



**WEAVERS
ACADEMY**
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Trust*

STUDENT GUIDE TO TEACHER ASSESSED GRADES

Summer 2021

GCSEs and AS and A Levels

The government has said that many exams and assessments cannot be held fairly this year as a result of the disruption students have faced due to the pandemic.

Your teachers will instead submit grades to the exam boards, based on their assessment of what you have shown you know and can do, enabling you to progress to the next stage of your education, training, or employment.

This guide outlines the arrangements in place for awarding grades in summer 2021, and where you can go for additional information.



How your grade will be determined

Your grades will be determined by teacher judgement this year. These are quality assured, moderated and ultimately signed off by Ms Swaida.

Unlike last year the government is not going to try to rely on an algorithm to determine grades. They are trusting the teachers as we know you best. However, they have put lots of rules in place to make sure the grades you are given accurately reflect your abilities.



How your grade will be determined

There are no requirements about the minimum amount of content that should be taught or assessed for teacher-assessed grades to be submitted, but you will need to have covered enough content for the grade to be meaningful. Awarding organisations and exam boards may ask Ms Swaida and your teachers to confirm that you have been taught an appropriate amount of content to provide the basis for a grade. We have tracked the content for each subject and we are confident you have been taught more than enough to allow us to submit grades for all subjects.

You are not able to find out your teacher-assessed grade for AS, A levels and GCSEs. You may know some of the marks awarded for some of the evidence your school or college is using but your teachers are not able to tell you your teacher assessed grade.



Evidence

We will decide which evidence to use to assess the standard at which you're performing. We will try and use the same sources of evidence for everyone in your class and the evidence will be specific to the subject. We will tell you which pieces of work will count towards your grade, before your grade is submitted to the exam board. There is a link to this information on the website. Your parents will be sent a link to this later this week via Edulink. The exam board may visit the school and choose to speak to some students to find out if you know what evidence has been used to inform your Teacher Assessed Grades.



Evidence

You should aim to complete your non-exam assessment as advised by your teachers. The non-exam assessment will provide your teachers with evidence to support your grade. However, if you have not been able to complete it due to circumstances outside your control you will not be penalised. Your teachers will look at what you have been able to complete and can still use it as evidence for your grade.

We have a responsibility to put in place reasonable adjustments for eligible students. This may be extra time or a scribe or a reader for example. If some of the evidence has been produced without a reasonable adjustment in place, your teachers will take that into account when determining your teacher-assessed grade.



Evidence

For GCSE English language, GCSE French, GCSE Spanish, and A level sciences (biology, chemistry, physics), you will receive a separate grade or result for the spoken language or practical skills tested, based on work you have completed.

For GCSE and A level art & design your grades will be based on your portfolio only. You will not be penalised if you were unable to complete your portfolio due to circumstances beyond your control.

We will give you a teacher assessed grade that is in line with the tier you have been entered for. So, if you are entered for foundation tier for a subject, your teacher-assessed grade in that subject will not be above a grade 5. You should discuss this with your teacher if you're not sure what tier you are entered for in maths, French or Spanish GCSE.



Quality Assurance

The exam boards will carry out checks to make sure that we have followed the necessary guidance when submitting your grades.

Schools have been asked to carry out our own quality assurance of your grade. This might involve checking that grades are consistent between individual teachers.

Once the exam boards receive the teacher-assessed grades they will ask every school and college to send them samples of student work.

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Quality Assurance

Exam board subject experts will review the evidence from a sample of centres. This random sample will cover a range of centre types and regions.

In these sample checks, exam boards will check that the academic judgement has been reasonable when deciding grades.

If the exam board is concerned this isn't the case, they will ask the school or college to look into this and may ask them to resubmit grades. Exam boards will not issue results until they are satisfied with the outcome of any investigation.



Results Days

AS and A level: Tuesday 10 August

GCSE: Thursday 12 August

More details about timings and the location will be shared with you by letter before half term.



Disappointed in your result?

Every year there are students who are disappointed with the grades they receive. If you are disappointed by your result you could consider sitting exams in the Autumn to see if you can improve your grades.

Exam boards will be offering exams in October for AS and A levels, and in November and December for GCSEs. Exams will be available for all GCSE and A level subjects.



Disappointed in your result?

The Autumn exams will be in a standard format and no adaptations will be made other than reasonable adjustments for eligible students. All subjects will be assessed by exam except art & design which will be assessed by a task set and marked by the exam board. Your grade will be determined by your performance on this task.

If you get a higher grade in your autumn exam than you get this summer, then you can ask the exam board to provide a new certificate showing your higher grade.



Appeals – Deadline: 17th September

If you are concerned your grade is wrong there is an appeals process. If you appeal your grade could go up, down or stay the same. The deadline for making an appeal is 17th September.

The appeals procedure is still to be completely confirmed by Ofqual and the exam boards but, if you think your grade is wrong, you can ask us to check if we made a mistake. If we did, we can submit a revised grade to the exam board to consider.



Appeals – Deadline: 17th September

If we don't identify an error but you still believe that your grade is wrong, you can ask us to submit a formal appeal to the exam board for you. You can only appeal for the following reasons:

- There was an error in the way Weavers followed or applied its procedure for determining your teacher assessed grade
- Weavers did not make a reasonable judgement when deciding which evidence to use to determine your teacher assessed grade
- Weavers did not make a reasonable judgement about your grade based on the evidence gathered



Appeals – Deadline: 17th September

The exam board will consider whether we followed our written process, and review the evidence your grade was based on.

The exam board will consider if your grade needs correcting. They may do this if they believe your grade is not a reasonable judgement or they find a mistake in the procedure which affected your grade.

The final route of appeal is Ofqual's Exam Procedure Review Service (EPRS). You can apply to the review service if the exam board decides that the grade you were awarded is reasonable, and your school or college correctly followed its procedure, but you are still concerned that there may have been an error in the procedure used by the exam board to conduct the appeal.



Appeals – Deadline: 17th September

The review service can consider whether the exam board has followed its rules and procedures. It will not consider whether you got the right grade based on the evidence of your work. The exam board's final decision on your grade will stand unless the EPRS finds that the exam board made an error in its review procedure. Even if an error is found, your grade may stay the same

Awarding organisations and exam boards will support schools to prioritise appeals where results are needed to progress to higher education. Where possible these priority appeals will be completed by early September. If you choose to appeal, you should contact your preferred university or college straight away to make them aware of your situation. UCAS have extended their deadline for you to meet any conditions of your offer to 7 September to allow more time for appeals.



Vocational and Technical Qualifications



How your grade will be determined

- You will be eligible for a result based partly or totally on a teacher-assessed grade.
- Your teacher will make an informed judgement on your result using a variety of evidence, such as any assessments or assignments that have already been completed.
- These judgements will be quality assured within your school, and then by the awarding organisation that you are registered with before you get your result.

If you were either absent from the January exams, or you feel that your performance was adversely affected by the pandemic and the most recent lockdown, you may still be able to receive a result using a teacher-assessed grade.

Talk to your teacher about the arrangements being offered by the awarding organisation that you are registered with



Appeals

Your results will be issued no later than for GCSEs and A levels

The basis of appeals will be quite similar to that for GCSEs and A levels this year.

During an appeal, the awarding organisation will check that centres have reasonably used academic judgement when deciding grades and that there have been no process errors or administrative errors.

