

## **Online examinations: Frequently asked questions**

### **1. Why are examinations being moved from physical centres to online?**

We already had plans to move part of the assessment process online this year, but the Covid-19 pandemic has led us to fast-track this work. We cannot be confident that we will be able to host examinations in physical centres so we need to plan for exams in a different way.

### **2. Will examinations continue to be online after the November session?**

Yes, we are making these arrangements as a permanent change and we do not anticipate that we will set hand-written examinations in physical centres again.

### **3. Can I still take a paper-based examination if I prefer it that way?**

No, unfortunately we are unable to offer this option as we will no longer be booking physical centres and invigilation teams.

### **4. What kind of equipment will I need to have?**

You will need a computer which you can type on, with internet connection, webcam speakers and a microphone. If you have a laptop, then webcam, speakers and microphone are probably already built in. If you are using a PC you may need to attach these. You will not be able to use a tablet or phone because you need to have a keyboard to type.

### **5. How do I know if my computer is compatible?**

We will be publishing full specifications and guidance as we start to release more specific information over the summer. For now, be assured that if you have any laptop or PC with an internet connection then it is probably compatible.

### **6. Will there be any concessions for students in November, who are using this system for the first time?**

Yes, for the November 2020 session only, we will allow an extra 15 minutes of examination writing time to allow for the new format and for any minor technical problems which may take time to resolve.

### **7. How can you stop people cheating?**

We will be using an online platform specially designed for computer-based assessment, combined with remote invigilation services. This means that your computer and webcam are accessed by the system so checks are in place to ensure that this remains a closed book exam with no collusion or cheating. We will provide more information about how all this works in due course.

### **8. Will I be able to practise using the system before I take the examination?**

Yes, we will give you the opportunity to practise, and we will require you to log in and test it before November as part of the procedure.

### **9. When will I get more information?**

We anticipate that we can start providing more information about the system and how it will work in July and August, and that you will be able to log in and try the system from September.