

A level Sciences & Geology, Practical Endorsement

Arrangements for candidates entered in June 2023

This document clarifies the requirements for the practical endorsement for candidates entering for A Level Biology, Chemistry, Geology and Physics exams in June 2023. It also outlines the approach that awarding organisations will take for practical endorsement monitoring visits for the upcoming year.

June 2023 Practical Endorsement requirements

For the past three years, Ofqual and awarding organisations adjusted the requirements for a pass in the practical endorsement to accommodate for the disruption caused by COVID-19. For June 2023, awarding organisations will remove all adjustments and return to pre-pandemic expectations.

Candidates entering A Level Biology, Chemistry, Geology and Physics qualifications in June 2023 will need to demonstrate competence in ALL practical skills identified in the CPAC and ALL specified apparatus and techniques in order to gain a pass in the practical endorsement.

Practical Endorsement monitoring

From September 2020 until June 2022, Ofqual permitted awarding organisations to conduct monitoring visits remotely due to the pandemic. From September 2022, we will resume face-to-face monitoring visits and remote monitoring will cease.

The resumption of face-to-face monitoring allows monitors to resume practical lesson observations and conversations with students as part of the monitoring process, elements that were not possible remotely. All other requirements for monitoring remain the same.

The 2022-23 academic year is the second year of Cycle 4 of monitoring. Centres who passed remote monitoring in the first year of the cycle will not be required to undergo face-to-face monitoring during the coming academic year. Centres who were not monitored during the 2021-22 academic year should expect to receive a face-to-face monitoring visit in this academic year (2022-23). Awarding organisations will contact exams officers at these centres during September 2022 to confirm that they are due to be monitored.

It is key that all centres have been monitored in at least one subject by the appropriate awarding organisation before the end of Cycle 4 in summer 2023. Large centres (more than 140 entries in any science) should have received monitoring for Biology, Chemistry and Physics, as well as Geology if it is offered. If your centre is entering candidates for science A Levels for the first time in summer 2023, or switching awarding organisations, it is your responsibility to notify the relevant awarding organisations so that we can schedule appropriate monitoring.

If your centre was not monitored during the first year of Cycle 4, and you are not contacted in September, you should contact your awarding organisation.