

Summer 2021 Teacher Assessed Grades and Appeals Guidance

When will the Summer 2021 Teacher Assessed Grades be released?

A Level, AS Level and Vocational qualifications grades will be emailed to students on **Tuesday 10th August at 8:30am.**

GCSE grades will be emailed to students on **Thursday 12th August at 8:30am.**

How were my / my child's grades arrived at this year?

Grades this summer were based on Teacher Assessed Grades (TAGs). TAGs were submitted to the exam boards as a holistic assessment of students' performance in a subject, following a rigorous process of assessment, moderation and quality assurance. These grades were then approved by the relevant exam board, following external quality assurance checks.

What evidence was used to determine my/my child's grades?

The evidence base we used for A Level and Cambridge Technicals qualifications was:

- 1) Internal assessments taken in November 2020, March 2021 and May 2021/June 2021 under controlled conditions. Normal examination rules applied.
- 2) Non-exam assessment (coursework) in subjects where this is appropriate: A Level Geography, A Level History, A Level Art, A Level Photography, A Level English Literature, A Level Computer Science, Cam Tech ICT, Cam Tech Business Extended Certificate and Cam Tech Business Diploma.

The evidence base we used for AS Levels was:

- 1) Internal assessments taken in May 2021 and June 2021 under controlled conditions. Normal examination rules applied.
- 2) Non-exam assessment (coursework) in subjects where this is appropriate: AS Art, AS Photography and AS Media Studies.

The evidence base we used for GCSEs was:

- 1) Internal assessments taken in December 2020, March 2021 and May 2021 under controlled conditions. Normal examination rules applied.
- 2) Non-exam assessment (coursework) in subjects where this is appropriate: GCSE Art, GCSE Photography, and GCSE Drama.

If my child admitted to, or was suspected of, malpractice in an assessment, how did you determine which evidence to use?

In these extremely isolated cases JCQ advised that:

“While there is no one type of evidence that takes precedence, evidence gathered in conditions that enable confidence about the authenticity of the students' work will give more confidence in the overall holistic judgement. **If a teacher identifies a difference in performance between different types of assessment evidence, their grading decision should reflect the evidence they consider, in their professional judgement, to more authentically represent the student's level of attainment.**”

What do I do if I am not happy with my / my child's grade?

All students have the opportunity to appeal their grade if they meet the eligibility criteria (see below). It is important to note that an appeal may result in a grade being lowered, staying the same, or going up. So if a student puts in an appeal and **their grade is lowered, they will receive the lower mark.**

There is also the option to re-sit GCSEs, A levels and some AS levels in the autumn, which may be preferable to some students. The design, content and assessment of these papers will be the same as in a normal year.

What are the grounds for appeal?

There are four main grounds for appeal, as dictated by the Joint Council for Qualifications (JCQ). They are:

- You think we have made an **administrative error**: an example of this would be putting the wrong information into a spreadsheet.
- You think we have made a **procedural error**: this means we have not properly followed our own process, as approved by the exam board. An example of this would be where you have been told you should have received extra time for assessments but this was not given in a certain subject.
- You think the **academic judgement on the selection of evidence was unreasonable**: you think the evidence used to grade you was not reasonable.
- You think the **academic judgement on the grade you were given was unreasonable.**

What does 'unreasonable' mean?

'Unreasonable' is a technical term in this context and means that no other educational professional acting reasonably could have selected the same evidence or come up with the same grade.

This means that just because other forms of evidence may have been equally valid to use, the selection of evidence is not unreasonable. Because of the flexibility of the approach this year, every school and college will have used different forms of evidence. It also means that the independent reviewers will **not** remark or grade students' evidence. Instead, they will look to see **whether any teacher acting reasonably could have arrived at the same grade.**

What will be the outcome of an appeal?

At either stage of the appeals process (see 'What are the two stages of an appeal?' below), a student's grade may go up, stay the same, or go down. **When placing an appeal the student will have to sign a declaration saying that they accept the fact their grade may go down and they may get a lower grade than their original TAG.**

What is a priority appeal?

Priority appeals will be handled more quickly than other appeals, where possible before UCAS's advisory deadline of 8 September.

Priority appeals are only open to **A level students starting university this autumn, who have missed out on the conditions of their firm offer.**

If you decided not to confirm a firm conditional offer and to go through clearing instead, JCQ cannot offer you a priority appeal.

JCQ cannot offer priority appeals for GCSE students, unfortunately.

When making a priority appeal, students will have to include their UCAS number so it can be confirmed that it is a genuine priority appeal.

What should I do if I do not get into my first choice university?

