

# Session

## Pearson Edexcel exam security and protocols briefing

### Speakers:

Hayley White, Vice President, Standards and Services, Pearson School Qualifications

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**Hayley White**

Vice President Assessment,  
Standards and Services



**Elliott Gibbons**

Head of Investigations

# The life of a question paper

# The question paper cycle

## Paper writing

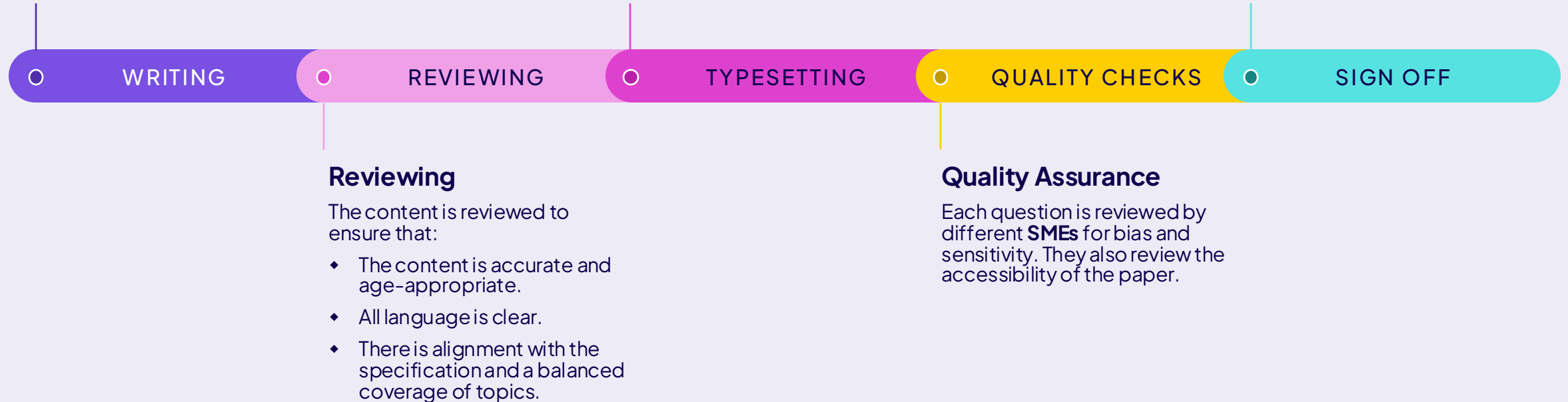
The question paper and associated assessment materials are written by the **Subject Matter Expert (SME)** based on the requirements for the specification.

## Typesetting

The typesetting process turns the content from a word document into an exam paper. If it's a traditional exam paper, it is typeset, but if it's an onscreen assessment, then the content is built for onscreen delivery.

## Sign off

The paper and associated assessment materials are signed off internally and by the senior examining team. The paper is then passed onto our paper setup team to prepare it for print or onscreen set up.



# Delivery of papers

## What happens after the paper is signed off?

- Our Question Paper Dispatch Team for a final quality check before it is sent to print.
- Once printing is complete, the papers are dispatched to our approved centres around the world.
- All papers are then kept secure by the centre until the exam date.



For the May/June 2025 exam series, **8,416,1008 exam papers were printed.**

## Modified papers

Modified papers help ensure that candidates with varying needs can access the examination materials needed.

For the May/June 2025 exam series, we received **28,412** orders for modified exam papers.

Modification	Orders
Enlarged font	15,559
Braille	326
Interactive paper	12,160
Other	367

Explore our [modified paper case studies](#).

# May/June 2025 Exam Series – Highlights

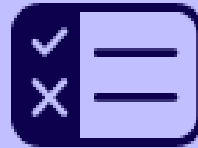
**5,900,000**

Exam scripts received from around the world at our warehouse in Sheffield, UK.



**108.7 Million**

Individual items marked on our online marking platform, across 279 different subjects.



**6,200,000**

Results issued to candidates worldwide, with 183,787 post-results services requests.



# Exam security arrangements

# What security arrangements are in place?

- We have **security measures** in place that follow the life of the question paper.
- Rigorous **checks and requirements** on our Assessment Associates and staff involved in paper production.
- Our **suppliers** are subject to **audits** inspections and checks.
- We require our couriers to have **enhanced tracking worldwide**.
- We complete **centre approval** checks and **inspections**.
- We modify our **question paper delivery arrangements** according to the risk.
- Our **examiners/moderators** let us know if they've identified potential malpractice.





# Security issues – what are we doing?

# Different types of security issues

**Production of  
assessment  
materials**

**Deliveries**

**Candidates**

**Centres**

**Regional bad  
actors**



# What actions are we taking?

- **Region specific** question papers.
- Increased **spend** on question paper security management.
- **Data reviews** to identify potential risk centres or regions.
- Increased **unannounced inspections**.
- Examiner **briefings and referrals**.
- **Data analysis** to identify candidate performance of potential concern.
- **Script reviews** for candidates and cohorts where there are security concerns.

Our **malpractice procedures** are well established and followed in all cases of suspected security concerns. Sanctions will be imposed on centres and candidates and we'll work with police forces where appropriate.

# Q&A