



## The Details

Ofqual (the exams regulator) has written a long document about how grades will be awarded. You can find it here:

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/965005/6747-1\\_decisions\\_-\\_GQ\\_consultation\\_on\\_awarding\\_grades\\_in\\_2021.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/965005/6747-1_decisions_-_GQ_consultation_on_awarding_grades_in_2021.pdf)

To make things a bit easier, we've selected some key sentences from the Ofqual document and added a short explanation in blue underneath.

Teachers can use evidence of a student's performance from throughout the course to inform their judgement.

This means we can use substantial classwork, previous tests and assessments, work from the period of remote learning, and anything that you complete in the future to help inform judgements.

Teachers should determine the grades as late in the academic year as is practicable, to enable teaching to continue for as long as possible.

The deadline for submitting grades by the school/college is mid-June. However, in practice this means that Year 11 and Year 13 will be working and able to influence their grades up until the May half term, as teachers will need time to moderate before submitting grades.

Students should continue to work on their non-exam assessment (NEA), including for Project qualifications. NEA will be marked by teachers and will contribute to the overall grade, whether or not it has been completed, but we will not require exam boards to moderate it. Subject staff will now begin to decide what needs to be completed and when this will need to be done by. As these make up large parts of some courses, these will be key pieces of evidence for grades.

In GCSE, AS and A level Art and Design, the student's grade must be based on the portfolio only, whether or not it has been completed.

Art and Photography students will be told what they need to concentrate on, and to what deadlines, by their teachers over the next few weeks, once the exam board guidance is published.

In GCSE English Language, GCSE Modern Foreign Languages and A Level Sciences (Biology, Chemistry, Physics and Geology), centres should determine and submit a separate grade or result for the endorsement. This result or grade should be based on work that has been completed towards the endorsement.

You will receive the normal range of 'endorsements' for speaking and practical skills in these subjects.



Exam boards will provide a package of support materials including questions, mark schemes, based on past questions and will include a proportion of previously unpublished questions for every subject. Use of these exam board support materials is not compulsory; they will be part of the range of evidence teachers could use to determine the grade.

Across Magna Learning Partnership (MLP), and in line with many local trusts and schools/colleges, we will make use of the questions and materials that will be provided by the exam boards at the end of March.

**From May 4<sup>th</sup> 2021, in all MLP schools/sixth forms, students will undertake a series of assessments** using the exam board questions, and the results of these will form part of the range of evidence that teachers will use to anchor their judgements. Further information about these assessments will come out to you in the next few weeks.

Exam boards will work together as far as possible to ensure that requirements for internal quality assurance (QA) and arrangements for external QA are consistent. Centres' internal QA arrangements will include consideration of the centre's profile of results in previous years as a guide to help them to check that their judgements are not unduly harsh or lenient. There will be lots of moderation of the evidence base we compile, and students will need to have comparable standards of work at each grade and a comparable body of evidence.

Exam boards will put in place arrangements for external quality assurance (QA) to check each centre's internal QA process and, in a sample of centres, to review the evidence for one or more subjects.

The moderation and evidence will be external scrutinised. The exam boards will randomly select schools and colleges to check their grading and moderation processes to make sure they have used an appropriate evidence base. Across MLP, the senior staff in charge of exams, along with Headteachers and the Director of Education, are working together to ensure that your grades will be awarded fairly and that there is a consistent approach in all our academies. Being in a Trust gives us the opportunity for staff to work together to moderate assessments and the evidence used to determine your grades; making it fair and equitable for all. Further information about the MLP approach will be detailed in a policy document that will be made available to you within the next few weeks.

Results days will be on Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> August for sixth form and Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> August for GCSE/other Year 11 qualification results.

These are earlier than usual to allow for appeals but, with the level of moderation in the system, unless there is a clerical error, it is unlikely there will be evidence to change grades.