

GCSE 2026 Exam Calendar

This calendar shows the remaining practice exam dates and actual GCSEs taking place in 2026. Details especially for Language speaking exams, Food, Art & performance exams (Music, Drama & Dance) will be provided by the teachers concerned. **AM** morning exam start time is **9:00am** and **PM** afternoon exam start time is **13:30pm**. The last exam for Y11 pupils is on the **16th of June** although a contingency day is set aside by exam boards. Contingency times are for any local or national issue which has interrupted the regular exam timetable. The last contingency day is **24th June**, and pupils are advised to be available. We are still awaiting confirmation of a small number of exam dates including speaking exams for Portuguese and Russian and the component 3 performance exam for Drama which will be on one day in one of the proposed weeks.

Exam Date	Exam Board	Qualification	Exam Code	Subject	Title	Exam Time	Exam Duration
19/01/2026	Pearson	Practice exam	1RU0 2H	Russian*	Russian Paper 2: Speaking Higher Tier	TBC	TBC
20/01/2026	AQA	Practice exam	8261/X	Drama	Component 3: Texts in practice (practical)	All day	
26 th to 30 th Jan 2026	OCR	GCSE	J309/04	Food preparation	Food preparation Task	TBC	TBC
Week beginning 02/02/2026	AQA	GCSE	8261/X	Drama	Component 3: Texts in practice (practical)	TBC	TBC
Week beginning 09/02/2026	AQA	GCSE	8261/X	Drama	Component 3: Texts in practice (practical)	TBC	TBC
10 TH to 11 th Feb 2026	Pearson	Practice exam	1CN0 2HC	Cantonese	Paper 2: Speaking Higher Tier	TBC	TBC
02/03/2026	AQA	Practice exam	8700/1	English Language	P1: Explorations in Creative Reading & Writing	AM	1h 45m
02/03/2026	AQA	Practice exam	8300/1F/1H	Mathematics	Mathematics Paper 1 (non - calculator) (F/H)	PM	1h 30m
03/03/2026	AQA	Practice exam	8702/1	English Literature	P1: Shakespeare & the 19th century novel	AM	1h 45m
03/03/2026	AQA	Practice exam	8300/2F/2H	Mathematics	Mathematics Paper 2 (calculator) (both tiers)	PM	1h 30m

9 th to 13 th March 2026	OCR	GCSE	J356/03	Music	Practical Component	TBC	TBC
11/03/2026	AQA	Practice exam	8261/W	Drama	Component 1: Understanding Drama	TBC	TBC
23 RD to 24 th March	AQA	Practice exam	8688/SH	Polish*	Polish Paper 2: Speaking Higher Tier	TBC	TBC
25/03/2026	AQA	Practice exam	8261/W	Drama	Component 1: Understanding Drama	TBC	TBC
15/04/2026	AQA	GCSE	8688/SH	Polish*	Polish Paper 2: Speaking Higher Tier	TBC	TBC
16 TH to 17 th April	Pearson	GCSE	1CN0 2HC	Cantonese	Paper 2: Speaking Higher Tier	TBC	TBC
20/04/2026	AQA	GCSE	8688/SH	Polish*	Polish Paper 2: Speaking Higher Tier	TBC	TBC
22/04/2026	AQA	GCSE	8652 or 8692	French or Spanish	Paper 2: Speaking Foundation & Higher Tier	TBC	TBC
23/04/2026	AQA	GCSE	8652 or 8692	French or Spanish	Paper 2: Speaking Foundation & Higher Tier	TBC	TBC
24/04/2026	AQA	GCSE	8652 or 8692	French or Spanish	Paper 2: Speaking Foundation & Higher Tier	TBC	TBC
28/04/2026	Pearson	GCSE	1AD0 02	Art, Craft & Design	Externally Set Assignment	All day	5h
29/04/2026	Pearson	GCSE	1AD0 02	Art, Craft & Design	Externally Set Assignment	All day	5h
07/05/2026	AQA	GCSE	8182/1	Psychology	Psychology Paper 1: Cognition & behaviour	AM	1h 45m
08/05/2026	AQA	GCSE	8261/W	Drama	Component 1: Understanding Drama	PM	1h 45m
11/05/2026	AQA	GCSE	8702/1	English Literature	Paper 1: Shakespeare & the 19 th century novel	AM	1h 45m
11/05/2026	Pearson	GCSE	1CN0 1F	Chinese- Cantonese	Paper 1: Listening and understanding- F Tier	PM	0h 35m
11/05/2026	Pearson	GCSE	1CN0 1H	Chinese- Cantonese	Paper 1: Listening and understanding- H Tier	PM	0h 45m
11/05/2026	Pearson	GCSE	1CN0 3F	Chinese- Cantonese	Paper 3: Reading and understanding- F Tier	PM	0h 50m
11/05/2026	Pearson	GCSE	1CN0 3H	Chinese- Cantonese	Paper 3: Reading and understanding-H Tier	PM	1h 05m
12/05/2026	EDUQAS	GCSE	C120U10-1	Religious Studies	RS Component 1: In the Modern World	AM	2h 00m
12/05/2026	AQA	GCSE	8464/B/1F/1H	Combined Science	Combined Science: Biology Paper 1 (F/H)	PM	1h 15m
12/05/2026	AQA	GCSE	8461/1H/1F	Biology	Biology Paper 1	PM	1h 45m
13/05/2026	AQA	GCSE	8035/1	Geography	Paper 1: Living with the Physical Environment	AM	1h 30m
13/05/2026	Pearson	GCSE	1CP2 01	Computer Science	Paper 1: Principles of Computer Science	PM	1h 30m
14/05/2026	AQA	GCSE	8300/1F/1H	Mathematics	Mathematics Paper 1 (non - calculator) (F/H)	AM	1h 30m
14/05/2026	AQA	GCSE	8182/2	Psychology	Psychology Paper 2: Social context & behaviour	PM	1h 45m

