

How will grades be awarded this summer? 2021



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Marden High School

Grades for GCSEs, A levels, and most other qualifications including applied generals will be based on a process involving teacher assessment against national standards, internal quality assurance, and external quality assurance by the exam boards.

The national process defined by the Department for Education and the exams' regulator, Ofqual is as follows:

1. Teachers will **assess students against a national standard**, which will be defined by the exam boards before the Easter break and the end of April for some qualifications.
2. Departments will submit grades which will be **quality assured by the school / college**. This internal quality assurance process will have to be signed off by the exam board to ensure it is rigorous and in line with national standards.
3. Our school or college results will be **quality assured externally** by the exam boards, which may include random sampling of our school or college's evidence.
4. If the exam boards are confident in our submitted results, **then the exam boards will award students their final grades**.
5. If students do not think their results are accurate, they will have the right to **appeal**.

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So, do teachers award the grade?

Simply: no. The grade students achieve will start with their teacher's assessment of their performance across a range of evidence. This is against a nationally-defined standard, not the teacher's own opinion. This assessment is then subject to both internal and external quality assurance before the final grade is awarded by the exam body as usual.

Does this mean grades are decided by an algorithm?

No, unlike last year, students' grades will not be changed by a formula. The internal and external quality assurance measures will all be done by humans, not an algorithm. There is no limit on the achievement of students, providing they have evidence that they are working at that grade.





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Will grades be different between different schools and colleges?

No, the standard against which teachers will be assessing students is set nationally by the exam boards. This is the standard that will be used during external quality assurance and appeals to ensure consistency and fairness across the system.

What evidence will be used?

Teachers are able to draw on a range of assessment evidence from across a student's study of the course, up until 18 June, although provisional data will be collated by the 7th June for internal quality assurance. This may include homework tasks, mock exams, and papers set by the exam boards. This may include evidence from before and during the most recent lockdown, as well as evidence from March – June. The exam boards are producing assessment materials that will be sent to us before Easter. Different departments may use different sources of evidence, and there is no requirement for any one type of assessment to be used – it's about a performance across a range of evidence.

The exam boards are only giving out past papers, how is this fair?

Most of the assessments provided by the exam boards will be drawn from past papers, although there will be new questions as well. There is significant research that even if students have seen assessments questions before, it does not reduce the validity of the assessment. Furthermore, exam board questions are only one of the many pieces of evidence we will use to assess students this summer.



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Can students and parents make the case for why a student should get a higher grade?

Our teachers are already using their professional expertise to assess students on the content they have been taught. Teachers are unable to submit higher grades for students unless they have the evidence that they are consistently working at this level. If teachers submit higher grades without evidence they are committing exam malpractice.

In 2020, any undue pressure by student or parent who placed undue pressure on teachers to increase grades was also considered exam malpractice. It is likely to be the same for 2021. If students or parents are found to be putting teachers or leaders under undue pressure to increase grades, then this matter will be referred to the exam boards and an investigation into malpractice may ensue. This may result in the student's certificate being removed entirely if malpractice is deemed to have taken place.

Can students discuss their grades with teachers?

Teachers will be able to discuss which evidence they are using to inform their judgement with students, including marked or graded pieces of work. **However, we are not allowed to disclose their final submitted grade we give to the exam board.** Students should not attempt to second-guess the grade submitted, as teachers will be using a range of evidence to inform their final judgement. Students must not pressure teachers to reveal the grades they are submitting, or to increase the grades, as doing so may be considered exam malpractice.

Internal quality assurance



Marden Assessment Principles - March 2021

In order to ensure the assessment process is fair to all students and is consistently applied across all qualifications, we have asked all curriculum areas to consider the following questions:

