

Supporting international schools during Coronavirus (COVID-19)



Centre Assessment Grading and rank order for
International AS/A Level May/June 2020

Frequently Asked Questions

Why do I have two candidates at my centre who have both got an A for the same unit but have different UMS? I submitted an A* CAG for this unit but their results slip says A, why?

International A level qualifications (cash-in) are graded A*-E.

International AS and A Level units are graded A to E. UMS for these grades are fixed for the summer 2020 series, and there are two different UMS for grade A at unit level. Where centres have submitted A* as their Centre Assessment Grade for International A level units this Summer, we have used this information to ensure that candidates who received a Centre Assessment Grade of A* for a unit, receive the higher UMS they need to contribute to an A* for their qualification cash-in. The final grade at unit level is A where Centre Assessment Grades of A* have been submitted.

What will the fixed UMS be?

For those students entered for International AS/A Level exams in May/June 2020, we'll be asking centres to submit a Centre Assessment Grade and rank order for each unit for which students have an entry this May/June 2020. The final grade awarded for each unit will be determined based on the information submitted by the centre and the application of the statistical model. We will then assign a fixed UMS to each grade.

When will you tell us what the fixed UMS is for each grade for International AS/A Level units?

This information will be shared as part of results information. We can confirm that the fixed UMS will sit no higher than the average and that numerically all qualification grades are achievable, including an A* qualification grade.

**Will the calculated grade be one of the two 'sittings'/banked grades held on record?
(Will the calculated grade count as one of the two last sittings?)**

Yes, the calculated grade will count as one of the last two sittings/banked grades held on record to be considered in future cash ins.

Should we assign A* when submitting the Centre Assessment Grade and rank order for each International A Level unit?

You can submit A* as a Centre Assessment Grade and rank ordering for International A Level A2 units but not AS units.

Should we submit A* for A2 units of International A Level?

In a series with typical exam arrangements, the grades shown on CSPRs (Candidate Statement of Provisional Results) for A2 units are A-E. However, those candidates who have an A and achieved 90%+ in a unit will be awarded higher UMS.

To ensure that this highest achiever distinction is also recognised in the Centre Assessment Grades, centres should enter A* for those candidates they expected to achieve over 90% in an A2 unit.

Please note that we will award the fixed UMS according to the A / A* distinction. However, the CSPRs will only show A-E grades in the same way as for other series.

Where a centre has GCE A level and International A Level students entered for the same subject, should a Centre Assessment Grade and rank order be submitted together or separately?

If a school has entered students for GCE A level and International A Level qualifications in the same subject, they must provide Centre Assessment Grade and rank order separately for the two qualifications.

Why can't Pearson provide 'normal' UMS spanning the range of the grade by using the rank order information provided by centres?

The normal UMS are conversions calculated from the raw marks that students achieve by sitting an exam. It is not possible to reliably predict a mark that a student may achieve, however, it is possible to statistically predict a grade (which is a range of marks). Since the exact UMS cannot be predicted, the fairest method to enable the unit to be carried forward is a fixed UMS.

Should centres submit a qualification grade in addition to the unit grades?

No, this information is not required. Centres should only submit a centre assessment grade and rank order for each unit entered for the May/June 2020 series.

Should centres submit UMS along with their unit-level CAG and rank orders?

No, this information is not required. Centres should only submit a Centre Assessment Grade and rank order for each unit entered in the May/June 2020 series.

I don't like the calculated grades, can I sit the same unit exams in October/November and discount the calculated grades? If you have decided to withdraw your entries for the May/June 2020 series, you can enter the Autumn 2020 or January 2021 exam series. [Details of which units /subjects are included in each series are available here.](#)

If you have maintained your entry for the May/June 2020 series and receive calculated grades, you can also enter for the same units in future series. You should note that calculated grades

will be treated in the same way as other results and will be considered as one of the two most recent attempts held on record to be considered in future cash ins.

How do I provide Centre Assessment Grades and rank order for units with multiple options (e.g. IAL History), which provide different routes to an award?

Centres should provide a single Centre Assessment Grade and rank order across the entry options for the unit.

How do I provide Centre Assessment Grades and rank where I have entries for both the legacy and redeveloped specification?

These should be treated separately and centres should provide a Centre Assessment Grade and rank order for both the legacy and redeveloped specification units.