
On the British Education System
and
The State Schools in Cambridge (Vol. XXXI)
—General Certificate of Education & Certificate of Secondary Education—

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In the preceding essay (Vol. XXX), I have told you about how my eldest daughter got into difficulties in studying biology and mathematics, and then how much her friends in Impington Village College gave a helping hand to her.

In this essay, we will consider GCE (General Certificate of Education) and CSE (Certificate of Secondary Education) exams, according to the points of GCE and CSE exams given the candidates for both examinations by the college.

As we have seen in the preceding essay (Vol. II), all types of secondary schools have 5-year courses for pupils from 11 years up to the school leaving age (normally 16 years). Promotion to a higher class every year does not depend upon examination results. It is almost automatic. At the end of the five-year course, pupils can take CSE and GCE exams, but children in Britain still leave school with no formal leaving examination certificate. Here we will investigate roughly what kind of examinations GCE and CSE are.

GCE exams are one of the most important examinations in secondary schools, and are set and graded by 8 Examination Boards under the control of universities in Britain. These are classified into three levels; Advanced, Ordinary and Special <Scholar> levels. Ordinary level is usually taken at the age of 16, and Advanced level after the lapse of two years. But even those who are not on the register in any educational institutions, are allowed to take the exams

if university authorities approve. The Advanced levels are estimated by 7 grades of A, B, C, D, E, O and F, and A to E grades are passing marks. If we get O grade in A Levels, we are given a certificate of O level. The results of these exams are used by the local authorities as a material for evaluation of scholarship, and universities and other higher educational institutions make use of the results as reference data for selecting their new students. Moreover, the results may be used as job-order conditions on the part of employers. The general control and supervision over this examination system is in School Council for the Curriculum and Examination. As the eight different institutions make examinations of their own, the level of the examinations could be different. So the council always care about the same level of the examinations made by the institutions.

CSE exams, like GCE, are examinations on academic subjects, and pupils can take as many subjects as they want. In addition to the same subjects as GCE, pupils can take not only some subjects such as architecture, civics, but also some subjects on practical knowledge and technical skill like typewriting. CSE exams are indeed intended for those who have the ability below the average from the 5th-year students taking O levels of GCE. The results of the exams are usually shown by 1 to 5 grades, but sometimes without any grades. Grade 1 shows the same academic level as O level of GCE, and the examinees below grade 5 cannot have any grades. And in the Certificate are these grades recorded. The exams are managed by some teachers working at the local institutions, and the certificate is made use of by employers as well as by the applicants for a position. Furthermore, the certificate serves as one of the requirements for admission to a college of further education like Technical Colleges.

Now we have seen what kinds of examinations GCE and CSE are and how the result of these exams are made use of. In May during the Spring Term, my daughter was given the brochure concerning GCE and CSE exams by her college. After introducing to you the advice by Examinations Officer, I will show you, in the following pages, each copy about the general schedule, directions to candidates, School Leaver's Form, and so on.

IMPINGTON VILLAGE COLLEGE
EXAMINATIONS 1987

ADVICE FOR CANDIDATES

1. It is your responsibility to attend for your examination at the correct time. Arrive at the examination room 10 minutes before the starting time, where you will be registered.
2. You do not need to wear school uniform but we expect you to wear sensible, comfortable clothes, suitable for sitting an examination.
3. Some examinations with large numbers will be held simultaneously in several rooms. You will be allocated to a room according to the lists published on the exam notice board. This will affect: 16 + Biology, 16 + Maths, 16 + Geography, 16 + Physics, English Language, English Literature.
4. Take to the examination 2 pens, pencil, ruler, eraser, coloured pencils (rather than felt-tip pens). It is forbidden to use Tipp-Ex type materials. Cross out errors.
5. Read the regulations already issued.
6. Make sure you know what to do if you are prevented from taking an examination through illness or injury.
7. Remember to follow the instructions about collecting results or having them posted. Results will on no account be posted unless you leave a stamped, addressed envelope.
8. If you foresee any problems, see me as soon as possible.

P. B. GLUZA
Examinations Officer
May 1987

EXAMINATIONS 1987

RESULTS: In order to be fair to both our office staff and all candidates, you are requested to follow this procedure strictly.

