

27 August 2020

## **BTEC and VQ FAQs on Appeals**

### **Centre questions**

**This is a supplement of our full centre FAQs which [can be found here](#).**

#### **How will BTEC qualification grades be decided in light of the grading review?**

On 19 August we confirmed that we would be amending our approach to grading BTEC qualifications for summer 2020.

The new approach will work out an average point score across all internal units – units already achieved, and any Centre Assessment Grades submitted this summer, that contribute to the qualification being claimed. This average is weighted to the Guided Learning Hours (GLH) for the associated units. This points score will be used to determine an equivalent point score for each of the external unit(s) that were due to be taken this summer, proportionate to the size (GLH) of the unit. These points are contained in the specification for each of the relevant BTEC qualifications on our website.

We recognise that in some rare and specific cases a candidate may have been expected to perform at a higher level in their external assessments than their internal assessments. This may be because, for example, they were dealing with a medical condition that meant they did not perform as well as expected in some or all their internal assessments. In cases such as this we want to ensure that we provide a route to appeal that supports candidates to achieve the grade that best reflects their abilities.

Where these cases arise, centres should use our 'Appeals Service 5 – Exceptional Circumstances' - to explain the reasons why a candidate should be awarded a higher grade and provide relevant, supporting evidence. We will consider each case carefully and take the appropriate action according to the evidence.

We expect these cases to be rare, but we feel it is vital that we do whatever we can to make sure every candidate receives a fair grade, and no one is disadvantaged.

There are other routes to appeal available to centres too, and these are explained on our website here: [Appealing calculated grades](#).

Further details about the review of BTEC grading is available [here](#).

## **What happens to the appeal I submitted based on the original BTEC grades issued on 13 August/20 August?**

Where we believe that the review and regarding of BTECs has resolved the basis of your appeal, we have withdrawn the appeal and notified affected centres.

## **What is the deadline to appeal?**

All initial review applications must be made by 17 September 2020.

## **How do I appeal BTEC results where assessment carried on as normal, or was adapted (i.e. not calculated)?**

Where internal assessment has taken place for VTQs (including where it has been adapted), the usual appeals process will apply, with appeals being managed through the centre's appeals process. Where these appeals then need to be escalated to us, the [Internal Assessment Reviews and Appeals Policy](#) will continue to apply.

To check which appeal arrangements, apply to specific qualifications, please see our [Guide to Appeals for Summer 2020](#).

## **Student questions**

**This is a supplement of our full learner FAQs [which can be found here.](#)**

### **How will my BTEC qualification grade be decided in light of the grading review?**

On [19 August](#) we confirmed that we would be amending our approach to grading BTEC qualifications for summer 2020. This followed an announcement from [Ofqual](#) and feedback from students, teachers, schools and colleges, which raised concerns about fairness, including consistency with the approaches now being used for GCSEs and A levels.

The new approach will work out an average point score across all internal units – units already achieved, and any Centre Assessment Grades submitted this summer, that contribute to the qualification being claimed. This average is weighted to the Guided Learning Hours (GLH) for the associated units. This points score will be used to determine an equivalent point score for each of the external unit(s) that were due to be taken this summer, proportionate to the size (GLH) of the unit. These points are contained in the specification for each of the relevant BTEC qualifications on our website.

We hope that all candidates will feel their grades are a fair reflection of the result they would have achieved if they had been able to complete their qualification in the usual way. Where candidates are unhappy with their grade, they should discuss the matter with their centre who

will be able to advise on whether it would be appropriate to appeal or not. A centre can only appeal on one or more of the allowed grounds for appeal.

**I'm a student, and I'm not happy with my results. What are my options to appeal?**

You should contact your centre to discuss. The centre will be able to check that they submitted the Centre Assessment Grades correctly for the internal units, and if they find an administrative error, they can appeal to have it corrected. Where no error has been made, the centre will be able to help you to understand why that grade has been awarded. There is no right to appeal on the basis that you do not agree with the professional judgment of teachers.

Only private candidates for vocational and technical qualifications can appeal directly to the awarding organisation via [edexcelappeals@pearson.com](mailto:edexcelappeals@pearson.com)

**My grade(s) is higher than my Centre Assessment Grade(s) – is it a mistake?**

In line with the arrangements announced by Ofqual on 17 August 2020 for General Qualifications, your final BTEC unit and qualification grades should not be lower than the grades you were initially issued by us earlier this month.

Therefore, your grade(s) might be higher than the grade(s) your centre submitted on your behalf, where we adjusted upwards based on the statistical model used when results were first issued.