

Exam-entry checklist

Home-educated children sit exams as private candidates. A little planning ahead of time avoids the common pitfalls.

England · Wales · NI

GCSE / IGCSE

A4 · 1 page

PLAN IT

- Choose your subjects (you can spread them across years)
- Prefer exam-only IGCSEs where possible
No coursework / NEA, which is hard for private candidates
- Find an exam centre that accepts private candidates early
FE colleges and private-candidate centres; book ahead
- Budget for both fees
Exam-board entry fee + the centre's admin fee, roughly £150–£200 per subject
- Confirm the exam session dates and entry deadlines
- Consider Functional Skills (English & Maths) as an alternative or step
- Scotland is different
National 5 / Highers rather than GCSEs

SUBJECTS, CENTRES & DEADLINES
