

Grading of GCSE, BTEC and A levels 2021

Frequently Asked Questions

<p>We're likely to be away on results day. Can results be posted to a UK address we provide?</p>	<p>Yes, they can. A signed letter by the learner is needed for this. Alternatively, they could be collected from the school office by a friend or relative providing a signed letter from the learner is given. Results day for all qualifications is Tuesday 10th for A Levels and Thursday 12th August for GCSEs.</p>
<p>Will the mock grades be taken into account for the final grade?</p>	<p>Yes, but these are <u>just one</u> piece of evidence amongst many other sources of evidence such as end of unit tests and NEAs (even if the NEAs are incomplete). We recognise that learners may have been ill or self-isolating just before or during the mocks.</p>
<p>Will the students be told the grade their teachers intend to give them or will parents be given any feedback from the on-going assessments?</p>	<p>We are not allowed to tell learners or parents the grades before results day. Learners will be informed of how they are getting on through feedback on their work and parents will be kept informed of their children's progress.</p>
<p>I am concerned that being key worker parents we have had to rely on our child in the day to do his work and it's been extremely tough. We are very worried that his grades may reflect this. How can we be reassured this will be taken into account?</p>	<p>We understand that work done in lockdown varied between children for a variety of reasons. Progress made during lockdown must be recognised but the work done in school before and especially after lockdown is of high value.</p>
<p>When do learners leave school?</p>	<p>This has not been confirmed but both Year 11 and 13 will leave either at May half term or the week after.</p>
<p>In assessments, will we get crib sheets for formulas, for example, like the government was planning for the GCSEs?</p>	<p>Learners will be given all the necessary information, in line with the course specification, for internal assessments and they will be expected to revise for them thoroughly as they would for any other assessment.</p>
<p>How much weight will be given to the exams now due to be taken immediately after the Easter holidays?</p>	<p>Assessments taken after Easter are important. However, there is other very important evidence from across the whole course that is taken into account to give a full picture.</p>
<p>Continuous assessment. When will the last coursework be submitted? Are students expected to revise and submit assessed coursework at the same time.</p>	<p>Any kind of continuous assessment/coursework/NEA is likely to continue if required by the exam board and help contribute to the overall judgement.</p>
<p>In light of the fact that the Mock Examinations were completed under exam conditions, can students be assured that their final grades will be AT LEAST as good as their achievement in the Mocks.</p>	<p>Performance of learners varies over time but it is reasonable to assume that that most learners improve as they approach final assessments. However, whilst mocks are a good indicator of performance they do not cover the whole course and the teachers will take this into account. Mocks cannot be regarded as a true substitute for final exams or be a chief determinant of the final grade.</p>
<p>Will formal assessments be taking place in any format before grades are submitted in June?</p>	<p>A range of informal assessments will take place in lessons between now and when learners are due to leave. Learners will be notified when these take place to allow for adequate time to revise.</p>
<p>How do we know the grading will be done fairly?</p>	<p>Teachers have strict guidelines and procedures to follow to ensure standards are maintained. Ofqual will check that schools are following these procedures so parents can be assured of consistency and fairness.</p>

Are students being graded on their current level or what the teacher thinks they would have achieved without the disruption? No matter how hard teachers & students have worked to cover the curriculum, the students have not had the same depth of education as usual.	The grades awarded will be based on what the teacher thinks the learner would have achieved based on current progress, which includes evidence from across the whole course.
Will target grades have an influence on final GCSE scores and if so, how would the calculation account for learners who, for whatever reason, did not take Yr6 SATS?	Teachers will only use sound evidence that shows a learner has reached a particular standard when making judgements and so in this sense a target is not important.
Will there be a right to appeal?	Appeals must be made to the school and it will run checks to make sure clerical errors have not been made. Parents can appeal to the exam board if the grade does not change. If they are satisfied that the school's procedures on grading are sound, then the grade will stand. Note that the grade could go down following an appeal to the exam board.
Will parents be given an opportunity to speak with teachers about grades and if yes, will grades be given by teachers that actually know my child and understand their personal profile?	Teachers are always available to contact if required. The child's teacher, who knows them best, awards the grades.
Will the predicted grades be used as a benchmark?	Target grades based on our knowledge of your child and their KS2 performance will act as a starting point. However, the final grades will be based on current and past performance and represent what the teacher thinks the learner would most likely achieve in the exams, based on current progress.
Will mocks be the only tests? If not how many more tests, how often and how long will each one be.	No, mocks are not the only tests. There will be a variety of low stakes of assessments taken in the lesson (in test conditions as normal) between now and when learners leave school.
We haven't had any information about further education and what happens next what will happen if the grades are low for our child ?	
Will assessments be based on the most recent topics we've done?	Assessments will address work that was mostly done in school and cover the whole course. However, recent evidence from assessments is valuable.
With teachers wanting to continue assessing students ahead of making their grade predictions, will they incorporate the use of past GCSE exam papers, and if so, in subjects which normally require students to sit more than one paper, will there be clarification on which papers will be utilised for assessment?	Assessments will cover a range of topics and may include past questions from previous exams. All papers sat will contribute to the basket of evidence used for grading purposes.
Will students stay in school once grades are submitted to exam boards in June?	No, once grades are submitted the learners will leave school.
What if a student has to isolate in the last few weeks of school.	Your child's teachers have a good understanding of their capabilities and will allow for this. Judgements are only made on the work completed. i.e the elements of the course that has been taught and received.

My child has special educational needs and spent considerable amounts time in the Support Department. In a normal exam, they would have special access arrangements, like extra time. How will this be dealt with in the new way of grading?

Reasonable adjustments for access arrangements should have been in place when evidence was generated. Where they were not, the teachers will take that into account when coming to their judgements (which will include input from appropriate specialist teachers).
Where illness or other personal circumstances might have temporarily affected performance, for example in mock exams, the school will bear that in mind when making its judgements.