15/05/2026	WJEC	GCSE	C100UA0-H0-1	History	History Component 1: Conflict & the USA	AM	2h 00m
18/05/2026	AQA	GCSE	8464/C/1F/1H	Combined Science	Combined Science: Chemistry Paper 1 (F/H)	AM	1h 15m
18/05/2026	AQA	GCSE	8462/1H/1F	Chemistry	Chemistry Paper 1	AM	1h 45m
18/05/2026	AQA	GCSE	8572/1	Media Studies	Media Studies Paper 1	PM	1h 30m
18/05/2026	Pearson	GCSE	1CN0 4F	Chinese- Cantonese	Paper 4: Writing in Chinese Foundation Tier	PM	1h 20m
18/05/2026	Pearson	GCSE	1CN0 4H	Chinese- Cantonese	Paper 4: Writing in Chinese Higher Tier	PM	1h 25m
19/05/2026	AQA	GCSE	8702/2	English Literature	English Literature Paper 2: Modern texts & poetry	AM	2h 15m
19/05/2026	OCR	GCSE	J199/11	Classical Civilisation	Paper 1: Myth and Religion	PM	1h 30m
19/05/2026	Pearson	GCSE	1CP2 02	Computer Science	Paper 2: Application of Computational Thinking	PM	2h 00m
20/05/2026	OCR	GCSE	J199/11	Classical Civilisation	Only for those who clash with Computer Science	AM	1h 30m
20/05/2026	AQA	GCSE	8652/LF	French	French Paper 1: Listening Foundation Tier	AM	35m
20/05/2026	AQA	GCSE	8652/LH	French	French Paper 1: Listening Higher Tier	AM	45m
20/05/2026	AQA	GCSE	8652/RF	French	French Paper 3: Reading Foundation Tier	AM	45m
20/05/2026	AQA	GCSE	8652/RH	French	French Paper 3: Reading Higher Tier	AM	1h
20/05/2026	EDUQAS	GCSE	C120U20-1	Religious Studies	RS Component 2: Study of Christianity	PM	1h 00m
21/05/2026	AQA	GCSE	8700/1	English Language	P1: Explorations in Creative Reading & Writing	AM	1h 45m
22/05/2026	AQA	GCSE	8582/1	Physical Education	P1: The human body & movement in sport	AM	1h 15m
01/06/2026	AQA	GCSE	8582/2	Physical Education	P2: Socio-cultural influences & wellbeing	AM	1h 15m
01/06/2026	OCR	GCSE	J199/21	Classical Civilisation	Paper 2: The Homeric World	AM	1h 30m
01/06/2026	AQA	GCSE	8582/2	Physical Education	Only for pupils who clash with Classical Cn	11am	1h 15m
01/06/2026	EDUQAS	GCSE	C120U50-1	Religious Studies	RS Component 3: Islam	PM	1h 00m
02/06/2026	AQA	GCSE	8464/P/1F/1H	Combined Science	Combined Science: Physics Paper 1 (both tiers)	AM	1h 15m
02/06/2026	AQA	GCSE	8463/1H/1F	Physics	Physics Paper 1	AM	1h 45m
02/06/2026	Pearson	GCSE	1RU0 1F	Russian*	Paper 1: Listening and understanding- Russian F	PM	0h 35m
02/06/2026	Pearson	GCSE	1RU0 1H	Russian*	Paper 1: Listening and understanding- Russian H	PM	0h 45m
02/06/2026	Pearson	GCSE	1RU0 3F	Russian*	Paper 3: Reading and understanding- Russian F	PM	0h 50m
02/06/2026	Pearson	GCSE	1RU0 3H	Russian*	Paper 3: Reading and understanding- Russian H	PM	1h 05m
02/06/2026	Pearson	GCSE	1PG0 1F	Portuguese	Paper 1: Listening and understanding- F	PM	0h 35m

