

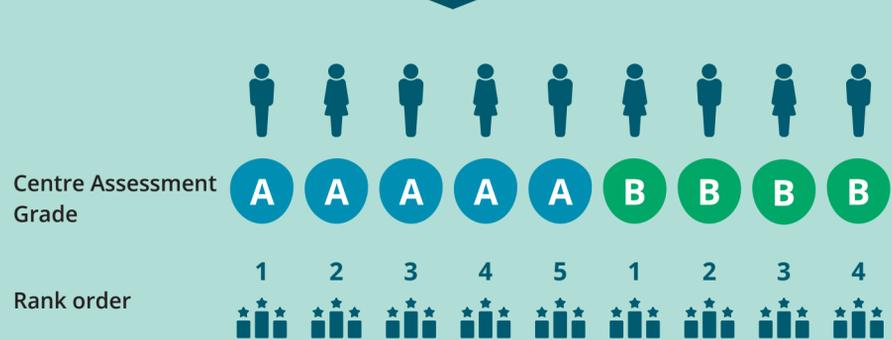


Understanding how grades will be awarded for GCSEs, International GCSEs, AS/A levels and International AS/A levels in summer 2020

In summer 2020 UK exam boards will be using a statistical model developed by Ofqual to standardise the Centre Assessment Grades and rank orders submitted by schools and colleges for GCSEs, AS and A levels. A similar approach will be applied for International qualifications.

To calculate final grades for students we will look at the following data:

- Centre Assessment Grades and rank orders, submitted by you
- the previous national results in each subject
- the prior attainment of your students from this year compared with previous years (where available)
- the results from your school or college in recent years.



The Ofqual model uses prior attainment to reflect changes in cohort ability at a subject level, so students without prior attainment at a national level will follow the same pattern of results as in previous years within each subject. Prior attainment is how candidates performed in previous assessment. For example, for A level students prior attainment data will come from GCSE results.

We'll look at:

- the historical national results for each subject
- the prior attainment of your current students compared with your students in previous years
- the results your school or college achieved in recent years.

We will then compare all this information with the Centre Assessment Grades and rank order data that you submitted. We may need to make adjustments if grading judgements in some schools and colleges appear to be more generous or severe than others.

If Centre Assessment Grades are too generous we will adjust the grades down.



If Centre Assessment Grades are too severe we will adjust the grades up.



The rank order of your students will not change but some grades may be adjusted.

In these exceptional circumstances this process for awarding students with their grades for summer 2020 is the fairest possible and all exam boards will use this to ensure students receive grades that reflect the results that the overall cohort would have received if the exams had been sat.

To find out more detail about the data used in the model and how it works please take a look at the information provided by [Ofqual](#).

Further questions



We appreciate that in this unprecedented situation you may have further questions around how Ofqual's statistical model may affect student results in your centre. We've included some questions below and we will add to them if we receive further queries in our discussions with you.

Q We've made changes to the way we deliver these qualifications and our students would have received better results in 2020 if they had sat the exams. You're giving us the same results as in 2019, so how is that a fair reflection of our hard work and that of our students?

This is an exceptional year and we recognise that because exams have been cancelled students have not been able to demonstrate what they have learned in the usual way. Therefore, Ofqual and all the exam boards have responded by providing a system that enables students to receive grades that are as fair as possible, balancing information from the teachers who know them best with the need to standardise across the country.

In these unprecedented circumstances, we have implemented the Ofqual approved approach for calculating student grades. The statistical approach is designed to standardise Centre Assessment Grades nationally as it is important for grades to still have currency and enable students to progress from this year to their next stage of education. The measures put in place this year have been designed to ensure that this year's learners are not advantaged or disadvantaged compared to learners from previous years.

Ofqual have stated in the [outcomes of the consultation on GCSE and A levels](#), that it is not possible to quantify the possible impact that changes in delivery within a school or college would have on results and therefore it has not been accommodated in the model.

Q What proportion of teacher assessed grades will be adjusted?

We are not in a position to be able to answer this yet and will not be able to until results day.

In response to the cancellation of exams, Ofqual made the decision to develop a statistical model to calculating grades which all UK exam boards are implementing. This approach standardises the grades across schools and colleges so that where any severity or leniency is observed in specific schools their grades will be adjusted from those submitted. It is likely that some grades issued will not be the same as those submitted by the centre.

These were very challenging circumstances within which centres had to submit this information and it is not a moderation process that we use for the standardisation of moderation grades. There was no assessment criteria and no standardisation training put in place during this unprecedented situation. The fairest way to arrive at a grade that reflects an individual's performance is to sit an assessment, but without this, the approach that we are implementing is the fairest in a difficult situation in comparison to previous years and future cohorts.

Q We are not happy with the grades that have been given to our centre, how can we appeal?

Ofqual has stated that a centre may appeal to the exam board if it believes the centre itself made an error when submitting a centre assessment grade or rank order information.

Or, similarly, if a centre believes an exam board made a mistake when calculating, assigning or communicating a grade. This could include the wrong prior attainment or demographic information being used for the purposes of standardisation. We are working on how we will share this information and will let you know when more is confirmed.

Q What if a student has concerns about bias, discrimination or a centre not behaving with integrity?

Ofqual has stated that if students or others have concerns about bias, discrimination or any other factor that suggests that a centre did not behave with care or integrity when determining the centre assessment grade and/or rank order information they should normally raise these concerns with their centre, in the first instance.

In some cases, where there is evidence of serious malpractice on the part of the centre, it may be appropriate to bring those concerns directly to the exam board in the first instance.

Where there is evidence, Ofqual require exam boards to investigate allegations as potential malpractice or maladministration.

Such allegations would be very serious, and are expected to be rare, but this is an important safeguard for students and their overall confidence in this year's grading arrangements

i For further information and support for teachers and exams officers and a set of FAQs please visit our website at [quals.pearson.com/2020teo](#).