1. Is the assessment process appropriate to the qualification or subject i.e. it assesses what is meant to be assessed and the learner's work is relevant to the assessment criteria?
2. Can the work be credited to the learner? While scaffolds may be applied, does the comparative attainment of learners reflect the level of independence they have applied in completion of assessment tasks?
3. Do learners have the opportunity to cover all of the assessment criteria through the assessment methods used?
4. In mapping out the schedule for creating and collecting evidence, has a full range of assessment methods been considered? This presents an opportunity to consider assessment methods other than tests.
5. Do learners have the opportunity to access the assessment tasks through the methods chosen i.e. assessment methods applied allow learners to best exhibit their attainment?
6. How are assessment methods and grading taking into account the individual needs of students for example SEN, protected characteristics or personal circumstances? If access arrangements cannot be made how has this been factored into the process?
7. When a learner is unable to access a method of assessment what other methods have been applied?
8. Is assessment based on what learners have been taught?
9. Do the assessment methods chosen result in reliable results i.e. consistent results would emerge if multiple versions of the assessment were administered?
10. Has the evidence that best demonstrates students' attainment been chosen?
11. Have curriculum areas contextualised these principles for their own subject/qualification?
12. Has sufficient time been spent for a subject team to ensure that all teachers in the department are applying principles consistently and without bias?

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What should students do to improve their grades?

The best thing students can do is to continue to attend classes, learn, act on feedback from their teachers, revise, and read around their subject. Their grade will be based on their performance, and so their outcomes are ultimately in their hands.

There will be a remote **Parents' Evening on Thursday 15th April** to discuss students' progress. More information about booking this will be attached to DC3 which will be on the Parent Portal by the end of the week beginning 22nd March.

Linked is a [timetable](#) to show where certain pieces of work will take place. This can also be found at the end of this document.

On the **following slides** please also find the breakdown of evidence that will be used in each subject area.



Art and Photography



Students will be assessed on the body of work created across Year 10 and 11 for their portfolio. We have all the visual evidence we need to assess and grade students across the Art & Photography GCSE subjects and will endeavour to improve and support progress over the coming months. Students have and will continue to develop responses to initial starting points, project briefs or specified tasks and realise intentions informed by research, the development and refinement of ideas and meaningful engagement with selected sources. Responses will include evidence of drawing for different purposes/needs and written annotation. All grades will be assessed against the following criteria:

- AO1: Develop ideas through investigations, demonstrating critical understanding of sources.
- AO2: Refine work by exploring ideas, selecting and experimenting with appropriate media, materials, techniques and processes.
- AO3: Record ideas, observations and insights relevant to intentions as work progresses.
- AO4: Present a personal and meaningful response that realises intentions and demonstrates understanding of visual language

Business



- Students will only be assessed on the content of the Edexcel specification they have covered. They will not be assessed on components 2.4 Making Financial Decisions or 2.5.2 Effective Recruitment, 2.5.3 Effective Training & Development and 2.5.4 Motivation.
- Students have already completed a full Paper 1 mock exam in December 2020.
- Further assessment of Paper 1 topics will be carried out using case study assessments.
- Students will complete a full Paper 2 mock exam to be arranged after the Easter break.
- Students will be informed of what assessment they are doing and when.



Child Development

- Students have already completed $\frac{3}{4}$ of the units and have had these official marked by the exam board.
- Remaining assessments will be informed by the completion of the final coursework unit which is completed in full and marked under normal circumstances, plus an additional mock exam to support the results of their most recent official exam sat in January - as it is expected that some may not have performed as well as they could have due to the circumstances.
- There has been the amendment of dropping 1 unit as per the exam board guidelines instructed prior to Christmas, which has not affected any current/future planning for assessment.

The deadline for completing the final assessment is 28th May - but it is expected they will complete earlier than this.

The remaining mock will be completed 2 weeks after Easter.



Computer science

- Students will be assessed on the complete course content. All topics have been taught.
- Students have already completed a full Paper 1 mock exam in December 2020.
- Students will complete a full Paper 2 mock exam.
- Further Paper 1 and Paper 2 topic tests, using standardised papers, will provide further supportive evidence.
- Students will be informed of what assessment they are doing and when.

Drama



Students will be assessed on the following elements in line with course components:

Assessment 1 - Devising project (almost complete - coursework element)

Students need to complete a performance (done) and a portfolio which analyses and evaluates the devising process (students may provide written or recorded evidence)

Assessment 2 - Performance of a short scripted extract - students are required to rehearse and perform text in a small group / duologue

Assessment 3 - Written assessment of Section A (written exam) - Blue Stockings - students will be given a scene from the play to revise and answer six questions for a total of 45 marks.

Assessment 4 - Written assessment of Section B - Frankenstein - students will be able to use their notes to answer two questions which analyse and evaluate the performance. A total of 15 marks for this assessment.