1. Check when your results can be collected.

C.S.E	Friday, 17th July
'O' Level/16+	Friday 21st August
'A' Level	Friday 14th August

2. Do not telephone the office for results. Results are never given over the phone. If you wish a friend to collect them, provide a note to say that you wish them to do so.

3. C.S.E. Results

If you wish your results to be posted to you, follow this procedure.

Give a stamped, addressed envelope to the office. Mark the envelope C.S.E clearly in the top left-hand corner.

If you wish to collect your results personally, then do so, but, not before 17th July.

4. 'A' Level Results

Either provide a stamped addressed envelope or collect personally from the office, but not before Friday 14th August. Mark clearly in the top left hand corner of the envelope the names of the Boards from which you expect results. This will provide an easy check on whether the envelope contains appropriate results before it is posted. Only one envelope is necessary.

5. 'O' Level 'AO' Level. 16+ results.

If you wish to collect your results personally, then do so but not before Friday 21st August. If you wish to have them posted, then provide a stamped addressed envelope to the office with the names of each Board from which you expect results, clearly marked in the top left hand corner. This will provide an easy check before posting. If you do not provide an S.A.E your results will remain in the office until collected. Only one envelope is necessary for all your 'O' Level and 16+ results.

6. Examination certificates are normally available in November. They are presented at the Certificate Evening (date yet to be arranged) to which all candidates are invited. We hope that as many as possible will attend for a very pleasant evening to receive certificates and meet old friends.. Certificates are valuable documents and must be signed for. If you are unable to attend the Certificate Evening you may collect them at a later date, or if you wish them to be posted you must provide one self-addressed envelope. A4 flat 210mm x 300mm and 50p to cover the cost of postage and Recorded Delivery.

7. Further Directions to all Candidates.

Absence from an examination - Telephone the school office as soon as possible - 8.15 a.m. onwards. Leave your name and the subject you are unable to take. Obtain a Doctor's certificate in the case of illness or accident, certifying that you were unable to attend school to take the examination on the stated date or dates. Send the certificate to me as soon as possible. Certain conditions must be satisfied but it is sometimes possible to obtain special consideration in these cases.

This will not apply in other circumstances; thus forgetfulness or lateness can easily mean that no result can be given at all.

P.B. GLUZA
Examinations Officer
April 1987

Directions to Candidates

Teachers are advised to take care that their pupils are carefully drilled to carry out these directions. Numbers 3, 4, 10 are very frequently disregarded and candidates sometimes suffer a loss of marks in consequence.

1. Be at your seat in the Examination Room five minutes before the time fixed for the Examination in each subject.
2. *If an Examination paper for which you are not entered is handed to you, or if the questions indicate that a map or other form should also have been given out, speak to the Invigilator at once.*
3. Attend carefully to any general directions that may be given at the head of a paper (e.g. directions limiting the number of questions that may be answered).
4. Write your examination number (i.e. the centre number and your individual number) in clear figures in the right-hand top corner of every sheet of writing paper, etc., which you use, *and your name and the name of the subject as well as your number on the first sheet of each set of papers.* If you are using answer books, you need only write this information on the cover, and on any loose maps, squared paper etc.
5. **Write on both sides of the paper.** Leave a margin at both right-hand and left-hand edges and begin the answer to each separate part of the question on a fresh line.
6. Do **not** fold your answer sheets at any time.
7. Write the number of the question clearly in the left-hand margin at the beginning of each answer. Do not copy the question. Be careful to use the same system of numbering as appears in the question paper. Leave a blank space after the answer to each question. **Record, in the grid provided, at the top left-hand corner of your first sheet for each paper the numbers of the questions which you have answered, in the order in which you have answered them.**
8. Remember that handwriting and spelling will be taken into account. Candidates are required to write their answers in black or blue-black ink. Red ink must not be used. Fountain pens or ball point pens may be used. Candidates are warned that the use of pale blue ball point pens contributes to illegibility and that if their work cannot be read, they automatically penalise themselves. B or HB pencils **must** be used for answering multiple-choice tests. Pencils or ball point pens in other colours may be used for diagrams and maps only. The use of map stencils in all Geography papers is forbidden. Bring mathematical, drawing and dissecting instruments for subjects where they will be needed. Candidates are warned that the use of electronic calculators/pocket computers in the examination room is not allowed except in papers or questions where their use is specifically permitted. Such use, moreover, is limited strictly to the calculator/pocket computer itself; *supplementary material must in no circumstances be taken into the examination.* No allowance can be made for the failure of a calculator/pocket computer in the examinations room.
9. Read the questions very carefully. A great deal of time is wasted in writing down information that is not asked for, and no marks are given for it.
10. Do not write so much upon one or two questions as to leave yourself no time to answer others which you are able to answer.
11. As soon as notice is given, **ARRANGE YOUR PAPERS ACCORDING TO THE ORDER OF ANSWERING THE QUESTIONS, THE FIRST PAGE AT THE TOP,** unless a contrary instruction is given on the question paper. See that all papers have your examination number written upon them, fasten them together at the left-hand top corner, and hand them unfolded to the Invigilator. Although the knot should be securely tied, do not tie your papers together so tightly that the pages tear apart when they are turned over.
12. A candidate who arrives late will be asked to give a satisfactory explanation to the Invigilator. Except in special circumstances a paper will not be given to any candidate who is more than half an hour late. Absolute punctuality is essential for certain papers. Candidates are not allowed to leave the Examination Room for the first hour of an examination (except in the case of illness or another emergency and then in the company of an Invigilator). Candidates are not allowed to leave the Examination Room before the end of the period allotted to the paper unless by special arrangement with the Invigilator.

