

A Guide to Centre Assessed Grades (CAG) for Students, Parents and Carers

INTRODUCTION

On 18 March 2020, the Secretary of State for Education announced that the summer 2020 GCSE, examination series would be cancelled in order to help fight the spread of the Coronavirus (COVID-19) and that students due to sit the examinations would be awarded a **Centre Assessed Grade** based on an assessment of the grade they would have been most likely to achieve had the examinations gone ahead.

The Government guidance on the summer 2020 examination series can be accessed using the link below and answers to some frequently asked questions are also provided to help students, parents and carers understand how this will affect them:

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/890811/Summer_2020_grades_for_GCSE_AS_A_level_guidance_for_teachers_students_parents_09062020.pdf

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

1. What is a Centre Assessed Grade?

- A Centre Assessed Grade is an academy's professional judgement about the grade that each learner would most likely achieve had teaching, learning and assessment proceeded as normal.
- As well as each Centre Assessed Grade, academies have also been asked to rank order the students within each grade boundary, for each individual subject.

2. Who will receive a Centre Assessed Grade?

- Students who were **due to complete a qualification** in summer 2020.
- Students who were not due to complete a qualification this summer but were **part way through a qualification** and were due to complete a coursework unit and/or an examination unit, **between March and July 2020**.

3. Who will submit the Centre Assessed Grades?

- Centre Assessed Grades will be submitted by subject teachers, quality assured by Subject Leaders and Senior Leaders, and finally 'signed off' by the Principal (Head of Centre), in June 2020.

4. What evidence will teachers use to inform Centre Assessed Grades?

- Teachers will use all of the evidence available to them, up to the point of academy closure (20 March 2020) to inform the Centre Assessed Grades. This includes:
 - prior Assessment Point data;
 - data from mock examinations;
 - other assessments or work completed in class
 - for vocational subjects, grades from completed coursework or examination units.

5. Will teachers use evidence from the work completed during the lockdown period to inform Centre Assessed Grades?

- The Department for Education have made it absolutely clear to all academies that any work completed after academies were closed in March 2020, should not be used to inform the Centre Assessed Grades, as this can disadvantage those learners who, due to extenuating circumstances, are not able to access remote learning.
- In line with this guidance from the Department for Education, professionals at Brigantia Learning Trust Academies will only use evidence available up to 20 March 2020.

6. What about students who have an agreed reasonable adjustment or access arrangement?

- Academies will identify the grade that these students would most likely achieve if they had been able to sit their examinations with the intended reasonable adjustment or access arrangement in place.

7. Where are these Centre Assessed Grades submitted?

- Academies will submit Centre Assessed Grades for every student, to the examination board, for each subject.

8. What will examination boards do, following submission of these grades?

- Examination boards will take the grades submitted by academies and complete a standardisation process. This standardisation process will consider:
 - the academy's historical data;
 - the KS2 prior attainment of the student;
 - the expected national grade distribution for the subject;
 - the rank order of the student within each grade boundary, for each individual subject.
- As a result of this standardisation process grades submitted by the academy may be adjusted.
- A rigorous quality assurance process is in place in all of our academies to ensure that each Centre Assessed Grade submitted to the examination board is highly accurate, based on the evidence available to us.

9. When will my child receive their results from the examination boards?

- The Department for Education have strictly advised against sharing Centre Assessed Grades with students, parents and carers before these grades have been standardised by the examination boards.
- Results will be issued by the examination boards over the summer, and these will be shared with students, parents and carers, by academies on results day (Thursday 20 August 2020 for GCSE subjects) via the EduLink App, each academy will contact you with detailed information on how students access their results and further support.
- Hard Copies of students' results will be posted on Thursday 20th August by First Class Post.

10. Will grades issued in 2020 carry the same weight as grades issued in previous or future years?

- The grades awarded to students will have equal status to the grades awarded in other years and should be treated in this way by universities, colleges and employers.
- On the results slips and certificates, grades will be reported in the same way as in previous years.

11. What if a student doesn't agree with the grade awarded to them by the examination board?

- Ofqual have confirmed that learners who do not feel that the grade they have been issued with fairly reflects their performance will have two options available to them:
 - the opportunity to appeal this result in accordance with the awarding body's appeals procedures **and/or**;
 - to take a further assessment at the next available opportunity. Examination boards will offer an examination series in autumn 2020 for students who wish to take their GCSE examinations at their Y11 academy.
- Appeals will be allowed in cases where an academy believes they have made an error when submitting information, or similarly, if an academy believes an examination board made a mistake when calculating, assigning, or communicating a grade.

12. If students are unhappy with a grade, do they have to take all their examinations in autumn 2020, or can they just take examinations in the subject they are unhappy with?

- Students will not have to sit examinations in all subjects in the autumn term. They may take examinations in as few subjects as they would like to. If a student wishes to take examinations in a particular subject in the autumn 2020 examination series, they will need to take all of the examination papers in that subject.

13. If students take an examination in autumn 2020, which will stand – the examination or their original grade?

- Students who feel their grades awarded by the examination boards do not reflect their ability will have the opportunity to take their examinations in the autumn 2020 series. If they choose to do this, students will be able to use the higher of the two grades for future progression.



14. How will students appeal against a grade awarded to them by the examination boards?

- Parents, carers, or students will not be able to appeal directly to examination boards. Parents/carers and students will need to discuss the reason for appeal with the academy. If the academy believes there to be an issue with the standardisation procedure applied by the examination board, when awarding the final grade, they will appeal on behalf of the student.

15. What if the examination board reject an appeal or the student does not meet the criteria for making an appeal?

- Students who feel their grades, awarded by the examination boards, do not reflect their ability will have the opportunity to take their examinations in the autumn 2020 series. If they choose to do this, students will be able to use the higher of the two grades for future progression.