



Centre Assessed Grades 2021

Following the publishing of details from Ofqual, we are now able to share full guidance on the process that will be taken for assessment of GCSEs, AS and A-levels this academic year.

Below, you will find proposals for the grading, quality assurance and appeals processes. Students and parents are asked not to approach staff for indicative grades, but they will be told which pieces of work and assessments are being used as evidence for their final grade prior to submission to the exam board. Please note that students do not need to be told that a piece of work will count towards their evidence prior to its completion.

This year's grades will be awarded by teachers and will not be standardised via a national algorithm as was the case in 2020. Details of the systems of quality assurance within the school are outlined below and these are designed to ensure the fairness of grades awarded. There will also be external quality assurance from the exam boards to ensure that schools are moderating grades correctly and that excessive inflation of grades is not occurring.

Teaching of new material should cease as soon as is reasonably possible to do so but no later than Friday 26 March. There is no expectation that students complete courses but staff must ensure sufficient coverage of the curriculum to enable progression to the next stage of education

Assessment Evidence

Teachers are being asked to use a range of evidence to make a judgement of the grade each student is performing at. Students should only be assessed on what they have been taught, ensuring sufficient coverage of the curriculum to enable progression to the next stage of education. When determining the grade, teachers should reflect the standard at which the student is performing now, not their potential.

The range of evidence which can be used includes; work completed in response to assessment material published by the exam board, NEA work, records of student progress, record of a student's performance in performance-based subjects, centre-devised tasks that reflect the specification such as homework, end of unit tests, mock exams.

Of the evidence selected, 2 pieces must have been completed by all students in a cohort to ensure that moderation of work between classes can take place effectively. A minimum of 2 further pieces of evidence will be gathered to further demonstrate the ability of the individual student. The pieces of work being evaluated will be communicated to students although the individual grades for these pieces of evidence do not necessarily need to be communicated as the assessment process requires a holistic approach.

Staff are responsible for evaluating these pieces of evidence based on when the work was completed, how the work was produced (i.e. in school in controlled conditions or as homework) and the level of the work set. More recent evidence is likely to be more representative of student performance and historical tasks that have been assessed using formalised exam board mark schemes should be carefully considered for their validity. There is, however, no expectation that all or any of the evidence gathered be completed since the reopening of schools on March 8.

Although not all evidence must be completed in school or under 'exam conditions', staff must be certain that the work is the student's own and that the student has not been given an inappropriate level of support to complete it. Exam boards may investigate instances where it appears that evidence is not authentic.

To help staff with making judgements about the standard of the work, the exam board are issuing assessment materials at the end of March which will be based on particular topics. This material will include questions, mark schemes, exemplar responses and reference to past performance to allow staff to gauge an accurate picture of the level of the work being produced. The assessment materials do not have to be used as pieces of evidence, but the material should be carefully considered to ensure accurate assessment and grading.

Students should continue to work on their non-exam assessment (NEA), including for Project qualifications. NEAs will be marked by teachers and will contribute to the overall grade, whether or not it has been completed, but exam boards are not required to moderate it.

To prevent Year 11 students who are studying for 11 GCSEs being overwhelmed with these small evidence-gathering assessments, a timetable for carrying out assessed work has been published to staff. There is no requirement for staff to carry out additional assessments, but the timetable will ensure that subjects that do, take a staggered approach to manage student workload. As students in Year 13 study a maximum of 4 subjects, assessments for these students can take place at the preference of the teacher.

Recording of Grades

It is not necessary for staff to record graded assessments for each piece of evidence. The evidence, when combined, should create a coherent picture of the student's performance and ability across all assessment objectives and grading of this should be in line with the material published by the exam boards.

Assessment information will then be processed by the Exams Team and uploaded using each exam board's individual system before June 18th. A Headteacher's declaration will be signed to confirm that there have been no errors in the recording of the grades.

Quality Assurance

All students will have at least 2 common pieces of evidence per subject which will form the basis of the internal moderation process. Any further pieces of evidence will be used to support the determined grade for each student on an individual basis.

To ensure that excessive inflation is not occurring at a centre level, the reported grades will be analysed against previous performance for the centre in terms of attainment and progress using 2019 measures as these were the last reportable external assessments. Any anomalies evidenced in this analysis will be reviewed and internal quality assurance using random sampling will take place. If re-moderation is deemed to be required, this will then be communicated to staff to ensure a consistent approach across all subjects.

Exam boards will also carry out external quality assurance of these internal processes. These may either occur as part of the random sampling carried out by the board or because of a statistical trigger after analysis of the reported grades. Exam boards will not re-mark the evidence or give an alternative grade, but they may request that the centre carry out an investigation to ensure fairness across all subjects and schools.

Appeals

The full appeals process has been outlined in a separate document titled 'CAG Appeals Policy 2021'.

Results Days

Students will receive their results for A/AS levels on 10 August and GCSEs on 12 August. The school will communicate clear details of the processes for these days in due course.