



Pearson

# Support session for A level Music Technology teachers on submitting grades in summer 2020

Outline of the principles set out by Ofqual

April 2020





# Agenda

- Overview
- General Principles from Ofqual
- Types of evidence to consider for A level  
Music Technology
- An example for a A level Music Technology  
cohort





# Overview

# Overview

The Secretary of State made the announcement on 20 March that there would be no exams this summer and further details would follow.

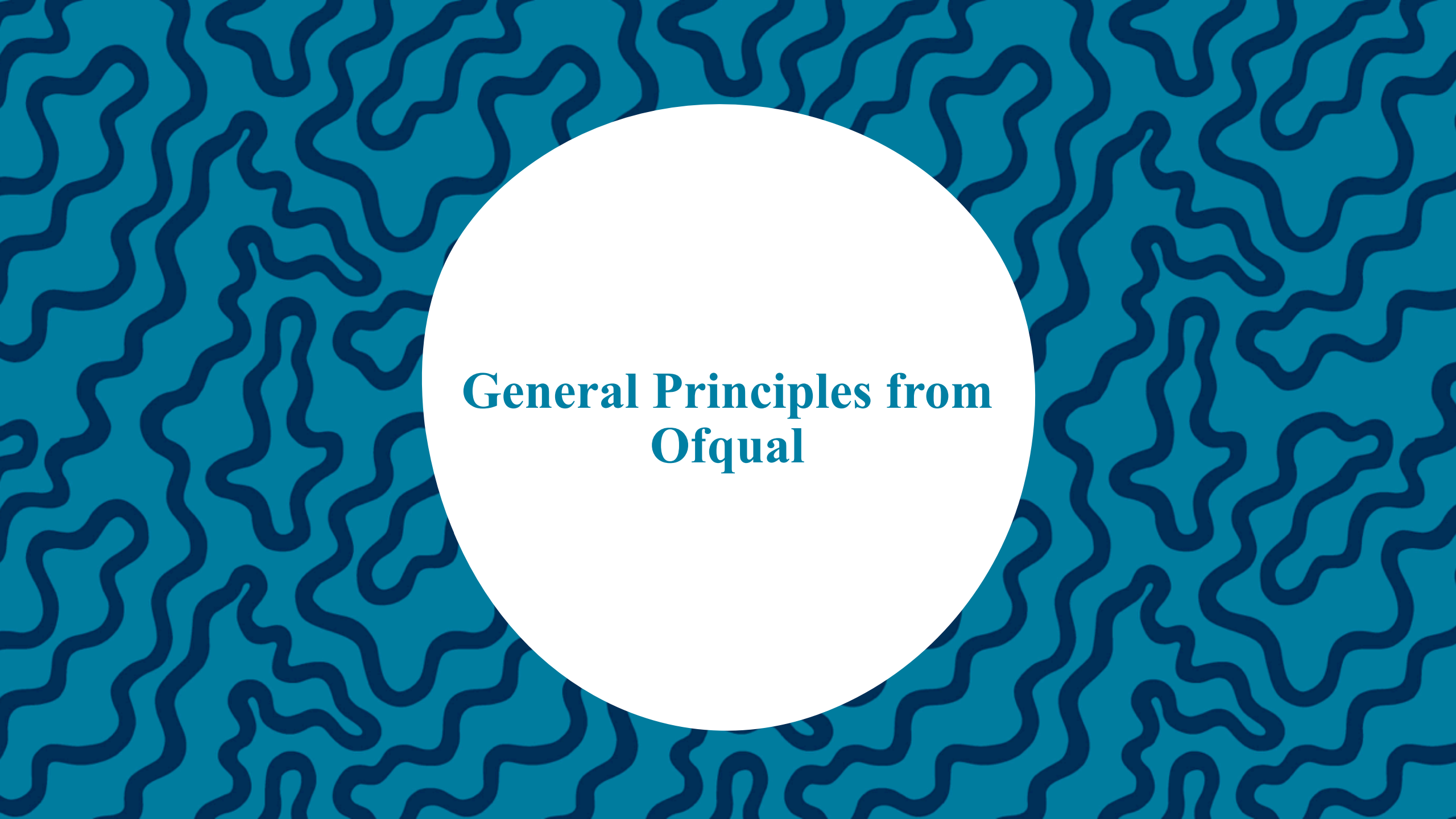
- Cancellation of the summer exams;
- Priority to enable learners to make progress;
- A calculated grade will be issued in July;