First, do not panic. You may wish to go through clearing, or sit the autumn exams or summer exams next year to try to improve your grade. Speak to Mr Dannie, or another member of the Senior Leadership Team, about your options. All members of the Senior Leadership Team will be in school from Monday 9th August – Friday 13th August to support our students with this process.

If you are going to appeal your grade, you must let your university know you are appealing. They will then let you know whether they will hold a place for you pending the outcome of an appeal (note that universities are not obliged to hold a place for you; this is at their discretion).

What should I do before appealing?

Students must read the JCQ Student and Parent guide before appealing, which will be available on the JCQ website and the school's website on results days. We may not be able to offer as much advice and guidance on the likely success of an appeal this summer as we would in normal years, as we have already moderated and quality assured all the grades ourselves.

What are the two stages of an appeal?

All appeals, on any of the grounds above, must first go through a **centre review**. At this stage, we will check for any administrative errors, and check that our policies and procedures were followed correctly. Our policy has already been approved by the exam boards, so we are only ensuring that we followed this properly, therefore this will be a relatively straight forward process.

The outcome of the centre review will be communicated to students when made.

At the centre review stage, **if we find that a grade should go up or down**, we will ask the exam board to change it. They will then consider this request.

Following the outcome of a centre review, students may still choose to pursue an **awarding organisation (AO) appeal**. They must fill in the form below, which we will then send on their behalf to the exam boards. Students and parents cannot send appeals directly to the exam board themselves – it must come from us.

The outcome of the awarding organisation appeal will be communicated to students when made.

How do I make an appeal?

Following results days, students should fill in the first section of the JCQ form [here](#) and send it to examappeals@stgregorys.harrow.sch.uk

This JCQ form will also be on the school's website on results days.

What are the deadlines for priority appeals?

Critical Priority Appeal	Deadline
Centre Review requested by student	Tuesday 10th August
Outcome of Centre Review returned to student by school	Wednesday 11th August
Stage 2 AO Appeal requested by student	Thursday 12th August
Stage 2 AO Appeal sent by the school to the exam board.	Friday 13th August

Fast Track Priority Appeal	Deadline
Centre Review requested by student	Wednesday 11th August
Outcome of Centre Review returned to student by school	Thursday 12 th August
Stage 2 AO Appeal requested by student	Friday 13th August
Stage 2 AO Appeal sent by the school to the exam board.	Monday 16th August

Standard Priority Appeal	Deadline
Centre Review requested by student	Monday 16th August
Outcome of Centre Review returned to student by school	Tuesday 17th August
Stage 2 AO Appeal requested by student	Thursday 20th August
Stage 2 AO Appeal sent by the school to the exam board.	Monday 23rd August

From Monday 9th August – Friday 13th August all members of the Senior Leadership Team and a significant administrative support team will be in school to assist with the appeals process. In the following week, this staff presence will be reduced and the ‘standard priority appeal’ may well take longer to process than those submitted in the first week.

****An appeal requested after 5pm on Thursday 20th August, may not be able to be processed by the school before the exam board deadline of Monday 23rd August. However, we will do our best to process this as quickly as possible****

What is a Stage 3 review of a Teacher Assessed Grade?

If the awarding organisation asks the school to review a student’s grades following the outcome of a Stage 2 AO appeal, this Stage 3 review will be completed in school as quickly as possible and certainly within 10 working days of the Stage 2 appeal deadline of 23rd August.

*****At all three stages of the appeals process, there may be the need for specialist, expert knowledge (eg subject teachers or SEND knowledge). This may not be possible in August. In such cases, we may wait until the start of term, but priority appeals will still be treated as a priority.*****

What are the deadlines for non-priority appeals?

Non-priority appeals are any A levels, GCSEs or vocational qualifications, where a firm or insurance university place is not pending.

The deadline for submitting a centre review is 3 September; and the deadline for submitting an awarding organisation appeal is 10 September.

Appeals received after these dates may still be considered.

You know my / my child's grades. Why can you not tell us? What if you know we have not met our university conditional offer?

We are forbidden from disclosing the Teacher Assessed Grades to any third party, including students and parents, until results days. Any teacher or member of staff who does this is committing exam malpractice.

Although students may have been given marks or grades on single pieces of evidence, we cannot disclose the final submitted TAG.

During the external quality assurance process taking place in June or July, our submitted TAGs may be moved up or down (although this will always be done through human agency, not by an algorithm).

We only know what a student's conditional offer is if they have chosen to share that information with us. It has not formed part of our objective grading of students. Where we do know this information, we must not let students know their submitted TAGs, even if they haven't met the conditions of their offer.