

NEA Information Event

Year 10 parents 2025-26

Thursday 16th October 6-7pm



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What is NEA?

NEA stands for ‘Non-Examined Assessment’

In some subjects, dependent on the course, it could be referred to as ‘coursework’, ‘devised piece’, ‘portfolio’ etc.

For the purpose of guidance to students and yourselves we treat it as essentially any work that contributes to the final grade of a student that isn’t an exam



What subjects have NEAs?

At Level 2 (this is the level of course students are doing in KS4 and is typically GCSEs, but can be BTEC, CNAT or other vocational courses) **the following courses have non-examined assessment:**

Art	Media Studies
Hospitality and Catering	Music
Drama	PE GCSE
Engineering	DT – Product Design/Textiles
Hair and Beauty	DT – Product Design/Textiles
Health and Social Care	

Please be aware the subject list is different at Level 3 (A Level or equivalent)



Why does it matter?

- NEA work can count for between 5% -100% of the grade in a subject
- Opportunity to show ability, knowledge and skills in a non-exam environment
- Opportunity to exceed target grade if done well
- Takes pressure off final exams for students who already have some of the grade before taking the exams
- Concrete proof of working level in subjects when applying to Colleges in Year 11



What can students expect?

- It varies by subject
- Majority of NEA work is done in Year 10/early Year 11
- Some subjects do a ‘trial’ NEA before the real thing to prepare students and give them useful feedback
- Information shared about the project/unit/assessment that gives them a clear understanding of the deadlines and expectations
- Limited feedback that may look or feel different – must meet exam board requirements
- High expectations from teachers on effort and meeting deadlines



Types of Control

Low Control - students work independently, conducting their own research, planning, and practical work often outside the classroom. The teacher provides the assignment brief, and feedback is limited during the process.

Medium Control - provides a balance of teacher guidance and structure, but with students having some autonomy in how they approach their work. Teachers will set deadlines, offer some limited feedback, and provide resources to help, but students often can make decisions about their method and/or approach.

High Control – the teacher closely supervises and guides the entire process. Students work primarily in the classroom under direct observation, with the teacher providing instructions at each stage. Students have limited autonomy—they follow the teacher's guidance closely.



Feedback during and at end of NEA

- The amount of feedback a student can receive both during the NEA process and after it is dictated by the exam board and can vary between subjects
- Not getting feedback during the process should be expected for some subjects – pay attention to general comments to the whole class or verbal prompts that may give ‘clues’
- Feedback at the end may be limited – this is because the NEA forms part of the final grade for a subject and grade boundaries are decided by exam boards after examinations are marked in the summer. They can vary year to year.





Non-Examined Assessments (NEA)

Art & Design: Year 10

Course:	EDUQAS GCSE Fine Art
Completion:	2027
% of final grade from NEA:	100%
Formal NEA Start Date:	September 2025
Deadlines during NEA process:	7 th May 2027
Final Deadline:	End of course May 19 th 2027
Level of Control:	LOW control with only HIGH control for 10 hour timed test at end of ESA.
Feedback during:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - review candidates' work and provide oral and written advice at a general level. - having provided advice at a general level, allow candidates to revise and re-draft work.
Feedback on completion:	None Marks /120 and /80 given for appeals process
Grading system:	60% coursework portfolio 40% externally set assignment
Additional support:	https://www.eduqas.co.uk/qualifications/art-and-design-gcse/#tab_keydocuments Non-Examination Assessments - JCQ Joint Council for Qualifications



Non-Examined Assessments (NEA)

Catering: Year 10

Course:	WJEC level 1 / 2 award hospitality and catering
Completion:	2027
% of final grade from NEA:	Unit 1 60% Unit 2 40%
Formal NEA Start Date:	2026
Deadlines during NEA process:	30 th November 2026
Final Deadline:	30 th November 2026
Level of Control:	High
Feedback during:	Verbal after each outcome
Feedback on completion:	Teacher Prediction of what awarding body will grade
Grading system:	Pass/Merit/Distinction
Additional support:	Teams/Student handbook



Non-Examined Assessments (NEA)

