



LOCKDOWN PROCEDURE

Centre 17632

This policy details the measures taken at O gtej cpvVc{ mtuø Uej qqn in the event of a centre lockdown during the conducting of examinations.

Depending on the nature of the incident, centres may also decide to evacuate, invacuate (an inward evacuation) or use a protected space(s). However, this policy focuses specifically upon the actions, roles and responsibilities during an exams-related lockdown.

A lockdown may be required in the following situations (this is not an exhaustive list):

- an incident or civil disturbance in the local community which poses a risk
- an intruder on the site with the potential to pose a risk
- local risk of air pollution, such as a smoke plume or gas cloud
- a dangerous animal roaming loose
- an internal threat from a student
- any other external or internal incident which has the potential to pose a threat to the safety of exams staff and candidates

During lockdown training, the focus will be on how to deal with a lockdown before, during and after an exam. This will include:

- training staff engaged/involved in the conducting of examinations
- how to achieve an effective lockdown
- implementing Run, Hide, Tell principles
- the welfare and safety of exam candidates and centre staff engaged in the conducting of examinations
- maintaining the integrity and security of the examinations/assessments process
- how to let people know y j c w u j c r r g p l p i
- maintaining the integrity and security of the examinations/assessments process

Roles and responsibilities

Head of Centre

- to ensure that a dedicated lockdown alarm tone is in place and recognised by all staff and candidates
- to ensure that all staff involved in the conducting of examinations are trained in how to raise the alarm for a lockdown, act effectively and made aware of their responsibilities
- to arrange appropriate training for all exams-related staff in lockdown procedures

if appropriate, where safe/possible, and following centre policy, the exams officer (or invigilators in the absence of the exams officer) will initiate the emergency evacuation procedure
where safe/possible, the exams officer will collect all examination papers and materials for safe/secure storage following advice from the appropriate awarding bodies

After an examination

If a lockdown is required after the exam/as candidates are leaving the exam room, the following procedure will be employed:

invigilators will:

- stop dismissing candidates from the exam room
- instruct candidates who have left the room to re-enter the exam room
- instruct candidates to remain silent and hide under desks/tables
- where safe/possible, communicate (via mobile phone/walkie talkie) the situation to the exams officer (ensuring that all mobile phones/walkie talkies are on silent and non-vibrate mode)
- lock all windows and close any/all curtains/blinds
- switch off all lights
- lock all doors and/or use tables, or any other furniture, to barricade the entrance to the exam room
- (if the threat is a chemical or toxic release) instruct candidates to cover their nose and mouth (their own clothing can be used) and attempt to use anything to hand to seal up cracks around doors and any vents into the room
- where safe/possible, not leave the examination question papers and

where safe/possible, the exams officer will collate the information from all exam rooms and forward this to the head of centre immediately

Ending a lockdown

the lockdown will be ended by either:

- the sound of a defined alarm, or
- the identification/authorisation of Emergency Service officers/SLT/head of centre entering each exam room

a specific word or phrase may be used to confirm that the instruction to end the lockdown is genuine

invigilators will undertake a head count/register and confirm attendance with the exams officer/SLT

where applicable and if advised to do so by SLT/head of centre, and following JCQ guidelines, if there is sufficient time remaining, candidates may restart their examination

invigilators will then:

- ask candidates to return to their desks, remind them they are under formal exam conditions and allow a settling down period
- allow candidates the full working time remaining to do their examination
- recalculate the revised finish time(s)
- tell the candidates to open their answer booklets and re-start their exam

- amend the revised finish time(s) on display to candidates
- note how long the lockdown lasted on the exam room incident log (to later inform a report to the awarding body/bodies and where relevant, any centre-wide lockdown recording form/log)

the exams officer will:

- provide a report of the incident for the awarding body/bodies (through application of the special consideration process or as advised by the awarding body/bodies)
- safely/securely store all collected exam papers and materials pending awarding body advice/guidance

where applicable/possible/available, SLT/exams officer will:

- ensure appropriate follow-up is undertaken after the incident, reporting the incident to the awarding body and the actions taken, where this may be applicable
- discuss any alternative exam sittings with the awarding body/bodies
- offer, arrange and provide support services to staff and candidates

at the earliest opportunity, SLT/head of centre will prepare a communication to parents/carers advising them of events (including relevant actions and outcomes)

where possible, exams staff and candidates will be invited to attend an assembly led by the head of centre to discuss the lockdown and offer ongoing support

- If this is not possible, communications will be provided via a centre text/email/newsletter and information uploaded to the centre website

Head of Examinations
 October 2023
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