English Language & Literature

- Students will be assessed on the complete course content. All topics have been taught
- In both English Language & Literature, students will be judged on a holistic body of work from across both courses
- In both subjects the evidence will include the mock exams completed in November/December 2020
- For Language, there will be **two core assessments to be completed** in class, in line with the course: these will be case studies in Creative Reading & Writing and Viewpoints & Perspectives. This will cover all required assessment objectives.
- For Literature, there will be **two core assessments to be completed** in class, in line with the course: these will be from the most appropriate sections of the course and chosen by class teacher. These include 19th Century Novel, Shakespeare, Modern Text & Poetry. This will cover all required assessment objectives.
- Students will also be assessed on their spoken language skills

Food Prep and Nutrition

- Throughout Year 10 and 11 students have completed regular exam assessments, including mock exams
- Practical assessments have also been completed throughout Year 10 and 11 to reflect the skills required within the NEA
- Students will be given 2 hours to complete the NEA task, this is reduced from 3 hours (reducing the expectation of 3 items in 3 hours to 2 items in 2 hours)
- A full mock exam will be held the second week back after Easter.

The NEA work will be done at differing times as students are at different stages, some are prepared now due to work completed over lockdown, others need additional time to prepare fully. It will all be completed by May half-term.



Geography

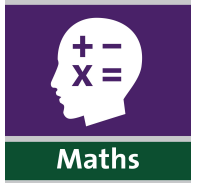
- Students will be assessed on the complete course content. All units on paper 1 and 2 have been taught. Paper 3 has not been covered as there will not be a pre-release resource from the exam board and the fieldwork element has been removed.
- The mock exam will be used to inform the progress made by students up to that point.
- An assessment based on standardised exam papers in each unit will provide further supportive evidence of progress made.

History



- Health end of unit assessment
- America recap and key questions
- Asia: End of conflict in Vietnam and key questions

Maths



- Students will be assessed on the complete course content. All topics have been taught.
- The standardised exam papers from 2019 will be used to provide the basis of the teacher assessed grade.
- Topic tests based on standardised assessments will provide supportive evidence to the teacher assessed grade.
- Assessments will take place every Friday after Easter for six weeks and will be split into Number, Ratio, Probability and Statistics, Geometry and two Algebra papers.
- Students will be informed of what test they are doing each week before Easter and revision lists will be shared and lessons in the week leading up to the test used for revision.

Media



- Students will be assessed on the course covered so far
- In Media Studies, students will be judged on a holistic body of work from across both papers
- Evidence will include the mock exams completed in November/December 2020
- Students will be assessed on their NEA, as either a mock-up, prototype or completed production
- Students will also complete either two extended compositions on Print Media & Moving Image/Online Media or an additional mock exam
- This will cover all required assessment objectives.

French and German



- Students will be assessed on the complete course content. 4 of the 5 Themes have been taught and Theme 5 is being covered at the moment in both subjects.
- Students have completed 2 past papers, including the mock exam in December - data from these will be used to help inform grades. Another mock assessment will take place at the end of April to cover listening, reading and writing.
- Mini speaking tests will take place after Easter (w/c 12th April) to allow teachers to give a speaking grade which will run alongside the main TAGs.
- Assessments provided by Edexcel will be evaluated when released and used as supplementary questions to provide data on each theme. Students will be advised in advance if any of these assessments are to be used.

Music



- **Performance** - students will be assessed on an element of performance. They will perform and record a piece of music that will be compared with the grade descriptors provided by Edexcel.
- **Composition** - students will complete as much of a composition as they can in the given time. The work they complete will be compared with grade descriptors in a similar way to performance.
- **Listening Questions** - students will answer listening questions only on set works that they have studied. We will use a number of questions for evidence and Edexcel will be providing new questions for this year or we will use past papers. The questions will not be completed in quick succession like in an exam. There will be a focus on 1 set work in a lesson where evidence is being collected.
- **Essay Questions** - students will answer essay questions on set works they have studied and compare them with an unseen piece. There will be at least two questions used for evidence. Edexcel will be providing new questions for this year or we will use past papers.



