
Part 3: Assessment regulations for taught courses

Section 6: Coursework assessment

Definition of coursework

- 6.1 The term 'assessed coursework' relates to: essays, assignments, in-class tests, laboratory tests, projects, dissertations, practical work, presentations, events, viva voce examinations, placement or field trip reports, designs, theses, artefacts, digital photographic media, and computer based analysis. This is not an exhaustive list.

Note: Staff should refer to Part 12: Good Practice in Assessment of Students, of the Quality Assurance and Enhancement Handbook for further guidance.

Coursework deadlines

- 6.2 Deadlines for the submission of coursework must be published in respect of each module within two weeks of the start of each academic semester. The submission dates for coursework and any subsequent changes must be notified to the Campus Registry.
- 6.3 All Coursework submissions deadlines should be set Monday - Thursday. No submission deadlines are allowed on a Friday; on weekends or during University closure periods as detailed in the University Calendar. Deadlines for handing in assessed work will not normally be extended to allow for religious observance, and students must schedule their work accordingly. The Associate Head of College (Education and Students) must approve exemptions to the published deadlines.
- 6.4 A penalty will be incurred for work submitted late by a reduction in marks (see 6.9 – 6.11).

Submission of coursework

- 6.5 Coursework must be submitted by the published deadline and in accordance with the published system. The published system may mean submission to the appropriate Campus Registry; via Blackboard; Turnitin or Safe-Assign, or the Module Leader.
- 6.6 Students may, if the requirement is set by the Module Leader, be required to submit their work through text matching software, such as Turnitin. If a student fails to comply with this request, there will be no obligation to mark the work. The Module Leader will set a deadline for electronic submission via text matching software. If a student does not meet the deadline, a penalty for late submission may be imposed.
- 6.7 In the event of major disruption to the University Network System, which as results in it not being accessible for significant periods on the submission deadline date, the submission deadline will be amended to the next working day on which the University Network System becomes available. Confirmation that major disruption has taken place will be provided by Information Systems and Support to Campus Registry Manager.

Late submission of coursework

- 6.8 Where students submit coursework late but within 24 hours of the specified deadline, the work will be marked, and ten marks will be deducted from the original mark, to a minimum of the pass mark (40% at undergraduate level, 50% at postgraduate level). For example, a piece of assessment awarded a mark of 70% would be reduced to 60% as a penalty for late submission. This also applies to students who have been granted an extension in accordance with their Reasonable Adjustment form, approved by Disability Learning Services, and to those students who have been granted a 5 working day extension following an accepted mitigating circumstances claim.

- 6.9 If students submit coursework more than 24 hours after the specified deadline, a mark of zero will be awarded for the work in question.
- 6.10 Regulation 6.8 and 6.9 do not apply if a claim of mitigating circumstances has been accepted through the Mitigating Circumstances process, and the student submits the coursework within 5 working days of the original deadline. (see Section 11).
- 6.11 The late submission of scheduled assessments is not permitted (see regulation 6.13). Where a student does not attend (either remotely or in person as required by the module brief) the scheduled assessment on the specified date a mark of zero will be awarded for the assessment component.

Guidance: Student Responsibilities –

- Students must check with the Module Leader in advance of the deadline if they are unsure of the correct procedure for the submission of coursework.
- It is a student's responsibility to ensure that they allow sufficient time prior to the deadline, to ensure any minor computer problems do not result in the late submission of coursework
- Students are advised to keep a copy of all coursework submitted for assessment. This requirement may be waived for particular types of assessment where this is not possible, e.g. practical work or in-class tests.
- It is the student's responsibility to ensure that, where assessed coursework is returned as part of the teaching and learning process, they have received all relevant work, and to advise the Module Leader of any discrepancy.

Return of coursework

- 6.12 Coursework will be returned to students within a reasonable time and with sufficient guidance in accordance with the [Assessment and Feedback Policy](#).

Scheduled Assessments

- 6.13 Scheduled assessments are summative assessments, which are undertaken outside the formal examination period, such as in-class tests, lab tests, presentations, practicals, vivas, performances etc.
- 6.14 Scheduled assessments should be run during Semester 1 and 2 Learning Weeks 1-12 as detailed within the [University Calendar](#) and should not normally be scheduled on any Saturday or Sunday scheduled assessments must not be take place during the University formal examination periods as detailed in the University Calendar. Organisers of scheduled assessment should refer to the Religious Observance Policy for guidance on organising such assessments.
- 6.15 Scheduled assessments should normally be scheduled during the teaching slot for the module, and should not exceed the normal duration of the teaching slot.
- 6.16 Where the Scheduled assessments takes the form of an unseen paper, all students attempting the paper must do so at the same time, and the paper itself must be subject to appropriate security measures (see Section 7: Examinations and Section 8: Individual Exam Arrangements)
- 6.17 Module Leaders must inform the relevant Campus Registry of the date and time of all Scheduled assessments. Scheduled assessments must take place in accommodation that is appropriate to the form of assessment and its delivery, and must be subject to invigilation appropriate to the form of assessment.

