Physics A, H558	G484	1 hour	1 hour 15 min
	G485	1 hour 45 min	2 hours

These revised timings will apply to all future examinations for these units **from the January 2012 series**.

The specifications, specimen assessment materials and examination timetables on the OCR website have been amended accordingly.

There will be no changes in the timings for GCE A Level papers for other specifications in the sciences.

If you have any queries about this notice, please call our Customer Contact Centre on 01223 553998.