Students will be assessed on the components of the GCSE course which includes the theoretical component and the NEA. The grades will be assessed against the following criteria:

- AO1: Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of the factors that underpin performance and involvement in physical activity and sport.
- AO2: Apply knowledge and understanding of the factors that underpin performance and involvement in physical activity and sport.
- AO3: Analyse and evaluate the factors that underpin performance and involvement in physical activity and sport.
- AO4: Demonstrate and apply relevant skills and techniques in physical activity and sport. Analyse and evaluate performance.

Students completed their mock exam papers 1 and 2 in December. After Easter in April they will complete a test paper relating to Paper 2 topics and then later in the term in May, they will complete a test paper relating to Paper 1 topics. At the end of May they will complete condensed Paper 1 and Paper 2 assessments using standardised papers to provide the final pieces of supportive evidence. The criteria for the practical assessments will be reviewed in order to establish the final grades for students in two activities.

RE



- Students will be assessed on 75% of paper one and 75% of paper two.
- Paper One - Christian beliefs and practices and Buddhist beliefs (assessed in year 10 and then again in the 2020 mock exam)
- Paper Two - Theme B - Religion and Life (assessed in year 10), Theme E - Crime and Punishment (assessed at the end of Yr 11), Theme F - Human Rights and Social Justice (assessed at the end of year 11).
- Assessments will be in the form of past papers.

Combined Science Trilogy

- Students will be assessed on the complete course content. All topics have been taught.
- Recent standardised past exam papers will be used to provide the basis of the teacher assessed grade
- Second Mock Paper 2 full exam scheduled as on [timeline](#)

[A reminder of the topics for Paper 2](#)

- Topic tests will provide supportive evidence to the teacher assessed grade



Biology

- Students will be assessed on the complete course content. All topics have been taught.
- Recent standardised past exam papers will be used to provide the basis of the teacher assessed grade
- Second Mock Paper 2 full exam scheduled as on [timeline](#)

[A reminder of topics for Paper 2](#)

- Topic tests will provide supportive evidence to the teacher assessed grade

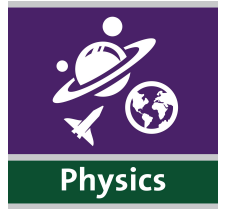
Chemistry



- Students will be assessed on the complete course content. All topics have been taught.
- Recent standardised past exam papers will be used to provide the basis of the teacher assessed grade
- Second Mock Paper 2 full exam scheduled as on [timeline](#)

[A reminder of topics for Paper 2](#)

- Topic tests will provide supportive evidence to the teacher assessed grade



Physics

- Students will be assessed on the complete course content. All topics have been taught.
- Recent standardised past exam papers will be used to provide the basis of the teacher assessed grade
- Second Mock Paper 2 full exam scheduled as on [timeline](#)

[A reminder of topics for Paper 2](#)

- Topic tests will provide supportive evidence to the teacher assessed grade

Travel and Tourism

- Units 1 and 2 were completed in Year 10 and have been sampled.

For the remainder of Year 11:-

- Unit 4- Worldwide Destinations will be assessed.
- Unit 3- Customer Service will be assessed.

Engineering



- Students have already completed $\frac{3}{4}$ of the units which have been officially assessed and submitted to the exam board.
- Students are currently completing the final unit which will be assessed under normal circumstances to finalise the course.
- The February exam was cancelled by the exam board, however if we are able to use the exam paper for this (currently being investigated) we will conduct this exam as well as a final piece of evidence. We are unable to complete an alternative exam due to the preliminary preparation needed and as these exams require specific resources to be manufactured; students have already prepared for the February exam and the resources have been made.

This approach will reflect the official assessment process followed under normal circumstances, with the exception the exam, if conducted, being marked within school, not externally.

The coursework unit has a deadline of 16th April (if a resubmission is required)

If the exam is able to go ahead it will be after this date. Otherwise students will be able to experience skills necessary for future steps relating to the course.