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Section 7: Examinations: regulations for students, staff and invigilators

Introduction

- 7.1 An examination is defined as a formal, time-limited, written or practical assessment, which is scheduled during the University examination period (see University Calendar), with invigilation provided, or approved by the College.
- 7.2 Where modules include assessment(s) by examination, students will be advised by the Module Leader of the form of examination (e.g. closed, restricted or open).
- 7.3 Students, during the period of their studies, shall have the opportunity to obtain feedback on their completed examination scripts in accordance with the [Assessment and Feedback Policy](#).
- 7.4 Students will be provided with an examination timetable.
- 7.5 The final timetable may include changes from the provisional timetable. It is the responsibility of each individual student to ensure they have checked the final examination timetable in relation to all modules for which they have registered. Information about the examination timetable will not be disclosed by telephone.

Timing and location

- 7.6 Examinations will only be held during the designated periods published in the [University Calendar](#).
- 7.7 Examinations may be held outside the University of Westminster premises.
- 7.8 Examinations for standard full and part-time courses will be scheduled to commence at either 10am, 2pm or 6pm with the exception of individual examination arrangements, which may run outside of these times.
- 7.9 Where one module is studied by different student groups, an identical examination must normally be taken simultaneously. Where this is not possible reasonable precautions must be taken to prevent the disclosure of information between students.

Examination procedures

- 7.10 Students must follow instructions given by the invigilator(s) at all times either before, during or after the examination has commenced.
- 7.11 The invigilator has a responsibility to ensure the identification of every student, therefore students are required to be in possession of their Student ID Card at every examination which they are attending.
- 7.12 Students may not write in their answer books or write notes until the invigilator announces that they may do so.
- 7.13 Students can be admitted up to 30 minutes after the start of the examination. No extra time will be allowed to a student who arrives later than the start time of the examination. No student may leave the examination during the first 30 minutes, or the last 15 minutes of the scheduled examination, other than on the instructions of an invigilator. Students must cease writing after the invigilator has announced the end of the examination and should remain seated until the scripts have been collected and counted by an invigilator, and they are advised that they can leave.

- 7.14 A student who wishes to temporarily leave the examination room must first obtain the express permission of the invigilator. Any student who leaves the examination room without the express permission of an invigilator shall be deemed to have withdrawn from the examination and shall not be allowed to re-enter the room.
- 7.15 Students are required to use only the approved examination stationery. Rough work must be completed on the approved examination stationery and handed in with the worked script. Except where otherwise stated on the question paper all answers must be written in English.
- 7.16 Where an examination script is illegible to the extent that the ability of the examiner to assess the work is impaired, the student will be asked to attend the University to dictate their exam script for transcription. The transcript is to be typed by an appropriate member of staff as determined by the College. Any costs incurred in the production of the transcript should be borne by the student. If the student refuses to dictate their exam script for transcription, or does not respond to the request, the work will be assessed on the basis of the legible parts only and a mark awarded accordingly.
- 7.17 No student shall communicate or attempt to communicate with another student in the examination room or cause any disturbance to other students. Students are prohibited from bringing or using any electronic devices or devices that would enable communication during the examination. Any student found contravening these regulations will be dealt with according to University's procedures governing Academic Misconduct (see Section 10 Academic Misconduct Regulations).

