

Pearson 2021 UK qualification fees update: GCSE, AS and A level



Each year we follow rigorous processes to ensure that students are awarded the right grades from all the hard work they have put in. As the summer exams have now been cancelled, we're working hard to ensure that 2021 is no exception and that students receive the grades they deserve.

We're following the processes set out for us by the Department for Education, Ofqual and JCQ and, in consultation with schools and colleges, we have put new approaches in place to ensure that students are awarded grades that are accurate and fair so that they are able to progress to their next stage.

We appreciate you may have questions about how the changes to the 2021 summer series will affect your qualification fees. There is still much for us to work through regarding the impact of the cancellation of the 2021 exam series, but please be assured that we remain fully committed to passing on any savings to you.

What we're doing differently for summer 2021



We know that providing teacher assessed grades has been challenging for you, and our priority is always to support schools, colleges, teachers and students. This year's arrangements have meant changes to the normal summer assessment processes for teachers, and also for awarding organisations as we work to ensure we meet our regulatory requirements and support you as fully as possible.

While some of the processes we would carry out in a standard series – such as the marking of exam papers – are not taking place this summer, there are many new activities and processes for us to develop and work through so we can award grades this summer and look ahead to the additional autumn series.

Here are just some of the activities we've been working on.

<p>Training for teachers on over 100 qualifications – providing live events, on demand sessions, videos, downloadable guides and documents.</p>	<p>Developing and delivering over 4,500 new assessment materials for teachers and students.</p>	<p>Recruitment and training of hundreds of senior assessment associates so they can complete rigorous subject-level quality assurance processes.</p>
<p>Reviewing over 7,000 individual centre policies.</p>	<p>Developing new technology systems to accept centre policies and teacher assessed grades.</p>	<p>Delivering results earlier, enabling all GCSE and A level students to receive their results as soon as possible.</p>
<p>Setting up and running a new appeals process – still to be confirmed by JCQ.</p>	<p>Preparing to deliver an additional Autumn series.</p>	<p>Find out more about this activity here.</p> 

More than just an exam fee: what do qualification fees pay for?

General qualification fees cover the delivery of each qualification from first teaching to successful completion of the course and assessment. Our experts work to provide schools and colleges, teachers and students with the best and most up-to-date support possible throughout this cycle.

Our general qualification fees cover more than just the final exams, and enable us to provide all the support over the two years of the course. Fees are paid towards the end of the course, which means you will have had the benefit of all the expertise and support that we have provided up to that point, as well as the assessments, results and our supporting services.

Here's a flavour of what's included in your qualification fees.

	<p>Development of our qualifications</p> <p>Research and development of the specifications and sample assessment materials, in partnership with subject communities and external stakeholders, and the ongoing management and refinements of our qualifications.</p>
	<p>Planning and getting ready to teach the course</p> <p>Qualification approval, planning and getting started guides, training and events to support departmental CPD.</p>
	<p>Support for teaching and learning</p> <p>Teaching resources (e.g., schemes of work, mapping documents), network events, support for tiering, practical skills, internal assessment support, NEA and exams, expert subject support.</p>
	<p>Assessment and results</p> <p>Homework and revision, mock exams, past papers, mark schemes, examiners reports, exemplars and sample marked learner work, examinations, marking, standardisation, results and our Access to Scripts and ResultsPlus services.</p>

Thank you

As the final arrangements for GCSE, AS and A level grade awarding continue to evolve, we remain absolutely committed to supporting you and your students.

We'd like to thank you and all your fellow teaching colleagues and exams officers for the incredible work you are doing this summer, and to reassure you that we will be passing on any savings to you later in the year.

