



Summer 2021 Qualifications

Arrangements for Teacher Assessed Grades

Principles

Teachers will not 'be asked to decide the grade a student might have achieved had the pandemic not occurred,' nor 'what grade a student might have received if they had been able to take their exams'.

Teachers will assess students 'on the areas of content they have covered... while ensuring sufficient breadth of content coverage so as not to limit progression'.

Teacher assessed grades will reflect the standard at which students are performing now, not their potential, and will be a 'fair, reasonable and carefully considered judgement of the student's performance across a range of evidence, on the curriculum content that they have been taught.'

Internal Quality Assurance

Grading will be subject to a rigorous process of collating, benchmarking, evaluating, reviewing, and finalising. We must and will check for bias and malpractice, and consider results in previous years to help us check if our judgements are unduly harsh or lenient.

Each grade for a subject will be signed off by at least two teachers in that subject, one of whom will be the head of department.

The Head of Centre will confirm that grades are a true representation of student performance, that students have been taught sufficient content to allow progression to the next stage of their education, and that the requirements for internal quality assurance have been met.



Exceptional Arrangements Summer 2021

Awards of GCSE, AS, A level, and Vocational and Technical Qualifications

v2 22/01/2021

This document aims to summarise key information concerning the exceptional arrangements being implemented for the awards of grades and qualifications this summer as a result of the cancellation

External Quality Assurance

Exam boards will check our internal processes.

Exam boards may visit us as one of a random sample of schools to review the evidence we will have used to arrive at Teacher Assessed Grades, and investigate further if it appears that evidence is not authentic.

Additional checks from exam boards could also be triggered if concerns are raised, if results are out of line with expectations based on past performance, where there have been significant changes in early entries, or where schools have previously received sanctions for malpractice.

Appeals

Any student who believes that their grade does not reflect the standard of their performance will first ask us to check whether an administrative or procedural error had been made.

If an administrative or procedural error was made, we will submit and request a revised grade.

If no administrative or procedural error was made a student can ask us to appeal to the exam board on their behalf. If the exam board judges the grade does not reflect a reasonable exercise of academic judgement, and is not supported by the evidence, it will change the grade.

Note that grades could go up or down following an appeal.

Timeline

Grades must be submitted on Friday 18 June. (Results must be kept confidential by the awarding organisation and by centres and teachers.)

Teachers will determine grades as late in the academic year as is practicable, to enable teaching to continue for as long as possible.

Students will receive their AS and A level results on 10 August.

Students will receive their GCSE results on 12 August.

Students will receive results of their VTQs 'no later' than these dates.

Evidence

Teachers can draw on existing records and available evidence from any point over the course of study, including internal tests taken by students in class, mock exams, substantial classwork or homework and work produced via remote learning (where teachers are confident that the work produced is the student's own).

The standard of any Non Examined Assessments (coursework) undertaken will also be taken into account, including any partially completed.

Some sources of evidence will carry more weight than others.

Evidence

Assessments that are undertaken on return will not be confined to a specific window of time to give teachers as much flexibility as possible.

Such assessments, which take the form of individual short topic tests targeted at specific grades, will be based on:

- Materials provided by exam boards for use in all subjects after Easter, with advice for teachers about content coverage, topic selection, marking and making grading judgements.
- Tasks devised by teachers using exam board materials.

Evidence sharing

Before grades are submitted, we will make students aware of the evidence we are using to assess them, and they will be required to confirm that the evidence is their own work.

Students will have the opportunity to make teachers aware of any mitigating circumstances they believe should be taken into account, e.g.:

- Where illness or other personal circumstances might have temporarily affected performance, such as in November mock exams.
- Where reasonable adjustments and access arrangements were not in place when evidence was generated.

So...

Keep going.

Attend.

Be patient and trust us.

Work hard.

Follow your teachers' advice and instructions.

Sources

- [DfE: What you need to know about grades in 2021, guide for parents and students](#)
- [DfE: Teacher assessed grades for students \(Press release\)](#)
- [Ofqual: Chief Regulator on How qualifications will be awarded in 2021](#)
- [DfE: Awarding Qualifications in Summer 2021 Guidance](#)
- [DfE & Ofqual: Consultation and outcomes on GCSE, AS and A level summer 2021](#)
- [DfE & Ofqual: Consultation and outcomes on the award of VTQs in summer 2021](#)
- [DfE: Collection of publications on GCSE, AS and A level qualifications in 2021](#)
- [DfE: Collection of publications on VTQs in 2021](#)
- [Ofqual: Awarding of functional skills in 2021 Guidance](#)
- [DfE: Direction from the Secretary of State for Education to Ofqual's Chief Regulator](#)
- [Ofqual: Chief Regulator Response to Secretary of State's direction](#)
- [Ofqual: Consultation on general qualifications alternative awarding framework](#)
- [Ofqual: Draft guidance for schools on how to generate the evidence used to determine grades](#)