Drama: Year 10

Course:	OCR Drama J316
Completion:	2027
% of final grade from NEA:	30%
	60 marks: 40 for portfolio 20 for performance
Formal NEA Start Date:	January 2026
Deadlines during NEA process:	May Performance. July Portfolio Final Draft October 2026
Final Deadline:	October 2026
Level of Control:	Medium
Feedback during:	Formative and Draft portfolio
Feedback on completion:	Teacher generic feedback. Peer feedback
Grading system:	9-1 A01: Create & develop ideas to communicate meaning for theatrical performance A02: Apply theatrical skills to realise artistic intentions in live performance A04: Analyse & evaluate their own work & the work of others Not AO3
Additional support:	https://www.ocr.org.uk/qualifications/gcse/drama-i316-from-2016/specification-at-a-glance/



Non-Examined Assessments (NEA)

Engineering: Year 10

Course:	OCR Cambridge National Engineering Level 1/ Level 2
Completion:	2027
% of final grade from NEA:	30%
Formal NEA Start Date:	June
Deadlines during NEA process:	5 tasks. Dates TBC Task 1: June - July 2025 Task 2: September – Oct. ½ term Task 3: November – Christmas Task 4: January – February ½ term Task 5: February – March 31
Final Deadline:	End of Spring term
Level of Control:	
Feedback during:	Holistic feedback to the class
Feedback on completion:	Summative score out of 60
Grading system:	D2*, D2, M2, P2, D1, M1, P1, U
Additional support:	Teams Engineering Manufacture Revision Guide and Workbook



Non-Examined Assessments (NEA)

Also known as Graded Synoptic Assessments (GSA)

Hair & Beauty: Year 10

Course:	C&G3038-24 Level 2 Technical Award in Hair and Beauty Studies
Completion:	2027
% of final grade from GSA:	60%
Formal GSA Start Date:	January 2027
Deadlines during GSA process:	Research 4 weeks. Task 1 - 6 hours Task 2 – 3 Hours (19 th March) Task 3 – 4 Hours
Final Deadline:	March 2027
Level of Control:	High
Feedback during:	Review of candidates' work to give general advice Candidates are then allowed to re-draft their work.
Feedback on completion:	None Candidates given idea of marks for appeals process
Grading system:	UMS from GSA and Theory Exam Overall grade F P M D D*
Additional support:	Teams C&G website



Non-Examined Assessments (NEA)

Media: Year 10

Course:	EDUQAS GCSE Media
Completion:	2027
% of final grade from NEA:	30%
Formal NEA Start Date:	Planning and Prep Summer Term 2 (01/06/2026)
Deadlines during NEA process:	Planning and prep completion: 10/07/2026 First draft hand in: 09/10/2026
Final Deadline:	23/10/2026
Level of Control:	Medium
Feedback during:	Verbal feedback and general written feedback
Feedback on completion:	Mark
Grading system:	Mark out of 60 which is then combined with Comp 1 (40%) and Comp 2 (30%) exam marks to determine final grade
Additional support:	NEA booklet Teams PowerPoints



Non-Examined Assessments (NEA)

Music: Year 10

Course:	Music GCSE (OCR)
Completion:	2027
% of final grade from NEA:	60%
Formal NEA Start Date:	January of Y10 (2026)
Deadlines during NEA process:	Free Choice Composition – July 2026 Solo Performance – September 2026 Ensemble Performance – December 2026 Set Brief Composition – February 2027
Final Deadline:	March 2027
Level of Control:	Medium
Feedback during:	Guidance for composition given throughout. Regular draft performances and compositions across course.
Feedback on completion:	Marks given to students at the end of process.
Grading system:	1-9
Additional support:	OCR Specification for Music online



Non-Examined Assessments (NEA)

PE: Year 10

Course:	GCSE PE
Completion:	2027
% of final grade from NEA:	10%
Formal NEA Start Date:	April 2025
Deadlines during NEA process:	Sections broken up into tasks with number of hours to complete – set by Exam board. Overall, no more than 14 hours to complete the whole coursework. See power point slide below.
Final Deadline:	Dependant on when we can have computer rooms should be completed by July 2025
Level of Control:	Medium
Feedback during:	Verbal discussion
Feedback on completion:	The result
Grading system:	Total score is out of 20: Level 1 - score 1-3 Level 2 – score 4-7 Level 3 – score 8-12 Level 4 – score 13 - 16 Level 5 – score 17 - 20
Additional support:	I produce 6 power points, 1 for each task with exemplar work from the exam board.



