



Information and statements used to provide this guidance can be accessed via the link below. Additionally, you may find this video helpful:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VXuDOrtJY1Q&feature=youtu.be%29>

Guidance documents:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/awarding-qualifications-in-summer-2020>

### **Frequently Asked Questions**

Information in quotation marks (and italics) below are direct quotations from the guidance issued to 'centres'.

#### **What are all schools required to do to support examination boards in determining examination grades?**

"Exam boards will ask exam centres to generate, for each subject, centre assessment grades for their students, and then to rank order the students within each of those grades".

- a centre assessment grade for each student – the judgement submitted to the exam board by the Head of Centre about the grade that each student is most likely to have achieved if they had sat their exams. This professional judgement is derived from evidence held within the centre and which has been reviewed by subject teachers and relevant heads of department
- the rank order of students within each grade – for example, for all those students with a grade of 5 in GCSE maths, or a grade B in A level biology, a rank order where 1 is the most secure/highest attaining student, and so on.

In other words, if 10 students are considered to have demonstrated A\* attainment in a subject, then these 10 students would have to be ranked 1-10, with number 1 being the most secure A\* and 10 being the least. The same process then takes place for each grade.

#### **What will all schools be asked to submit?**

For each candidate in each subject, a centre assessment grade (see above for the definition) and their rank within each grade band.

#### **Can there be tied ranks within grade bands?**

No. "Tied ranks (that is, giving two students position 1) will not be allowed"

#### **What are the principles for determining the centre assessment grade and the rank order?**

"The centre assessment grades submitted to exam boards must reflect a fair, reasonable and carefully considered judgement the most likely grade a student would have achieved if they had sat their exams this summer and completed any non-exam assessment"

### **What will be taken into account by each department?**

The school will follow the guidance as set out by Ofqual:

Teachers should draw on existing records and available evidence (as far as possible in the context of current public health advice). It is important that the judgements are objective, and they should only take account of evidence about student performance. This will include the following, where it is available.

- records of each student's performance over the course of study, including for example progress review data, classwork, bookwork, and/or participation in performances in subjects such as music, drama and PE
- performance on any non-exam assessment (NEA), even if this has not been fully completed.
- for A level students who took AS in 2019, their AS results in that subject
- performance on any class or homework assessments and mock exams taken over the course of study
- previous results in your centre in this subject
- the performance of this year's students compared to those in previous years
- any other relevant information

### **I haven't finished my NEA as the deadline was not until later in the term. Does this matter?**

It does not matter.

### **Do I need to bring / scan / send my files into school? Will I be required to submit work completed since the school closed?**

Do not worry, this is not required. We do not require any action on the part of any student.

### **Will there be further assessments or tasks?**

Do not worry. We will not asking you to complete any tasks or tests.

### **I am worried that my mock result was not as strong as I had hoped. Does this matter?**

Mock data is but one piece of information to be taken into consideration. We will also look at student's performance over the course of study, including for example progress review data, classwork, bookwork, assessments etc

### **Why doesn't the examination board just ask schools to submit UCAS predicted grades rather than ranking in this way?**

Ofqual has been clear that centre assessed grades are separate from predicted grades. We are required to rank each student within each grade to provide more granular information.

### **Do schools have the final say on the grades awarded?**

No. "So that the final grades awarded are as fair as possible, exam boards will standardise the judgements across different centres once they have been submitted, using a statistical methodology developed in conjunction with Ofqual".

## **What will the exam boards use when deciding which grade to award to each candidate?**

They will take into account the centre assessed grade plus the factors below

1. expected grade distributions at national level
2. results in previous years at individual centre level
3. the prior attainment profile of students at centre level

Point 2 refers to the results profile of the school – i.e. CHSG in this case. Point 3 relates to KS2 data for GCSE and Average Points Score (APS) at GCSE for A level. This is **not applied** at student level, but at centre (i.e. school) level.

## **What happens if a school is too generous, or too severe?**

“If, when compared to the evidence above, your judgements are more generous than would be expected, then the final grades for some or all of your students will be adjusted down. On the other hand, if it appears that your judgements are more severe, then the final grades for some or all of your students will be adjusted up. We will do this to align the judgements across centres, so that, as far as possible, your students are not unfairly advantaged or disadvantaged this summer”.

## **I qualify for Special Consideration. Can we still do this?**

“In the event that a student is unable to take an assessment or suffers a traumatic event that might affect their performance, Special Consideration will not apply this summer. Instead judgements should reflect how the students would have performed under ordinary circumstances. Where illness or other personal circumstances might have affected performance in mock exams, centres should bear that in mind when making their judgements”.

## **When does the school have to submit this data? When will results be issued?**

The school data must be submitted between June 1<sup>st</sup> to the 12<sup>th</sup> and the results days are as per the original published dates i.e. A level results on Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> August and GCSE on Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> August.

## **Can the school share with us what is being submitted to the examination boards?**

I am afraid the answer to that is no. Given that we are submitting recommendations rather than the final outcome, we are not permitted to share any of this information with you. “Centres must not, under any circumstances, share the centre assessment grades 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. This is to protect the integrity of teachers’ judgements, and to avoid teachers, heads of department, senior leaders or Heads of Centre being put under pressure by students and parents, to submit a grade that is not supported by the evidence. Since the final grades for some or all students in a centre could be different from those submitted, it also helps to manage students’ expectations”.

## **What if I am unhappy with the grade the exam board issues me with in the summer?**

“Under the circumstances, the normal arrangements for reviews of marking and appeals will not apply. We are considering what arrangements might be put in place to allow an effective appeal and will consult on proposals shortly. Centres should expect the possible grounds of appeals to be relatively narrow and based on application of the process.

Students who feel that their grades from the summer do not reflect their ability will have the opportunity to take their exams in the autumn series or in summer 2021. If they choose to do this, both grades will stand”.

### **What requirements are there for quality assurance?**

#### Department sign-off

Each set of centre assessment grades for a subject must be signed off by at least two teachers in that subject, one of whom should be the head of department (or where if there is only one teacher or only one is available, by the Head of Centre). Where a staff member might have a personal interest in a candidate (for example as a relative), Heads of Centre should make sure that additional controls are put in place, as appropriate.

#### Head of Centre sign-off

The Head of Centre will be required to confirm that the centre assessment grades and the rank order of students are a true representation of student performance. If the Head of Centre is unavailable to do this, it may be delegated to a Deputy. In reviewing these centre assessment grades, the Head of Centre should consider how the distribution of centre assessment grades compares with grades achieved by the centre in previous years.

### **How are schools / colleges / universities going to use these grades?**

The Government intends normal admission policies to apply.