CAUTION

Breaches of the above Directions, irregularity, misconduct or dishonesty in connection with the examination may lead to disqualification of the candidates concerned or of all candidates at a particular centre. Disqualification of candidates may involve their expulsion from the examination without readmission, cancellation of any one or more of their papers or the results thereof, and their being refused re-entry as candidates in subsequent examinations.

The following matters are set out here merely as examples for the guidance of candidates on matters which may lead to disqualification.

Answers or rough working must not be placed in such a position that another candidate can read them. If any candidate is detected in giving, or attempting to obtain, unfair assistance whether by copying or in any other way, disqualification may result.

No communication whatever between candidates under examination is allowed.

Candidates are not permitted to have in their possession, while in the Examination Room, any book, memorandum or pocket-book, notes, examination timetable or papers whatsoever, except the correct question paper and any material or instruments expressly authorized by the Syndicate; candidates using slide rules as permitted by the Regulations must see that any information (formulae or other data) shown on them is securely covered up. They must return immediately to the Invigilator any incorrect question paper given to them and must not take any used or unused writing paper out of the Examination Room. Any rough work must be done on the official answer paper, and, if not to be included with the answers, must be left on the desks to be collected by the Invigilator and destroyed.

Disorderly conduct, or the causing of disturbance in or near the Examination Room, may be treated as misconduct leading to disqualification.

EXAMS 1987: Timetable for the period 1st June to 26th June. If you have a clash of exam times, the re-arranged time is indicated by an asterisk (*). If you think there are any problems, let me know IMMEDIATELY. P. GLUZA - MAY 1987.

DATE	MORNING EXAM	TIME	NO	PLACE	AFTERNOON EXAM	TIME	NO	PLACE
Monday 1 June				GYM				GYM
	Camb O level English Language	9.15/10.45	101	Main Hall	MEG O/CSE Geography Paper 1	1.30/2.40	138	Main Hall
					Camb O level Geography Paper 1	1.30/3.40	1	Lang Lab
					Camb A level Geography Paper 1	1.30/3.45	10	Lang Lab
Tuesday 2 June								
	AEB O level English Language Paper 1	9.15/11.00	21	GYM	AEB O level English Language	1.30/2.20	21	GYM
	Camb A level English Paper 1	9.15/12.15	14	Lang Lab	Paper 2 & 3	2.25/3.20	14	GYM
	Camb A level Chemistry Papers 1 & 2	9.15/10.00	11	Lang Lab	** AEB O level English Language	2.25/3.15	1	Reading Lour
		(10.05/12.05	12	Reading Lounge	(S. Tate)	3.20/4.15		
	** AEB O level English Language	12.30/2.15	1					
	(S. Tate)							
Wednesday 3 June								
	Camb O level Art	9.15/12.15	51	Studios				
			7					
Thursday 4 June								
	Camb O level Art	9.15/12.15	51	Studios	MEG O/CSE CDT Design &	1.30/3.45	45	GYM
			7		Realisation Paper 1			
Friday 5 June								
	Camb 16+ Biology Papers 1 + 2 or 3	9.15/10.15	114	GYM	MEG O/CSE French Reading &	1.30/3.00	31	GYM
		(10.20/11.50		Main Hall	Listening	3.05/3.50		
	Camb A level Biology Paper 1	9.15/11.45	18	Old Lib	AEB O level French Papers	1.30/2.00	21	Old Lib
					3 + 1	2.05/3.35	4	
	Camb A level Social Biology Paper 1	9.15/11.45	7	Old Lib	Camb A level French Papers	1.30/3.30	6	Lang Lab
					2 + 4	3.35/4.25		

