



A-level Sciences, Practical Endorsement

Arrangements for candidates entered in June 2020

The following arrangements, for the June 2020 exam series, are as a result of the on-going public health situation, and in the light of [recent Ofqual guidance](#).

Monitoring visits

Monitoring visits take place in two-year cycles and we are currently approaching the end of the first year of Cycle 3. Approximately half of the Cycle 3 visits have already taken place, since September 2019. The Awarding Bodies have agreed that all monitoring visits will cease, with immediate effect. We will continue to review the situation, although it is unlikely that visits will resume before the start of the new academic year in September 2020.

Centres who have had a successful visit this cycle: you should consider any feedback or improvements, based on your visit feedback, to prepare for a Cycle 4 visit after September 2021.
You should give a result to your Year 13 students for the Endorsement this summer, as usual.

Centres expecting a visit before the summer holidays or in the second year of Cycle 3: your visit will now be scheduled to take place in the 2020/21 academic year.

You should still give a result to your Year 13 students for the Endorsement this summer, as usual.

Note: this applies to centres awaiting a follow-up Visit after an unsuccessful one earlier in Cycle 3.

Visits will resume as soon as possible in the 2020/21 academic year. Any new centres that have never had a monitoring visit, or those identified as needing an additional visit, will be prioritised.

Incomplete practical work in Year 13 students

Most Year 13 students will have completed the minimum of 12 practical activities, covering the specified techniques and apparatus, and been assessed on all of the CPAC statements. Teachers should be able to give these students a result (Pass or Not Classified), as in previous years.

Some Year 13 students may have some gaps, either in the numbers of practicals completed, or in the CPAC statements assessed. In these cases, centres should consider the evidence of **all** practical work that has been undertaken throughout the time students have been studying their A-level course. This will allow teachers to decide if each candidate has demonstrated, or was on course to demonstrate, consistent and routine competence against the CPAC. Teachers should then submit this result, Pass or Not Classified, as in previous years.

Candidates with very limited evidence of practical work eg where practicals were due to be completed through intensive practical courses in April or May, should be marked as Not Classified.

Disruption of practical work for Year 12 students

We appreciate that Year 12 students are currently out of school and unable to complete practical work. This issue is under discussion by the Awarding Bodies and Ofqual, and further guidance will be issued at a later date.