

Awarding Update & End of Year arrangements

07 May 2021



Student declarations

For each subject students will be required to declare:

- The authenticity of their work
- That they have reviewed the evidence base for each subject and that they have had a chance to raise any concerns / mitigating circumstances about how this applies to them



What do we mean by evidence base?

- The key pieces of work that we intend to use to base our assessment & grading decisions on
- In general more recent pieces of evidence will be weighted more highly as they should reflect the improvement that you have made
- We will also weight evidence completed in exam-like conditions more heavily (what is called a high level of control)



Example of an evidence base - GCSE English

Assessment # / Name	Type	Paper 1					Paper 2					NEA S&L			Level of Control
		A01	A02	A04	A05	A06	A01	A02	A03	A05	A06	A07	A08	A09	
1:	Mock Paper 1: November	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y									H
2:	Mock Paper 2: November						Y	Y	Y	Y	Y				H
3:	Paper 1, Section A: March	Y	Y	Y											H
4:	Paper 2, Section B: March								Y	Y					H
5:	Paper 1, Section B: HT5				Y	Y									H
6:	Paper 2, Section A: HT5						Y	Y	Y						H
7:	NEA Speaking and Listening											Y	Y	Y	M
8:	Other exam-style centre-devised tasks (completed in class or for homework)	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y				L

- Exam questions have been selected to assess across a broad base of subject knowledge to provide opportunities for all students.
- Questions have been carefully mapped against the assessment objectives and JCQ grade descriptors to ensure pupils will have multiple opportunities to showcase their abilities on all assessment objectives.
- We will also include student work produced in centre-devised tasks that reflect the specification, that follow the same format as exam board materials and have been marked in a way that reflects exam board mark schemes. These will have been completed under low control and will therefore usually have a low weighting, except where other evidence is not available.

How will my grade be determined?

- Teaching staff will match your evidence to grade descriptors which have been published for each grade
- It is not about the marks on an assessment but the skills you have demonstrated.
- Staff are being trained in how to do this, and we will have a rigorous quality checking process.

5	<p>Critical reading and comprehension</p> <p>In relation to a range of texts, to achieve grade 5, candidates will be able to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• summarise and evaluate with accuracy and clear understanding• understand and make valid responses to explicit and implicit meanings and viewpoints• analyse and evaluate relevant aspects of language, grammar and structure• support their understanding and opinions with apt references to texts, informed by their wider reading• make credible links and comparisons between texts. <p>Writing</p> <p>To achieve grade 5, candidates will be able to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• communicate effectively, sustaining the reader's interest• produce coherent, well-structured and purposeful texts• vary sentence types and structures and use vocabulary appropriate to purpose and effect• spell, punctuate and use grammar accurately with occasional errors.
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Mitigating circumstances

- We need to know if there are any reasons why a particular piece of evidence may not fully reflect your ability at the time you took the assessment
- It may be because you are entitled to exam access arrangements and did not receive them, or it may be because there was disruption in your personal life which affected your performance.
- You may have had additional periods of covid isolation
- We can then take this into account in the grading process



What constitutes mitigating circumstances

- This is not some sort of free pass to a higher grade
- *“to reflect temporary illness, temporary injury or some other event outside of the candidate’s control at the time of the assessment.”*
- In most cases it will only have a very small effect



Categories of mitigating circumstances

- temporary illness or accident/injury at the time of the assessment;
- bereavement at the time of the assessment;
- domestic crisis arising at the time of the assessment;
- serious disturbance during an examination, particularly where recorded material is being used;
- accidental events at the time of the assessment such as being given the wrong examination paper, being given a defective examination paper or CD, failure of practical equipment, failure of materials to arrive on time;
- participation in sporting events, training camps or other events at an international level at the time of the assessment;
- failure by the school to provide approved access arrangements

What does NOT constitute a mitigating circumstance

- Long term illness
- Bereavement from more than six months ago
- Moving house or other domestic inconvenience
- A minor disturbance during an assessment
- Consequence of committing a crime where formally charged or found guilty
- Consequence of taking alcohol or recreational drugs
- Quality of teaching
- Failing to arrive on-time for your assessment
- Failing to follow the instructions on your assessment
- Missing an assessment due to a family holiday / commitment / routine medical appt
- Not submitting work (except where this was due to covid related issues)
- Special educational needs.

How much variation will result from my mitigating circumstances

- In usual circumstances even the most exceptional cases only receive a 5% mitigation
 - Terminal illness of student/parent
 - Death of immediate family member within 2 months
 - Very serious and disruptive incident at or near the time of the assessment
- Usually will not impact on the grade unless you are borderline



How to let us know

- We will publish the evidence base for each subject next week
- You will also receive a guide to mitigating circumstances
- There will be a google form for you to fill out for each subject where you wish to claim a mitigating circumstance
- It is important you take the time to review the evidence base and discuss with your parent/carer(s)



End of Year arrangements



Year 13

- Last day is Friday 28 May
- Sixth Form Team will be providing information & guidance about sign-off arrangements / locker deposit refunds / hoodies / celebration assembly



Results

- Results released on Tuesday 10 August (Thursday 12th for any Level 2 qualifications)
- We will also be available to discuss appeals for any student that wishes to appeal their grade
- There will also be an autumn resit opportunity



Year 11

- As usual we are legally required to provide education until the last Friday in June - 25th
- Usually the final weeks are taken up with exams - this is not the case this year
- Letter detailing arrangements emailed to pupils & parents/carers this morning

Date	Programme/Activity
Friday 28 May	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Date by which all assessments for GCSE / BTEC subjects will have been completed. ● Pupils must have signed all the appropriate declaration forms (one for each subject) authenticating their evidence base in order for Teacher Assessed Grades to be awarded in each subject. ● A celebration assembly for Year 11 will take place during period 3 on this day.
Monday 7 June to Friday 18 June	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Two week programme for all pupils. ● This will be delivered remotely through a series of live and independent tasks. This will enable us to deliver aspects of our careers and personal development programme that pupils missed out on due to lockdown. ● There will be a strong focus on preparing for life after Year 11
Monday 21 June to Friday 25 June	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● We will be providing an enhanced Sixth Form experience. Pupils will be on site each day as active members of our school Sixth Form. ● This is an ideal opportunity for pupils to experience Sixth Form life and experience different subjects prior to making final subject choices in the summer. ● Whilst pupils returning to our Sixth Form are required to attend we strongly encourage all pupils still considering their options or who are unsure if Sixth Form is for them to attend.

Results & Sixth Form Enrolment

- Results released on Thursday 12 August
- We will also enrol for Sixth Form on this day (to minimise any uncertainty for students)
- We will also be available to discuss appeals for any student that wishes to appeal their grade
- There will also be an autumn resit opportunity



Other important messages