Calendar view



Week beginning 15/03/21 A

	P1	P2	P3	P4	P5
Mon					
Tues					
Wed					
Thurs			Geography A Paper 1 Unit 1 - Tropical storms		
Fri					Geography A Paper 1 Unit 1 - Tropical storms

Week beginning 22/03/21 B

	P1	P2	P3	P4	P5
Mon					
Tues					
Wed		Geography C Paper 1 Unit 1 - Tropical storms			
Thurs				Geography A Paper 1 Unit 1 - Climate change	
Fri					

Easter holidays



Week beginning 12/04/21 A

	P1	P2	P3	P4	P5
Mon					
Tues	Religious Studies - Theme E - Human Rights and Social Justice	11A French speaking			
Wed	11C French speaking test 11C PE test paper 2	11C French speaking test 11C PE test paper 2			
Thurs			Geography A Paper 1 Unit 2 Deforestation/Thar Desert 11A French speaking		
Fri				Maths unit 1 test	Geography C Paper 1 Unit 2 Deforestation/Thar Desert

Thursday 15th April - Year 11 remote Parents' Evening

Week beginning 19/04/21 B

	P1	P2	P3	P4	P5
Mon					
Tues					
Wed		Geography C Paper 1 Unit 3 Rivers and coasts			
Thurs	11B German speaking	11B German speaking		Paper 1 Unit 3 Rivers and coasts	
Fri					Maths unit 2 test

Week beginning 26/04/21 A

	P1	P2	P3	P4	P5
Mon			History A - Health End of Unit Assessment 11AFr Mock Listening Exam H		
Tues		11aCS1 Computer Science Paper 1 Assessment 11Afr Mock Reading exam H/F			
Wed	Art Internal Assessment Project Due 11cFr French Mock Listening exam	History C - Health End of Unit Assessment 11cCS1 Computer Science Paper 1 Assessment 11cFr1 French Mock Writing exam			
Thurs	Photography Internal Assessments Project Due Business P2 Mock	Business P2 Mock	11AFr Mock Writing F/H		
Fri				Maths unit 3 test	

Week beginning 03/05/21 B

	P1	P2	P3	P4	P5
Mon			11AFr Mock Listening exam F		
Tues	11cFr1 Mock reading exam F/H				
Wed		Geography C Paper 2 Unit 1 Push and Pull factors/Floating communities		GCSE Combined Science Trilogy-Biology Paper 2 and GCSE BIOLOGY PAPER 2	
Thurs	11B German Writing f/h	11B German Listening H		Paper 2 Unit 1 Push and Pull factors/Floating communities	
Fri	GCSE Combined Science Trilogy-Chemistry Paper 2 and GCSE CHEMISTRY PAPER 2			Business Case Study 11b German Reading H/F	Maths unit 4 test

Week beginning 10/05/21 A

	P1	P2	P3	P4	P5
Mon			History A - America Source Analysis	GCSE Combined Science Trilogy-Physics and GCSE PHYSICS PAPER 2	
Tues	11B German Mock listening F	11aCS1 Computer Science Paper 2 Assessment			
Wed	11C PE test paper 1	History C - America Source Analysis 11cCS1 Computer Science Paper 2 Assessment 11C PE test paper 1			
Thurs					
Fri				Maths unit 5 test	

Week beginning 17/05/21 B

	P1	P2	P3	P4	P5
Mon					
Tues	Geography C Paper 2 Unit 2 Measuring development/Shell oil in Nigeria case study		Paper 2 Unit 2 Measuring development/Shell oil in Nigeria case study		
Wed					
Thurs					
Fri					Maths unit 6 test

Week beginning 24/05/21 A

	P1	P2	P3	P4	P5
Mon			History A - Asia Essay 11aCS1 Computer Science Paper 2 Mock (45)		
Tues		11aCS1 Computer Science Paper 2 Mock (45) Religious Studies - Theme F - Crime and Punishment			
Wed	Art all portfolio work due for grading Media Studies 11cCS1 Computer Science Paper 2 Mock (45) 11C PE Paper 1	History C - Asia Essay Media Studies 11cCS1 Computer Science Paper 2 Mock (45) 11C PE Paper 2			
Thurs	Photography all electronic sketchbooks and final pieces due for grading		Paper 2 Unit 3 Skills and Wakel River Basin		
Fri				Business Case Study	Geography C Paper 2 Unit 3 Skills and Wakel River Basin

Half term



Week beginning 07/06//21

	P1	P2	P3	P4	P5
Mon	Provisional grades entered				
Tues					
Wed					
Thurs					
Fri					

Week beginning 14/06/21

	P1	P2	P3	P4	P5
Mon					
Tues					
Wed					
Thurs					
Fri					Grades sent to exam boards.