Non-Examined Assessments (NEA)

Design & Technology: Year 10

Course:	AQA D&T
Completion:	2027
% of final grade from NEA:	50%
Formal NEA Start Date:	01 st June 2026
Deadlines during NEA process:	Section A: 2 nd Week September Section B: End of September Section C: October half term Section D: Christmas holidays Section E & F: February half term
Final Deadline:	February Half Term 2027
Level of Control:	Low
Feedback during:	Generic / holistic Students are free to revise and redraft a piece of work before submitting the final piece for assessment. The teacher can review draft work and provide generic feedback to ensure that the work is appropriately focused. In providing generic feedback the teacher can: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • provide feedback in oral and/or written form • explain syntax in general terms • advise on resources that could be used • remind students of the key sections that should be included in their final folder
Feedback on completion:	Sharing of final raw NEA score linked to JCQ process



Grading system:

50% Written exam paper
50% NEA task
Exam: Split into three (total 100)
Core knowledge (20 marks)
Specialist Technical Principles (30 marks)
Designing & Making Principles (50 marks).
NEA: Split into 6 (total 100)
Section A: 10 marks
Section B: 10 marks
Section C: 20 marks
Section D: 20 marks
Section E: 20 marks

Additional support:

TEAMS area in first instance
Course syllabus (available via TEAMS area)
NEA guidebook (hard copy and digital)

What happens if NEA is below target?

- We aim for all students to achieve their target grade or higher with any NEA content
- We can only operate within the rules of the exam boards. In some cases, students can make improvements to their work before it is considered finished, in other cases they may be able to re-do the project/piece of work completely in their own time. However, please note due to restrictions there may be no option to improve it
- Where more time is an option, we have done all we can to provide opportunities for students to be given the time they need



Managing time with NEAs and Mocks

- Consistency is the key – working regularly and meeting mini-deadlines along the way
- Students have struggled with having to repeat NEA work during Y11
- Being organised and planning time is the best way to avoid an issue
- NEAs will be completed before final exams, and in many subjects much earlier
- If you are struggling flag it early with teacher and/or tutor so they can help – earlier we know, the easier it is to fix!



Use of AI

JCQ (Joint Council for Qualifications) states:

- Students who misuse AI to the extent that the work they submit for assessment is not their own **will have committed malpractice** in accordance with JCQ regulations and could attract **severe sanctions**
- Students must ensure work submitted for assessment is **demonstrably their own**. If any sections of their work are reproduced directly from AI-generated responses, those elements must be identified by the student, and they must understand this will not allow them to demonstrate they have independently met the marking criteria and therefore **will not be awarded**
- Where teachers have doubts about the authenticity of student work submitted for assessment (for example, they suspect that parts of it have been generated by AI, but this has not been acknowledged), they **must investigate and take appropriate action**



Use of AI

AI can support your learning, but the final work must be your own! You can use it for:

- ✓ Brainstorming initial ideas or approaches
- ✓ Understanding concepts you are struggling with
- ✓ Getting explanations of techniques or methods
- ✓ Learning about tools or software you need to use
- ✓ Asking for examples to understand a concept better

What breaks the rules:

- × Getting AI to generate large sections of your work
- × Using AI to complete tasks that assess your specific skills
- × Submitting anything generated by AI as your own

If in **ANY** doubt **ASK**
your teacher, don't
assume or guess!



Plagiarism

Plagiarism is **presenting someone else's work, ideas, or words as your own** without proper acknowledgment. This includes:

- Copying text from websites, books, or other sources without citing them
- Using someone else's designs or creative work without credit
- Paraphrasing someone's ideas without acknowledging the source
- Submitting work created by AI
- Getting someone else to do your work for you
- Copying another student's work

What happens if you plagiarise?

- Your work may receive **zero marks** for that assessment or **the entire subject**
- The plagiarism is reported to the exam board (AQA, OCR, Edexcel, WJEC, etc.)
- You may be **disqualified** from that GCSE entirely

Students will be asked to sign a form to confirm the work is **ENTIRELY** their own – once they sign we would have to tell the exam board if the work is suspected not to be theirs



Advice from previous students on NEA

“Stay on track”

“It’s gets easier – manage your time better”

“Concentrate in class and focus”

“Get more ideas at the start”

“Do more research”

“Do work at home”



Questions on NEAs

If you have any questions that this hasn't answered for you, please contact people below:

Questions about NEAs Assignments– contact the subject teacher directly

Questions about NEA general rules/regulations or appeals – see Information on our website or contact our Exams Officer:
exams@elycollege.co.uk

Any other questions - contact Sam Rasmussen, Vice Principal:
srasmussen@elycollege.co.uk



Thank you for joining this session this evening

