

Awarding of Grades for GCSE, A Level and BTEC qualifications

All Hallows Catholic School Summer 2021

This is a response to the [Ofqual document](#) and [Department for Education Guidance](#) which sets out the process for awarding of grades this summer.

Guiding principles

Principle of fairness; we must ensure that this process is fair to previous, present and future students.

The aim is to give students another opportunity to show their ability, in response to the DfE survey where the majority of students across the country indicated a desire for final assessment.

Teachers can use evidence of a student's performance from throughout the course to inform their final judgement, using a broad range of evidence across the taught content to determine the grades before submitting the grades to the exam boards.

Teachers must assess their students' performance, only on what content has been delivered to them by their teachers, to determine the grade each student should receive.

Evidence base

Each school or college will have to determine an approach which suits their specific circumstances.

We will make use of all data available to us when deciding on the final grades to be submitted. The specific weighting of each piece of data or evidence will vary subject to subject according to the specific requirements of each subject and may also vary from student to student, depending on the individual circumstances.

Students should continue to work on their non-exam assessment (NEA), which will be marked by teachers and can contribute to the overall grade, whether or not it has been completed.

Subject specific notes

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.

In GCSE English language, GCSE Modern Foreign Languages and A level sciences (biology, chemistry and physics), schools 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.

Timeline

8 March – 7 May	Teaching, revision, work on NEA and in class assessments
10 - 21 May	End of course assessments
24 May onwards	Internal quality assurance process
No later than 18 June	Submission of grades to exam boards
10 August	A/AS Levels Results Day
12 August	GCSE Results Day

Appeals process (taken from Ofqual guidance)

If a student believes their school's judgement was wrong they will ask their school to submit an appeal on their behalf to the exam board. The school will provide the exam board with the evidence used to determine the student's grade, together with the school's justification for the grade, the student's concerns and, if the exam board does not already hold it, details of the process used to determine the grade.

The exam board will consider whether the evidence of the student's performance indicates that the grade represents a reasonable exercise of academic judgement. If it decides the grade is supported by the evidence, it will not change the grade. If it does not, it will change the grade.

The exam board might also consider the process used by the school. The evidence on which schools' judgements will be based will vary between schools and sometimes between students within a school, as will the conditions under which the evidence was produced.

This contrasts to a normal year in which grades are based on a student's performance in exams, taken under controlled conditions, set and marked by the exam boards. Exam boards will be able to identify cases in which there is a clear mismatch between the evidence and the grade.

However, an exam board will only revise a student's grade at appeal where the board finds the evidence on which the grade was determined cannot reasonably support that grade, rather than as a result of marginal differences of opinion.

A student's grade could go up or down following an appeal.