

My experience of doing online exams:

Hello,

I am currently in year 13 and in this entry I will be discussing the impact of COVID 19 on my Year 12 exams. So, basically in short it was weird.

Before lockdown we were told that our exams would be straight after the April holidays and of course that these exams would have an impact on our predicted grades. So naturally I entered into panic mode. Now at this point COVID-19 was in full swing, so I clung onto the hope that school would be closed and therefore exams were going to be cancelled (hooray!). School did close and we carried on doing work remotely. This had positive aspects and negative aspects. The positive aspects were that I had much more flexibility when it came to my schedule, I could also go and focus on aspects I found difficult personally as I didn't have set times for my schedule. However, for some reason, teachers were giving us more work to do sadly.

And then sadly we were told that we were going to do our exams online. We would have to have our cameras on whilst doing them. Preparation was a bit difficult for me as I had younger siblings and other family members over. I would feel overwhelmed and at times it did feel too much. However, I did pull through and for me a part of it was realising that I was trying my hardest and that I couldn't do more. Furthermore, as a muslim, I believe in predestination. Therefore, what ever is destined for me is the best for me.

My exams then came and I must say that I did warn my family to keep my younger siblings away from my room and somehow my 2 year old sister managed to enter the room I was in, only to be quickly pulled out of the room by my brother. All my exams (except maths) were online and one dramatic experience that I recall is my Biology exam. I was using my laptop for the test and I used my phone for google classroom (an app that allows you to FaceTime with teachers and other students among many other things). The app really drains your battery so before I knew it my phone was going to die and I obviously couldn't go and charge it since I was in the middle of the exam. My phone ended up dying and I started running around the house to find a charger. Luckily I charged it and to my surprise my teacher didn't even realise that I left the class!

I must say that the wait for the results of my exams was very nerve racking and the fact that it had an impact on whether I could do the university course I aspired to made me stress even more. I am glad to say that I did get the grades that I wanted :)

My experience of doing the UCAT exam:

Hello,

It was stressful. I started preparing about a number of weeks before my exam and I used books and courses to prepare for it. I found it difficult because of the fact that it requires you to really push yourself in the limited time constraints you have - therefore it is very easy to make silly mistakes. When it came to the exam date on the 26th I felt like I wasn't ready and I feel like it was partly due to me panicking, so I rescheduled for the 2nd to do at home and online. This year is the first year that the UCAT could be done at home (it is normally done in test centres), I had to take pictures of my room as well as ensuring that my desk is COMPLETELY clear. I am soooo glad it is over!