DATE	MORNING EXAM	TIME	NO	PLACE	AFTERNOON EXAM	TIME	NO	PLACE
Monday 8 June								
London O level English Literature	9.15/11.45	100	GYM Lang Lab	London O/CSE Physics Paper 1 Camb A level Physics Papers 1 & 2	1.30/2.45 (1.30/2.45 2.50/4.20)	101 12	Lang Lab GYM Old Lib	
Tuesday 9 June								
AEB O level Economics Paper 1	9.15/10.00	41	GYM	London O/CSE Chemistry Paper 1	1.30/2.30	75	GYM	
London O/CSE Music Paper 1** AEB O level Spanish Oral	10.30/12.30 12.30	14 1	GYM Reading Lounge	Camb A level Chemistry Paper 3	1.30/3.30	12	Lang Lab	
AEB A level Economics Papers 1 & 2	(9.15/10.30 (10.35/12.05	11	Lang Lab	Camb O level Chemistry Paper 1	1.30/2.45	1	Lang Lab	
Wednesday 10 June								
Camb 16+ Maths Paper 1 MEG O/CSE Maths Paper 1 or 2	9.15/11.45 9.15/10.45 9.15/11.15	146 30 18	GYM Main Hall Old Lib G8	MEG O/CSE Geography Paper 2 Camb O level Geography Paper 2	1.30/3.15 1.30/3.40	138 1	GYM Main Hall Lang Lab	
Camb A level Maths Paper 1	9.15/12.15	17	Lang Lab	Camb A level Geography Paper 3	1.30/3.45	10	Lang Lab	
Thursday 11 June								
London O/CSE History Paper 1	9.15/11.30	74	GYM	Camb 16+ Biology Practical	(1.00/3.30) 1 hr.	P13 G6 P4		
London A level Design & Technology Paper 2 Camb A level German Paper 1	9.15/12.15 9.15/11.45	3 4	Lang Lab Lang Lab	Camb A level Biology Papers 2 & 3	1.30/2.30 2.35/4.05	18	GYM	
AEB A level History Paper 1	9.15/12.15	7	Lang Lab	Camb A level Social Biology Papers 2 & 3	1.30/2.30 2.35/4.20	7	GYM	
Friday 12 June								
London O/CSE Physics Paper 2 or 3	9.15/11.15	101	GYM Lang Lab	London O/CSE Environmental Studies Paper 1	1.30/3.00	13	GYM	
Camb A level Physics Papers 3 & 4	9.15/12.15	12	Old Lib	Camb A level French Paper 3	1.30/4.30	6	GYM	