Procedures in the event of disruption

- 7.18 For the purpose of these regulations, an examination shall be deemed to have started once students have entered the examination room.
- 7.19 The Senior Invigilator should instruct students to evacuate the room(s), leaving all examination answer booklets, rough work and examination question papers in the examination room. The Senior Invigilator shall be the last to leave the room.
- 7.20 As soon as possible after the emergency is over, the Senior Invigilator will re-enter the examination room and will take particular note of the security of the room, whether the answer booklets, or any other documents appear to have been disturbed and any other pertinent factors. No student shall re-enter the examination room until authorised to do so by the Senior Invigilator.
- 7.21 Where at the designated time of starting an examination, the building in which it was due to be held is closed as a result of an emergency building evacuation, the examination will normally start 15 minutes after the building has been re-opened.
- 7.22 A full report of the circumstances of the building evacuation including the time of the interruption, the start and end time of the examination and the observations of the Senior Invigilator, shall be recorded on the Examination Incident Report form and returned to the relevant Campus Registry
- 7.23 If emergency procedures occur during the examination period as detailed in the University Calendar, the Campus Registry Manager, or nominee, should immediately determine which examinations have been affected. In the case of an examination that has not yet begun, the Campus Registry Manager or nominee will liaise with the Senior Invigilators to determine which, if any, examinations should be abandoned.
- 7.24 The Campus Registry Manager, or nominee, shall ensure where an examination needs to be re-scheduled, students will be advised by the Campus Registry of the date, time and location of the re-scheduled examination.
- 7.25 When an examination has been abandoned, the Campus Registry Manager or nominee shall liaise with the Head of College or nominee; examiner(s) for the subjects concerned; the

Course Leader; Module Leader and the Chair of the College Teaching Committee or equivalent. The group shall constitute a sub-committee of the Progression and Award Board acting with delegated authority. The board shall determine whether to:

- a) accept the examination answer booklets (if any) as the full result of the examination;
- b) accept the examination answer booklets (if any) as part of the results and to set an appropriate additional assessment;
- c) void the examination and set a further question paper; or
- d) where appropriate, under the course assessment regulations, discount the examination and determine the results for students based on the remainder of their assessed work.

A different decision may be given for examinations affected by the same incident. When considering the outcome, the sub-committee of the Progression and Award Board may consider the type of examination (open, or closed), level, assessment weighting, duration and any other factors deemed appropriate.

- 7.26 In determining what action to take in respect of an examination that has been abandoned as a result of an emergency evacuation, the sub-committee of the Progression and Award Board shall take account of;
- a) the overall pattern of assessment on the course and in the subject in question;
 - b) the body of evidence available in respect of student performance in the subject;
 - c) the role of the formal examination,
 - d) the logistical implications of its decision and its impact on students
- 7.27 The sub-committee will operate in the manner most appropriate to the issues; this need not necessarily involve a formal meeting. The Campus Registry shall formally record the discussions and decisions of the sub-committee. The report must be agreed by all members of the sub-committee, and form part of the documentation for the Progression and Award Board.
- 7.28 Where the sub-committee has agreed that the examination forms part of the assessment in the subject, the mark sheet available to the Progression and Award Board shall make clear the proportion of the assessment constituted by the formal examination.
- 7.29 In cases of major disruption in travel, or other similar circumstances, the start time of examinations may be delayed. Where the dates of the disruption are known in advance, morning examinations scheduled on those dates may start and finish 30 minutes later than scheduled. It is the responsibility of the Academic Registrar or nominee, to determine if the circumstances warrant a later start time. The timings of afternoon and evening examinations will not normally be changed.
- 7.30 On days of severe disruption only, students will be admitted to the examination room up to one hour after the start time of the examination; however, no additional time will be allowed. No student will be admitted to any examination more than one hour after the start of an examination.
- 7.31 No student will be permitted to leave the examination room (other than where accompanied by an invigilator) until 30 minutes after the start of the examination.
- 7.32 Where a student arrives late, the invigilator will note the time of their arrival on the student attendance sheet.

Guidance: Student Responsibilities

- If an alarm sounds, students must leave their examination answer booklets, rough work and examination question papers and evacuate the room quickly and quietly. Under no circumstances should a student remove an answer booklet, rough work or an examination paper from the examination room.
- When the building is re-opened, students must not under any circumstances re-enter any examination room unless they are instructed to re-enter the building by the senior invigilator.
- Where an examination has been terminated as a result of an emergency evacuation, it is the responsibility of the student to secure information on what alternative form of assessment, if any, is to be required in relation to that subject area, and to present themselves for assessment on the due date. Information will be available from the Registry.
- It is the responsibility of each student to ascertain whether following disruption there has been a delay in the start time of the examination. If in any doubt, students should assume that the examination will start as originally scheduled
- If students are likely to be affected by any transport disruption, they are advised to investigate immediately alternative travel arrangements, or opportunities for temporary accommodation near the examination location. Students should bear in mind that disruption to public transport inevitably puts pressure on other forms of transport services too, and are advised to allow more time for their journeys irrespective of their mode of travel.