02/06/2026	Pearson	GCSE	1PG0 1H	Portuguese	Paper 1: Listening and understanding- H	PM	0h 45m
02/06/2026	Pearson	GCSE	1PG0 3F	Portuguese	Paper 3: Reading and understanding- F	PM	0h 45m
02/06/2026	Pearson	GCSE	1PG0 3H	Portuguese	Paper 3: Reading and understanding- H	PM	1h 00m
02/06/2026	AQA	GCSE	8572/2	Media Studies	Media Studies Paper 2	PM	1h 30m
02/06/2026	AQA	GCSE	8688/LF	Polish*	Polish Paper 1: Listening Foundation Tier	PM	35m
02/06/2026	AQA	GCSE	8688/LH	Polish*	Polish Paper 1: Listening Higher Tier	PM	45m
02/06/2026	AQA	GCSE	8688/RF	Polish*	Polish Paper 3: Reading Foundation Tier	PM	45m
02/06/2026	AQA	GCSE	8688/RH	Polish*	Polish Paper 3: Reading Higher Tier	PM	1h
03/06/2026	AQA	GCSE	8300/2F/2H	Mathematics	Mathematics Paper 2 (calculator) (both tiers)	AM	1h 30m
03/06/2026	AQA	GCSE	8035/2	Geography	Paper 2: Challenges in the Human Environment	PM	1h 30m
04/06/2026	EDUQAS	GCSE	C100U10-80-1	History	Component 2: Germany & Health	AM	2h 00m
04/06/2026	AQA	GCSE	8652/WF	French	French Paper 4: Writing Foundation Tier	PM	1h
04/06/2026	AQA	GCSE	8652/WH	French	French Paper 4: Writing Higher Tier	PM	1h 15m
05/06/2026	AQA	GCSE	8700/2	English Language	Paper 2: Writers Viewpoints & Perspectives	AM	1h 45m
05/06/2026	OCR	GCSE	J536/05	Music	Listening and appraising - Written Paper	PM	1h 30m
08/06/2026	AQA	GCSE	8464/B/2F/2H	Combined Science	Combined Science: Biology Paper 2 (both tiers)	AM	1h 15m
08/06/2026	AQA	GCSE	8461/2H/2F	Biology	Biology Paper 2	AM	1h 45m
08/06/2026	OCR	CAMB NAT	R093/01	Creative iMedia	Creative iMedia in the media Industry	PM	1h 30m
09/06/2026	AQA	GCSE	8692/LF	Spanish	Spanish Paper 1: Listening Foundation Tier	AM	35m
09/06/2026	AQA	GCSE	8692/LH	Spanish	Spanish Paper 1: Listening Higher Tier	AM	45m
09/06/2026	AQA	GCSE	8692/RF	Spanish	Spanish Paper 3: Reading Foundation Tier	AM	45m
09/06/2026	AQA	GCSE	8692/RH	Spanish	Spanish Paper 3: Reading Higher Tier	AM	1h
10/06/2026	AQA	GCSE	8300/3F/3H	Mathematics	Mathematics Paper 3 (calculator) (both tiers)	AM	1h 30m
10/06/2026	Pearson	GCSE	1RU0 4F	Russian*	Paper 4: Writing in Russian Foundation Tier	PM	1h 20m
10/06/2026	Pearson	GCSE	1RU0 4H	Russian*	Paper 4: Writing in Russian Higher Tier	PM	1h 25m
10/06/2026	EDUQAS	GCSE	C600U10-1	Design & Technology	Component 1: Design & Technology	PM	2h 00m
11/06/2026	AQA	GCSE	8035/3	Geography	Geography Paper 3: Geography Applications	AM	1h 30m
11/06/2026	OCR	GCSE	J309/01	Food Preparation	Food preparation and nutrition - Written Paper	PM	1h 30m

12/06/2026	AQA	GCSE	8464/C/2F/2H	Combined Science	Combined Science: Chemistry P2 (both tiers)	AM	1h 15m
12/06/2026	AQA	GCSE	8462/2H/2F	Chemistry	Chemistry Paper 2	AM	1h 45m
12/06/2026	Pearson	GCSE	1PG0 4F	Portuguese	Paper 4: Writing in Portuguese Foundation Tier	PM	1h 15m
12/06/2026	Pearson	GCSE	1PG0 4H	Portuguese	Paper 4: Writing in Portuguese Higher Tier	PM	1h 20m
12/06/2026	AQA	GCSE	8236/W	Dance	Component 2: Dance Appreciation	PM	1h 30m
12/06/2026	AQA	GCSE	8688/WF	Polish*	Polish Paper 4: Writing Foundation Tier	PM	1h
12/06/2026	AQA	GCSE	8688/WH	Polish*	Polish Paper 4: Writing Higher Tier	PM	1h 15m
15/06/2026	AQA	GCSE	8464/P/2F/2H	Combined Science	Combined Science: Physics Paper 2 (both tiers)	AM	1h 15m
15/06/2026	AQA	GCSE	8463/2H/2F	Physics	Physics Paper 2	AM	1h 45m
16/06/2026	AQA	GCSE	8692/WH	Spanish	Spanish Paper 4: Writing Higher Tier	AM	1h 15m
16/06/2026	AQA	GCSE	8692/WF	Spanish	Spanish Paper 4: Writing Foundation Tier	AM	1h
24th June	ALL	GCSE		Exam Contingency	In the event of national & local disruption	All day	

Key

A * by a subject indicates this exam only involves Y10 pupils