

Our Centre Assessed Grade Process for Qualifications



Headlines

- Our teachers know our students well and were able to assess grades with a high degree of credibility using a range of evidence.
- The grades we submitted to the exam boards were agreed following significant internal quality assurance process and are not the sole responsibility of any individual teacher.
- The standardisation model developed by Ofqual and the awarding organisations is statistical and may not reflect the grades submitted.
- The standardisation process applied by the exam boards ensures grades awarded this year are consistent with those awarded to other cohorts in other years.
- This approach was decided on a national level as the fairest possible approach available under extreme circumstances. It is a rigorous process which means that grades awarded this year are as valid as in any other year and was designed to allow students to progress to the next stage of their lives in the normal way.

Methodology used to Award GCSE and A Level Grades

GCE A, AS and GCSE level grades have been awarded by exam boards this summer through a methodology set by the regulators. We were asked to send exam boards two pieces of information for each student on each subject. These were to be solely based on existing evidence:

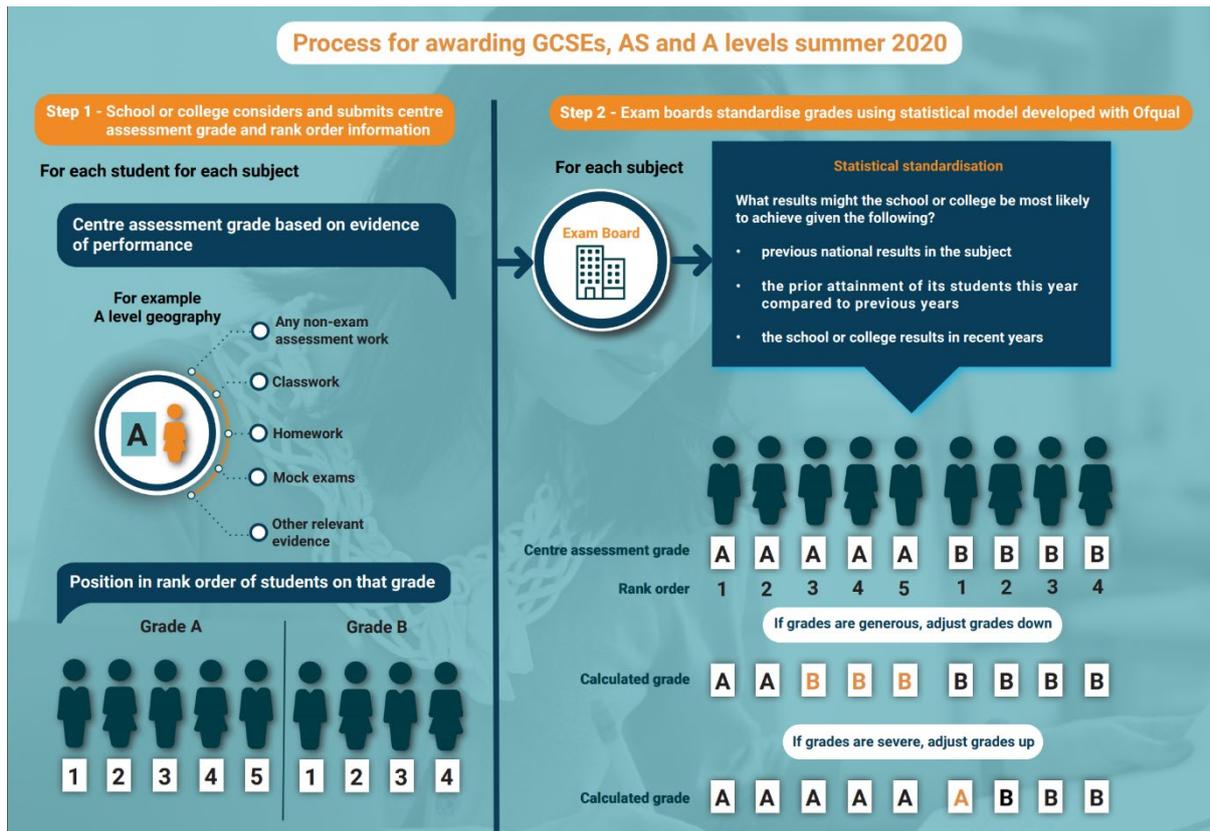
- Centre Assessment Grades (CAGs) – the grade we believed students were most likely to achieve in their examinations using all the evidence we had of your progress across your time with us
- Rank Orders – within each subject, the order of students, by performance, for each grade

Following the guidance, our teachers generated the CAGs on the basis of all the assessment evidence each department had collected over the duration of the course. This could include, but is not limited to: formal classroom assessments, non-examined units, coursework, formal college assessments, class and homework tasks that had been graded and practical or verbal elements already assessed.

The grades and ranks were then reviewed by the senior management team to ensure that the profiles of departments were as expected. Any situations where CAGs appeared to be out of line with cross-college assessment data were investigated. The outcomes of this quality assurance process were then passed back to departments to action changes. Prior to submission, final assessment of the CAGs was undertaken following the attribution of rank orders and these were submitted to the exam boards for their processing and moderation activities.

We are confident that no bias or discrimination has entered the process and that our quality assurance measures were robust and provided our students with the fairest assessment of their possible outcomes should they have sat the final examinations.

To ensure fairness nationally, our submitted CAGs were then 'standardised' by the exam boards. This process considers a school or colleges' results over time and students' prior attainment to determine whether the Centre Assessment Grades submitted were more generous or severe would be expected. This process allows for the standardisation of grades across schools and colleges to ensure that results are aligned across the cohort. We as a college, had no influence over this element of the awarding process.



