



GCSE results in 2021: what you need to know

Find out how students will receive teacher-assessed grades this summer for GCSEs and vocational and technical qualifications (VTQs).

What's happening?

- Exams are cancelled this summer for GCSEs, AS-levels and A-levels, as well as some VTQs
 - Instead of exams, students will receive grades based on assessments by their teachers
 - Teacher-assessed grades will be sent to the exam board to be processed
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How will teachers make judgements on grades?

- They'll use a range of evidence of students' work, like coursework, practice papers and classwork, to inform their decisions
 - Teachers will let students know what evidence they'll use before submitting grades to the exam board. This is so students can confirm it's their own work, and let teachers know of any mitigating circumstances that might have affected it
 - Teachers will only assess students based on what they've been taught
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How will we know grades are awarded fairly?

- Our school will have an internal quality assurance process in place that'll take into consideration our results in previous years. This is to make sure teachers' judgements aren't too harsh or lenient
 - Exam boards will also have their own quality assurance process. They'll check that our internal procedure is fair before they process any grades, and they might also virtually visit our school to review evidence from some subjects
 - We'll submit a declaration to the exam board confirming that we've followed the requirements for our internal quality assurance process
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When will we get our results?

- **GCSE students:** Thursday 12 August
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Can we still appeal?

- Yes, all students will have the right to appeal their grade. If a student wishes to appeal their grades they should contact The Assistant Head Teacher responsible for exams Mr M. O'Flaherty
 - If you appeal, we'll carry out a review to make sure we've followed all processes correctly and that we haven't made an error in your grade
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- If we do find an error, we'll submit your revised grade to the exam board. If the board is satisfied, it'll issue a revised grade
 - If we don't believe an error has been made, you can ask us to appeal to the board on your behalf. We'll share the evidence your teacher used to set your grade, and the board will review it to see if we made the right judgement. If they find the grade we set isn't reasonable, they'll provide an alternative grade
 - If you disagree with the school's or the exam board's decision, you can refer the issue to Ofqual's Exam Procedures Review Service (EPRS). The exam board will have the final say unless the EPRS finds that it has made an error
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What about vocational and technical qualifications?

- If you're taking VTQs to progress to further or higher education, you won't have exams. Your grades will also be awarded based on teachers' judgements
- If you're taking VTQs to go directly into employment, your exams will go ahead **if** they:
 - Are needed to show occupational and professional competence
 - Can be carried out in line with public health measures (if they can't take place safely, they'll be delayed)
- If you want to appeal your results, we can do that on your behalf following the process set out by the individual awarding organisation concerned

Sources

This factsheet was produced by The Key for School Leaders, based on the following sources. All information is correct as of 1 April 2021.

- [Awarding qualifications in summer 2021](#), GOV.UK – DfE
- [Decisions on how GCSE, AS and A level grades will be determined in summer 2021](#), GOV.UK – Ofqual and DfE
- [Decisions on alternative arrangements for the award of VTQs and other general qualifications in 2021](#), GOV.UK – Ofqual and DfE
- [Guidance on the determination of grades for A/AS Levels and GCSEs for summer 2021](#), jcq.org.uk– JCQ