

Centre Assessed Grades

A Fact Sheet for Parents and Students who would have sat GCSEs, A levels, BTECs and CTECs this summer

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 have been asked to supply examination boards with centre assessed grades.

Our system for submitting these grades has been designed with the information provided in [Ofqual's guidance](#) as its basis. Please do start by reading this if you haven't already and you would like to understand how your child's grades will be calculated. You may find this 5 minute video informative too <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wK2T7wcPmvU>.

Over coming weeks teachers at both of the Robert Carre Trust schools are expected to follow some very precise and clear guidance about how they should arrive at grades. These grades will then go through several rigorous checks. Heads of Department have been involved in the process from the start ensuring that a range of evidence is being taken into account by teachers.

Stage 1

Teachers will consider all 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, so that they can make a fair and objective judgement of the grade they believe a student would have achieved had they sat their exams this year.

Stage 2

Heads of Department will then check these grades ensuring that processes have been followed to arrive at them, checking them against:

- internal and external grade predictions
- indicative grade reports
- previous outcomes at school, Trust and national level
- data records we hold on your child's previous attainment and progress
- knowledge of your child as a learner they have been made aware of throughout the course where relevant

Stage 3

Once these checks and any necessary adjustments have been undertaken by Heads of Department, Senior staff will then scrutinize the information supplied by each subject ensuring the process has been fairly and consistently applied.

Stage 4

The Executive Headteacher and/or Head of Centre will conduct their own scrutiny of the results ensuring that students have been allocated grades that are fair, based on a range of evidence and ensure that moderated professional judgement has been used to arrive at 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

Only after all these steps have been taken will grades be supplied to the examination boards. We await instructions from these organisations about when the grades must be submitted.

Stage 6

Once centre assessed grades have been submitted to exam boards Ofqual's process to produce the final grades will start. 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 get their results on 13 August and GCSE students will get theirs on 20 August as previously published.

Appeals and the Chance to sit Examinations in the Autumn

More information will be made available to centres, students, parents and carers at the time final results are issued, to facilitate any appeals against the process. Students who feel that their grades do not reflect their ability will have the opportunity to take their exams in the Autumn series or in the Summer of 2021. If they choose to do this, both grades will stand.

Grade Release by Examination Boards

Ofqual has made it clear that 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. Please do not ask us to provide such information to you. It will not be possible.

BTEC and CTECs

In the last week, Ofqual released guidance for schools about how summer 2020 results will be calculated for vocational qualifications such as BTECs and CTECs. The following extract from the published information summarises the proposed approach to assessment in these qualifications:

'We consider that, as far as possible, such qualifications should be treated in the same way as GCSEs, AS and A levels, with learners receiving a calculated result. Calculated results will draw appropriately on a range of evidence, depending on the structure of the qualification. They may be based in part on teacher, trainer or tutor judgements of what result each learner would most likely have achieved had they been able to complete their assessments in summer 2020. Any centre assessment result will be based on a range of evidence held by the school, college or training provider. Depending on the structure of the qualification, centres may be asked to provide a centre assessment result for the whole qualification, or for uncompleted modules or units.'

The full document 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.

FAQs

1. My child was working on assignments after the school closed. Will these count?

Ofqual guidance published on 3 April makes it clear that there is no requirement to set additional work for the purposes of determining a centre assessed grade and no students should be disadvantaged if they are unable to complete any work set after schools were closed.

Ofqual says that where additional work has been completed after schools and colleges were closed on 20 March, Heads of Centre should exercise caution where that evidence suggests a change in performance. In many cases this is likely to reflect the circumstances and context in which the work is done.

Our view is that while work undertaken by students after 20 March may not contribute to their assessed grade it is perfectly reasonable to suggest that Year 11 and Year 13 students should be finishing their courses where possible, particularly where they plan to pursue the subject after 16 or 18.

2. My child is yet to complete their coursework/NEA can they still submit it?

No. There is no need for a student to submit any more A level or GCSE work to their teachers and they will not be disadvantaged if they have not been able to submit work since the school closure. Teachers will base their calculated grade on the evidence they have available to them. Regular assessments and course assignments will provide teachers with the evidence they need.

3. My child missed the recent mocks and I am happy to supervise them at home doing them/my child has done mocks at home and has submitted them. Can they count?

No. There is no need for your child to submit any more A level or GCSE work to their teachers and your child will not be disadvantaged if they have been unable to submit work since the school closure. Centre assessed grades will be calculated using the evidence they have available to them. Regular assessments and course assignments will provide teachers with the evidence they need. Any mock exam results are only one of the pieces of evidence staff will take into account. Please bear in mind that a teacher will make a calculated grade based on judgements about the grade we think 'a student would have got if they had taken the exam this summer'. A mock result from November or March (GCSE) or February (A level) is not necessarily the grade that teachers will submit. For students who did complete all assessments these grades will form part of the evidence teachers use to decide on their centre assessed grade as they provide evidence of what a student can do in examination conditions.

4. My child has been privately tutored. Can evidence from the tutor be submitted?

Calculated grades will be submitted on the evidence held in school. Private tutors' views will not be taken into consideration.

5. My child had several different teachers in one subject throughout his/her GCSE course. His/her most recent teacher has now left. How will his/her grade be calculated with accuracy?

All internal assessments are logged and held by the Subject Leader. A student's achievements will have been logged regularly throughout the course and so we are confident there is plenty of evidence for the subject leader and his/her team to draw on in coming to a calculated grade decision. Do bear in mind that the subject leader will make a calculated grade judgement about 'the grade we think a student would have got if they had taken the exam this summer' We know how hard students were working and have clear data in school on the value students typically add to their grades between mock examinations and the 'real thing'.

6. My child qualified for particular access arrangements before the news that the exams were cancelled broke. How will this be taken in to consideration?

Your child's grade will be calculated in the knowledge that they would have had access arrangements in place in the summer. This will be taken into account when their calculated grade is decided on.

7. How will the system be applied for private candidates?

Centre assessed grades for private candidates will only be submitted for candidates where there is enough evidence available in school for teachers to make an evidence-based judgement. Where private candidates are using an RCT school as an examinations centre and evidence of students' work is not held in school, a candidate may either choose to defer the accreditation of the GCSE or A level to the next examination series or they should make a direct enquiry to their next place of study.

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