A detailed explanation of the process can be found in the following Ofqual document: [Summer 2020 grades for GCSE, AS and A level, Extended Project Qualification and Advanced Extension Award in maths Guidance for teachers, students, parents and carers.](#)

Awarding of BTEC Vocational course grades

BTEC grades have been awarded based on the culmination of all the students work for each unit they completed across their time on a given course. Each grade that a student receives for each individual unit is then equated into points based on the weighting, or size of each unit. The points that each student receives for each unit are then totalled together and then this gives them an overall grade which is set out by the awarding body each year e.g. Pass (P) Merit (M) Distinction (D) for a one A level equivalent course, or D*D* for a two A level

equivalent (Diploma) or D*D*D* for a course where this is the total of the students study programme.

For BTEC qualifications, the College only provided centre assessed unit grades for those not completed, and these were added to the overall calculation including unites completed. No overall CAG was provided by the College.

The process for this year has meant that teaching staff have been asked to estimate the grades that students would have achieved for the units that they had not yet completed, or those that they had not started prior to the enforced lockdown. Considering previous cohort performance upon completing the course, students work up until that point; assignments produced, and grades awarded, as well as how students would have performed should they have continued to work in college with specialist support. This was checked and standardised at both a course and management level by our experienced staff before being submitted.

The process then required that each course ranked both the first and second year cohorts together from 1; the most secure top grade, down to the number on each course e.g. if there are 42 year 2 students and 31 Year 1 students on a subsidiary diploma course the rankings would go from 1 to 73. These rankings were then submitted to Pearson who are the awarding body for Edexcel qualifications who then apply their own statistical analysis, when awarding final grades.



The process for awarding Level 2 BTEC Vocational course grades was the same as above in that the college provided CAGs for the internally assessed incomplete and completed units

with one difference. The externally assessed units will be solely awarded by the exam board for all learners across the country.

Differences between Centre Assessment Grades and Final Grades

It is possible that the grade a student receives on results day is different from the CAG that the College submitted. Any centre may experience some adjustments to their Centre Assessment Grades. The extent of any difference a centre might experience may vary between subjects because standardisation was conducted at a subject level, not at centre level.

Centres were asked to make their best assessment of what grade the student would be most likely to receive and to place candidates in rank order. The purpose of this ranking was to allow adjustments to take place to ensure the distribution of grades at a national level was similar to previous years.

There was certain to be some mismatch between centre-assessed grades and the final grades awarded by exam boards to ensure consistency in grade distribution between years, and this was recognised in the process that was used.

This is a process that has never been attempted before and was forced by circumstances which had not been foreseen. Staff worked diligently to provide grades for students and to place them in rank order as fairly and accurately as possible.

Requests for Centre Assessment Grades

Dissatisfaction with the grades issued by exam boards does not constitute grounds for appeal, unless there is evidence that there has been a technical error by the centre or the board. Every centre will receive instructions from the exam boards including a form for appeals if they believe there has been an error, either on their own part or that of the board.

- For AL results, should you require your Centre Assessed Grades as submitted by the college, you can request these for one or all of your subjects by emailing cag@wyke.ac.uk from your college email account. You will need to state that you are requesting your CAGs and state which course(s) you would like to receive them for.
- For BTEC qualifications, should you require your Centre Assessed Unit Grades as submitted by the college, you can request these for one or all of your subjects by emailing cag@wyke.ac.uk from your college email account. You will need to state that you are requesting your unit breakdown for BTEC qualifications and state which course(s) you would like to receive them for.

Through this process, we will not release any rank orders as this could lead to identification of other students. All requests will be responded to within 14 days.

Even if there is a difference between the CAG and the grade you have been awarded, you are not able to appeal or make representation on the basis of dissatisfaction or principle of the

changes to the grades. The arrangements for awarding qualifications in summer 2020 state that candidates can appeal their grades through their centre if they feel the process this summer was not followed correctly in their case.

These processes do not affect your legal rights under the Data Protection Act (2018) as detailed in our [Privacy Notices](#).

Arrangements for Appeals

The arrangements for awarding qualifications in summer 2020 state that candidates can appeal their grades through their centre if they feel the process this summer was not followed correctly in their case.

A candidate can:

- ask their centre to appeal on their behalf to an awarding body if there is evidence that leads a candidate to believe:
 - the centre made an error when submitting a centre assessment grade or rank order information
 - an awarding body made a mistake when calculating, assigning or communicating a grade

A candidate cannot:

- appeal against their centre assessment grades and position in the rank order
- appeal in respect of the process or procedure used in calculating their centre assessment grades and position in the rank order
- appeal directly in any respect to the awarding body

Autumn Exams

Any candidate who received a calculated grade in summer 2020 will have the opportunity to sit the exam(s) should they wish in either autumn 2020 or summer 2021. If a candidate 'resits' in the autumn, their grades will be based on the written exams alone, and will not take into account any non-examined assessment (coursework) already completed (with the exception of Art, for which students will have to complete a new timed assessment).

The autumn series will take place during the following dates:

- A Level – 5th to 23rd October
- GCSE – 2nd to 23rd November

Any request to take the examinations in the Autumn window need to be completed by Friday 28th August. To request an entry, you must follow the process as detailed in your examination results pack.

Exam Board Details

There is more specific information about the response to COVID-19 from each of the awarding bodies available here:

- AQA <https://www.aqa.org.uk/coronavirus>
- OCR <https://ocr.org.uk/preparing-for-summer-results-2020/students/>
- Pearsons / Edexcel <https://qualifications.pearson.com/en/campaigns/pearson-covid-19/student-support-summer-2020.html>
- WJEC <https://www.wjec.co.uk/home/supporting-teachers-and-learners-during-coronavirus/>

Correct as of 4th August 2020