

Making an appeal because of an ‘Exceptional Factor’



There are some exceptional circumstances in which using a default data set to calculate results might be shown through an appeal to amount to using the wrong data because of some **exceptional factor**.

This will apply when something happened to the centre's 2020 cohort, or to an earlier cohort at the centre, which means that there is a **substantive difference** between the 2020 cohort and cohorts in previous years to such an extent that the normal historical data set is not an inappropriate basis to calculate results for the 2020 cohort.

What routes of appeal are available for ‘Exceptional Factors’?

Route A	Route B	Route C	Route D
<p>Where there has been a major structural change in the arrangements at a centre.</p> <p>For example, a mixed intake school became a single-sex school, or vice versa.</p> <p>OR a school which has in place an accelerated learning programme for very able learners in years other than Y11 and Y13 entered those learners for the first time in 2020</p>	<p>Where a Centre experienced a governance, organisational or leadership change during the relevant period and there is evidence of improved GCSE, AS or A level results at the Centre after that change</p>	<p>A school at which teaching and learning for one or more of the cohorts included in the historical data was significantly disrupted for a prolonged part of the academic year by one or more extraordinary or momentous incidents or events.</p>	<p>The shape of the distribution of the 2020 cohort's Centre Assessment Grades is sufficiently different to the shape of the distribution of the results of previous cohorts as to indicate that exam performance at the centre in previous years might not be the most appropriate basis to reliably inform the calculation of results for the centre's learners.</p>

What evidence should I submit?

In the above examples, you need to provide **clear and objective evidence** in the form of statistical data about the 2020 cohort and previous cohorts OR clear and objective information about events which have affected teaching and learning. The evidence must be sufficient to establish a **substantive difference** between cohorts.

Appeals **cannot be brought** on the basis of inspection reports, or information about curriculum choices or changes to teaching staff.

You should also not submit data relating to internal tests or mock exams* for the 2020 cohort only.

However submitting this type of data for more than one year could be helpful to demonstrate there is a significant difference between cohorts.

*Please note that if you want to make an appeal based on mock grades, this will follow a different route. Further details will be provided on this shortly.