



Awarding of Grades in Summer 2021

GCSE, AS and A-levels

Assessment and evidence

Teachers will be required to make a holistic judgement of each student's performance on a range of evidence relating to the subject content that has been delivered by their teacher (either in the classroom or via remote learning). Additional information/guidance includes:

- Teachers must assess their students' performance, only on what content has been delivered to them by their teachers, to determine the grade each student should receive.
- Teachers can use evidence of a student's performance from throughout the course to inform their judgement.
- Teachers should determine the grades as late in the academic year as is practicable, and not confined to a defined window, to enable teaching to continue for as long as possible.
- Schools and colleges will be required to use a broad range of evidence across the taught content to determine the grades before submitting the grades to the exam boards, including:
 - student work produced in response to assessment materials provided by the exam board, including groups of questions, past papers or similar materials such as practice or sample papers
 - non-exam assessment (NEA) work (often referred to as coursework), even if this has not been fully completed
 - substantial classwork or homework (including those that took place during remote learning)
 - internal tests taken by pupils
 - mock exams taken over the course of study
 - records of a student's capability and performance over the course of study in performance-based subjects such as music, drama and PE
 - records of a student's progress and performance over the course of study
- Students should continue to work on their non-exam assessment (NEA), including for project qualifications. NEA will be marked by teachers and will contribute to the overall grade, whether or not it has been completed.
- Teachers should mark the NEA according to the normal mark scheme.
- Exam boards will not be required to moderate teachers' NEA marking this year.
- In GCSE, AS and A-level Art and Design, the student's grade must be based on the portfolio only, whether or not it has been completed. Students will not be penalised if, due to circumstances beyond their control, they were unable to complete their portfolio.
- Overall, it will be no easier or harder for a student to achieve a particular grade this year compared to previous years.

Support materials

Exam boards will provide a package of support materials to include questions, mark schemes, data about how students typically performed in individual questions and exemplar materials, as well as advice for teachers about content coverage, topic selection, marking and making grading judgements. This will be based on past questions and will include a proportion of previously unpublished questions for every subject.

Teachers will be able to use the support materials immediately following publication and until the deadline for the submission of grades. Use of the exam board support materials is not compulsory; they will be part of a range of evidence teachers could use to determine the grade.

Quality assurance

The College's internal quality assurance arrangements must include consideration of the College's profile of results in previous years as a guide to help them to check that their judgements are not unduly harsh or lenient.



Appeals and results

A summary of information relating to appeals and results includes:

- Students will be able to appeal their grade.
- A student who is unhappy with their grade will first ask their centre to check whether an administrative or procedural error has been made.
- Where a centre does identify an error in the grade submitted to the exam board, it can submit a revised grade and a rationale for the board to consider. If the exam board is satisfied with the rationale, it will issue a revised grade.
- Where a centre does not believe an error has been made, a student can ask the centre to appeal to the exam board on their behalf. The centre will submit the student's appeal to the exam board and provide the evidence on which its judgement had been made; the exam board will consider whether, in its view, the grade reflected an appropriate exercise of academic judgement. If the exam board judges that it did not, the exam board will determine the grade that the evidence would support. The exam board will also check that the centre has followed its own process.
- An exam board will only revise a student's grade at appeal where the board finds the evidence on which the grade was determined cannot reasonably support that grade, rather than as a result of marginal differences of opinion.
- A student's grade could go up or down following an appeal.
- To reduce the number of errors made and, in turn, the volume of appeals, centres will be expected to tell their students the evidence on which their grades will be based, before the grades are submitted to exam boards. This will allow issues associated with, for example, absence, illness or reasonable adjustments to be identified and resolved before grades are submitted.
- The date by which all appeals will have been considered will depend on the volume made, and the date by which the materials are submitted to the exam boards. As in a normal year, we expect the exam boards to prioritise appeals where the outcome will determine whether the student will be accepted onto a higher or further education course.

Results days will be on 10 August for AS and A-levels, and 12 August for GCSE results.

Vocational and Technical Qualifications (VTQs) - these include BTECs and Cambridge Technicals

There is a limited amount of information on these qualifications at present because each qualification will have its own particular arrangements, which will be determined by the relevant exam board over the next few weeks.

Approach to assessment and awarding

For those VTQs most similar to GCSEs, AS and A-levels, exam boards are expected to take similar approaches to those used for those qualifications including the use of teacher judgement and appeals.

What to expect from your exam board

Exam boards will be working on providing information as soon as they can about the key focus areas for teaching and learning, assessment, and the timeline (what to do and when), so that learners can receive results.

Exam boards should be able to tell us quickly:

Which qualifications will take similar approaches awarding to GCSEs, AS and A-levels.

Exam boards should let us know within the next few weeks about:

How centres should determine teacher assessed grades, including internal and external quality assurance procedures; arrangements for results days; deadlines to submit information; and any changes to adaptations.