

Controlled Assessment	A controlled assessment is a significant piece of work that students complete within school under specific conditions as part of their qualification. It's designed to assess subject-specific skills that might not be effectively evaluated through traditional external exams. This might involve: • Science: Planning and conducting an experiment, analyzing results, and writing a report. • English: Writing an extended essay on a literary text under timed conditions in the classroom. • Design and Technology: Designing and making a product to meet a specific brief. • Geography: Conducting fieldwork and analyzing the collected data to answer a geographical question. • Drama: Developing and performing a piece of theatre. • Music: Performing a musical piece or composing a short piece of music.
Coursework	Coursework was a significant piece of work or a series of tasks that students completed throughout their course, often outside of strict exam conditions. It is marked by teachers and contributes a set percentage to the student's final grade. This could include: • Extended essays: In subjects like English, History, or Geography. • Practical experiments and reports: In Science subjects. • Design and make projects: In Design and Technology. • Art portfolios: In Art and Design. • Performances: In Drama or Music. • Fieldwork and analysis: In Geography.
Performance	If your child chooses a subject where they are required to do a performance, their acting, dance or musical skills are assessed. Your child's performance is assessed on practical application, combined with theoretical understanding. For example, performances are used in a range of subjects: • Music: Performing a musical piece on an instrument or vocally, composing a piece of music. • Drama: Performing in a play or devised piece, demonstrating acting skills like vocal delivery, movement, and characterisation. • Dance: Performing set dances and/or their own choreography, demonstrating technical and expressive skills.

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Practical Assessment	A practical assessment in a course is a way of evaluating your child's skills and knowledge by observing them doing something rather than just writing about it in an exam. It focuses on their ability to apply what they've learned in a real or simulated situation. For example, practical assessments are used in a range of subjects: • Science: Planning and carrying out an experiment, using scientific equipment, recording and analyzing data. • Design and Technology: Designing and making a product to meet a brief, using tools and machinery safely and effectively. • Art and Design: Creating a portfolio of artwork, demonstrating different techniques and processes. • Physical Education (PE): Performing in different sports and physical activities, demonstrating skills and techniques.
Speaking and Listening Assessments	A Speaking and Listening assessment is a mandatory part of the English Language qualification. It is designed to assess your child's ability to communicate effectively in spoken English. The Modern Foreign Languages (MFL) Speaking and Listening assessment is a crucial component of your child's MFL qualification. In MFL, the speaking assessment contributes directly to their final grade. Listening is usually assessed through a separate written exam, also contributing to the final grade.
Written Assessment with Long Answers	Written assessments with long answers are tasks where your child needs to produce extended pieces of writing to demonstrate their understanding, knowledge, and skills in a subject. These assessments require them to develop arguments, explain concepts in detail, analyse information, and present their ideas in a structured and coherent way. For example, long answers are assessed in a range of subjects: • English Literature: Analysing texts, discussing themes, and evaluating literary techniques. • History: Explaining causes and consequences of events, analysing historical interpretations. • Geography: Discussing geographical processes, evaluating the impacts of human activity. • Religious Studies: Exploring religious beliefs and practices, evaluating ethical arguments. • Social Sciences (e.g., Sociology, Psychology): Explaining theories, analysing research, evaluating evidence.
Written Assessment with Short Answers	Written assessments with short answers are designed to quickly check your child's understanding of key facts, concepts, and basic skills in a subject. These questions require concise and direct responses, usually ranging from a single word or phrase to a short paragraph. For example, short answers are assessed in a range of subjects:

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- **Science:** Defining terms, stating formulas, identifying parts of a diagram, short explanations of processes.
- **Maths:** Performing basic calculations, stating formulas, giving the answer to a problem.
- **Languages:** Providing a single word translation, completing a sentence, answering a simple question.
- **Design and Technology:** Naming materials, identifying tools, stating a function.