



Centre Assessed Grades

Information for Parents and Students who would have sat GCSEs, A levels, BTECs and CTECs in the summer of 2020

Due to the current national Covid-19 emergency students are not able to sit GCSE, A Level or BTEC/CTEC exams as their main method of final assessment this summer. Instead, schools were asked by OFQUAL (The Office of Qualifications and Examinations Regulation) to supply examination boards with Centre Assessed Grades (CAGs) and rankings of those students within the cohort for each subject at GCSE and A Level. For BTECs and CTECs, schools were not required to submit an overall CAG but instead were asked by OFQUAL to provide CAGs for incomplete units of study along with the ranking of each student overall.

Our process for submitting these grades was under-pinned by the information provided in [OFQUAL's](#) guidance. Please do start by reading this if you have not yet done so and you would like to understand how your child's grades will be calculated. You may also find this five minute video informative <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wK2T7wcPmvU>.

During this process, our staff followed very precise and consistent guidance about how they should arrive at CAGs and rankings. This data then went through a series of rigorous checks before final submission to the exam boards. The exam boards will standardise each school's submission of data and adjust as required ahead of results being issued to students in August.

GCSE & A Levels

Stage 1

Individual subject teachers considered all of the evidence for each student suggested in the OFQUAL guidance, as well using their professional judgement, based on knowledge of specifications and experience of the examination system, to make a fair and objective judgement of the grade they believe a student would have achieved had they sat their exams this year. Teachers also ranked the students in their class from the highest and most secure grade down to the lowest and least secure grade.

Stage 2

Heads of Department then checked these grades ensuring that processes had been followed to arrive at them, checking them against:

- assessment tracking across the year
- outcomes of Progress Examinations taken in November and March
- previous outcomes in the subject at the school

- data records we hold on your child's previous attainment and progress
- any knowledge of your child, related to their learning, that holds relevance to the course

They then used this information to rank the whole cohort from the highest and most secure grade down to the lowest and least secure grade.

Stage 3

Once these checks (and any necessary adjustments to grades and rankings) had been undertaken by Heads of Department, members of the Senior Leadership Team then scrutinized the information supplied by each subject ensuring the process had been consistently applied using the same criteria as in Stage 2.

Stage 4

Once these checks (and any necessary adjustments to grades and rankings) had been made, the Headteacher conducted a thorough scrutiny of processes, ensuring consistency in the application of checks at each stage and examining how evidence was utilised by staff to arrive at the individual CAGs. This stage ensured that CAGs ready for submission were a fair and objective judgement of the grade the school believes a student would have achieved had they sat their exams this year.

Stage 5

The Examinations Officer supported by the Data Manager uploaded the required data to the examination boards meeting the deadlines specified.

Stage 6

OFQUAL will undertake a national standardizing process and for this reason the grade submitted by the school may not be the final grade a student is awarded. A Level students will receive their results on 13 August and GCSE students will receive their results on 20 August. The school's format for results days is being considered in line with government guidance on social distancing and will be communicated in due course.

BTEC and CTECs

OFQUAL released separate guidance for schools about how Summer 2020 results will be calculated for vocational qualifications such as BTECs and CTECs. OFQUAL will arrive at a calculated grade for each learner in each subject based on externally assessed units that have already been completed and the school's own CAG for assessed units that were not able to be completed. In addition the school was asked to provide the ranking of students for each separate qualification from those expected to achieve the highest grade down to those likely to achieve the lowest grade. **The same six stages above were applied to these qualifications.**

The full guidance can be found here:

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/879019/Summer_2020_results_for_vocational_technical_and_other_qualifications.pdf

OFQUAL's aim is for students to receive results at the same time as GCSEs, and A level results.

Appeals and the Chance to sit Examinations in the Autumn

Students who feel that their grades do not reflect their on-going performance during the course will have the opportunity to take their exams in the Autumn or in the Summer of 2021. If they choose to do this, both grades will stand. OFQUAL have confirmed that students **will not** be able to challenge their CAG or their position in the centre's rank order through an appeal.

A student will be able to ask their centre to check whether they made an error when submitting a centre assessment grade and including them in the centre's rank order. They will be able to raise a complaint to their centre if they have evidence of bias or that they were discriminated against; they could also pass such evidence on to the exam board who could investigate for potential malpractice.

Grade Release by Examination Boards

OFQUAL has made it clear that Centres must not, under any circumstances, share the CAG nor the rank order of students with students, or their parents/carers or any other individuals outside the centre, before final results have been issued.