DATE	MORNING EXAM	TIME	NO	PLACE	AFTERNOON EXAM	TIME	NO	PLACE
Monday 18 June								
	Camb 16+ Maths Paper 2 or 3 or 4	9.15/11.45	146	GYM	MEG O/CSE French Writing	1.30/2.45	31	GYM
	MEG O/CSE Maths Paper 4 or 5	9.15/11.15	30	Old Lib	AEB O level French Paper 2	1.30/3.30	21 ₄	Old Lib
		9.15/11.45	18	G8				
	Camb A level Maths Paper 2	9.15/12.15	17	Lang Lab	Camb A level French Paper 1	1.30/4.00	6	Lang Lab
Tuesday 18 June								
	MEG O/CSE Religious Studies Paper 9	9.15/11.00	11	GYM	London O/CSE History Paper 2	1.30/3.15	74	GYM
	AEB O level German Papers 3 + 1	(9.15/9.45 (9.50/11.20	26	Old Lib	AEB A level History Paper 2	1.30/4.30	7	Lang Lab
	Camb A level German Paper 3	9.15/12.15	4	GYM				
	Camb A level Physics Paper 5 (Practical)	9.15/10.45	12	P4				
	**MEG O/CSE Religious Stud. Paper 9 (A. Gerrard, R. Taylor, J. Thulborn only)	11.30/1.15	3	Mrs. Drew's Office				
Wednesday 17 June								
	Camb A level Biology (Special)	9.15/11.45	2	Old Lib	JMB 16+ Spanish (basic level) Reading, Writing, Listening	1.30/3.00	12	Old Lib
	Camb A level German Papers 2 + 4	(9.15/11.15 (11.20/12.05	4	Old Lib	London O/CSE Environmental Stud. Paper 2	1.30/3.00	13	GYM
	** AEB O level Economics Paper 2 (M. Aldridge, D. Whiterod, R. Easy, J. Kerr, M. Skeels, R. Slack, N. Walder only)	10.15/12.30	7	GYM	AEB O level Economics Papers 2 AEB O level Spanish Papers 3+1	1.30/3.45 (1.30/2.00 2.05/3.35	34 1 1	GYM Reading Lounge GYM Lang Lab
					Camb O level Technology Paper 1	1.30/4.00	9	Lang Lab
					Camb A level Further Maths Paper 1	1.30/4.30	2	Lang Lab
Thursday 18 June								
	Camb O level Chemistry Paper 2	9.15/11.15	1	GYM				
	London O/CSE Chemistry Paper 2 or 3	9.15/11.15	75	GYM	AEB O level German Paper 2	1.30/3.30	26	Old Lib
	Camb A level Chemistry Paper 4	9.15/10.30	12	Lang Lab	AEB A level Economics Paper 3	1.30/4.30	11	Lang Lab
Friday 19 June								
	MEG O/CSE Religious Stud. Paper	9.15/11.30	14	GYM	JMB 16+ Spanish (Higher Level) Reading, Writing, Listening	1.30/3.40	12	Lang Lab
	Camb O Level Technology Papers 3-10	9.15/11.45	9	GYM				
	Camb A Level Physics (Special)	9.15/12.15	3	Reading Lge	AEB O Level Spanish Paper 2	1.30/3.30	1	Reading Lge.

DATE	MORNING EXAM	TIME	NO	PLACE	AFTERNOON EXAM	TIME	NO	PLACE
Monday 22 June								
	Camb Additional Maths ME1 Paper 1	9.15/11.45	25	Old Lib				
	Camb A level Further Maths Paper 4	9.15/12.15	4	P5				
			2	P5				
Tuesday 23 June								
	AEB O level Nutrition & Cook Paper 1	9.15/11.15	19	Lang Lab	** Camb Additional Maths ME1 Paper 2 (M. Aldridge, J. Farrington, F. Lindsay only)	1.00/3.30	3	P5
	Camb Additional Maths ME1 Paper 2	9.15/11.45	22	Old Lib				
			4					
Thursday 25 June								
	Camb A level English (Special)	9.15/12.15	4	Reading Lge.				
	Camb A level Maths (Special)	9.15/12.15	1	Reading Lge.				
Friday 26 June								
	Camb A level English Paper 5	9.15/12.15	11	Old Lib				

IMPINGTON VILLAGE COLLEGE

SCHOOL LEAVER'S FORM

TAKE THIS FORM TO YOUR FORM TUTOR TO BEGIN THE PROCEDURE

SECTION A

Signature of Form Tutor initiating
Leaver's Routine:

.....

Form Tutor to list the subjects for which
a signature is required.

Name of Pupil.....

FormDate of Birth.....

Address

SECTION B To be completed by taking text
books to your teachers who will sign when
they have received them.

Subject

Signature

.....

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LIBRARY

SECTION C

Date of entering the College:

Date of leaving school:

I am leaving school to start employment with:

.....on

I am leaving school to continue education at:

.....on

I have not yet got employment

Form Tutor

Careers Teacher

Head of House

PLEASE HAND IN THIS FORM TO YOUR HEAD OF HOUSE WHEN COMPLETED