

**Construction of the
Assessment Timetable
– 2026/27 and
2027/28**

Introduction

Each academic session we produce an updated version of the Assessment Timetable covering all NCFE and CACHE qualifications which have set dates for external assessments, for the benefit of both learners and centres.

The Assessment Timetable is constructed for each academic session (01 August – 31 July) and covers both NCFE and CACHE qualifications as detailed below:

Key Stage 4:
Technical Awards

Key Stage 5:
Technical Awards
Technical Certificates
Technical Diplomas
Applied Generals

Schedule for publishing the Assessment Timetable

Each summer, NCFE publish an assessment timetable for the following 2 academic sessions.

An updated version of the 2026/2027 and 2027/2028 assessment timetable will be finalised and published on our website in July 2026.

Constructing the External Assessment Timetable

The timetable working group (TWG) will work to the following business rules when producing the assessment timetable.

1. When deciding upon the dates for any external assessment the TWG will consider subject combinations using statistical data from previous series and feedback from centres. The assessment timetable will take note of the timetabling arrangements for FSMQ, GCE and GCSE qualifications in order to reduce potential timetable clashes, particularly for high volume GCSE qualifications such as English and Mathematics.
2. The TWG will try to minimise timetable clashes and accommodation problems for centres. However, given the size and complexity of the assessment timetable, clashes will be inevitable. Where a centre is impacted by a clash, we ask that they submit an [assessment variation request](#) via our website.
3. External assessments will be scheduled during standard term times and cannot take account of individual school or college closures. We will not schedule any external assessments for a weekend or a Bank Holiday.
4. Where we have more than one model of qualification in any one subject area, we will ensure there are no clashes with our chosen dates of external assessments across our own suite.
5. To support centres with booking any re-sits for their learners, we will ensure the bookings cut-off date for upcoming external assessments is after results have been released for the previous external assessment.

6. The TWG will take account of religious festivals. However, there may be occasions where we are unable to avoid timetabling external assessments on such days.

Please note:

- It must not be assumed that an individual subject or external assessment component will be timetabled on the basis of historical arrangements.
- All dates provided within provisional copies of the assessment timetable are not confirmed until they are finalised and published in the revised updated version of our assessment timetable which is available to centres in July.

Update to Previously Published Assessment Dates

Following a review of the JCQ common timetable for 2026-2027 it was identified that some previously published dates within the NCFE assessment timetable would need to be amended to reduce clashes with FSMQ, GCE and GCSE qualifications:

- Following publication of the GCSE and GCE results release dates for summer 2027, NCFE have altered the results release for all V Cert Technical Awards to align with equivalent options. For clarity, the revised restricted result release to students is now 19 August 2027
- NCFE have previously released V Cert Technical Award results to centres under embargo 3 working days prior to results release to students. To align with other awarding organisations, from summer 2027 we have taken the decision to reduce this embargo period to 1 working day prior to results release to students. For clarity, centres should expect to access summer 2027 V Cert Technical Award results on the NCFE Portal on 18 August 2027
- NCFE CACHE Level 1/2 Technical Award in Child Development and Care in the Early Years – amended from previously published 08/06/2027 9.00am to 08/06/2027 1.30pm due to a clash with GCSE English Language
- NCFE Level 1/2 Technical Award in Engineering - amended from previously published 19/05/2027 9.00am to 18/05/2027 1.30pm due to a clash with GCSE English Literature
- NCFE CACHE Level 3 Applied General Award for Early Years, Childcare and Education – amended from previously published 03/06/2027 9.00am to 10/06/2027 9.00am due to it being originally timetabled during the May half term holiday
- NCFE CACHE Level 3 Applied General Award for Health and Social Care – amended from previously published 08/06/2027 9.00am to 28/05/2027 9.00am to ensure a sufficient marking window ahead of summer 2027 result release dates
- The NCFE CACHE Technical Level 3 Diploma in Childcare and Education (Early Years Educator) which has a summer assessment opportunity for DCE2 that had a corresponding result release date occurring after 10/07/2027 has had the summer results release date brought forward to 09/07/2027. This will allow centres additional time to confirm completion of any internally assessed components and, hence, complete certification, in advance of the general Level 3 results release date in August. This means that the assessment window dates have been brought forward to allow for this earlier results release. A knock-on impact of this, is that the corresponding spring 2027 assessment window and results release dates have also been brought forward. Further information on these amended dates can be found on the relevant page in the assessment timetable

- The following NCFE CACHE assessments (which are a requirement of qualifications that are now withdrawn and closed to registrations) are no longer showing in the assessment timetable due to their final assessment opportunity having been timetabled during 2025/2026:
 - DEYEC1 and DEYEC2
 - EYE/SAE
 - EYE/EE1 and EYE/EE2
- The following NCFE Level 3 Applied General Certificates (which are now withdrawn and closed to registrations) are no longer showing in the assessment timetable due to their final assessment opportunity having been timetabled during 2025/2026:
 - Art and Design
 - Business and Enterprise
 - Music Technology
- When returning hard copies of assessment papers, they should no longer be returned directly to NCFE, they should be returned to the address indicated on the assessment paperwork

Please note that the assessment timetable is a controlled document and is subject to regular updates and revisions.

To ensure accuracy and avoid the risk of working from outdated information, customers are advised **not to download, save, or store local copies** of the assessment timetable on internal systems or networks

The **only valid and up-to-date version** of the assessment timetable is the version accessed via NCFE website. Any locally saved copies may become outdated and could lead to discrepancies in key dates and associated activities.

We cannot accept responsibility for any issues, delays, or errors arising from the use of outdated or locally stored versions of the assessment timetable.

Contact: Should you notice any erroneous dates or incorrect information within our assessment timetable, please contact the Assessment Delivery Team using assessmentdelivery@ncfe.org.uk.