Ofqual released details on 3 April to give further information about how grades will be awarded.

For every GCSE, AS and A level subject, exam boards will require each school, college or other exam centre to submit;

- A centre assessment grade for each student
- The rank order of students within each grade





# **General Principles from Ofqual**

# Ofqual principles

## Centre Assessment Grade

- The judgement submitted to the exam board by the **Head of Centre** about the grade that each student is **most likely to have achieved** if they had sat their exams. This professional judgement is derived from evidence held within the centre and which has been reviewed by subject teachers and relevant Heads of Department.
- Holistic professional judgement, balancing the different sources of evidence.
- Heads of Department and teachers to consider each student's performance over the course of study and make a realistic judgement of **the grade each student would have been most likely to get if they had taken their exam(s) in a subject and completed any non-exam assessment**
- Centres should assume that it is no easier or harder for a student to achieve a particular grade this year, compared to previous years

# Ofqual principles

## Rank Order

- For example, for all those students with a grade 5 in GCSE, or a grade B in A level, a rank order where 1 is the most secure/highest attaining student, and so on
- Where there is more than one subject teacher, they will need to agree one rank order for all students within the centre who are taking that subject.
- Tied ranks (that is, giving two students position 1) will not be allowed and will mean the submission is rejected by the exam board and returned to the centre for amendment.

# Ofqual principles

## Statistical standardisation

- Exam boards, using a model developed with Ofqual, will use a statistical model to standardise grades across centres in each subject.
- It will combine a range of evidence including:
  - expected grade distributions at national level
  - results in previous years at individual centre level
  - the prior attainment profile of students at centre level
- This statistical standardisation process will not change the rank order of students within your centre. Nor will it assume that the distribution of grades in each subject and/or each centre should be the same.
- This could potentially move grades up or down for some or all candidates



# Ofqual principles

## How and when to submit

- Assessment grades must be signed off by at least 2 teachers in that subject, one being the Head of Department (or if there is only one teacher available, by the Head of Centre). Then the Head of Centre will be required to confirm that the centre assessment grades and the rank order of students are a true representation of student performance.
- The systems to submit the grades are being developed
- It will be no earlier than 29 May 2020
- There will be a window of at least two weeks
- Centres **must not**, under any circumstances, share the centre assessment grades or the rank order with students, parents/carers or any other individuals outside the centre, before final results have been issued.



**Evidence to consider for  
A level Music Technology**

# Evidence you may consider for A level Music Technology

## Recording

- Any completed recordings
- Incomplete recordings
- Recording tasks from classwork/homework
- [Principal Examiner report from 2019](#)
- [Exemplar material](#)
- The standard of this cohort compared with those in previous years

# Evidence you may consider for A level Music Technology

## Technology-based Composition

- Any completed compositions
- Incomplete compositions
- Composition tasks from classwork/homework
- [Principal Examiner report from 2019](#)
- [Exemplar material](#)
- The standard of this cohort compared with those in previous years



# Evidence you may consider for A level Music Technology

## Exams

- Mock exams
- Progress review data
- Classwork
- Homework
- [Examiner report from 2019 for Component 3](#)
- [Examiner report from 2019 for Component 4](#)
- [Exemplar material](#)
- The standard of this cohort compared with those in previous years

# Evidence you may consider for A level Music Technology

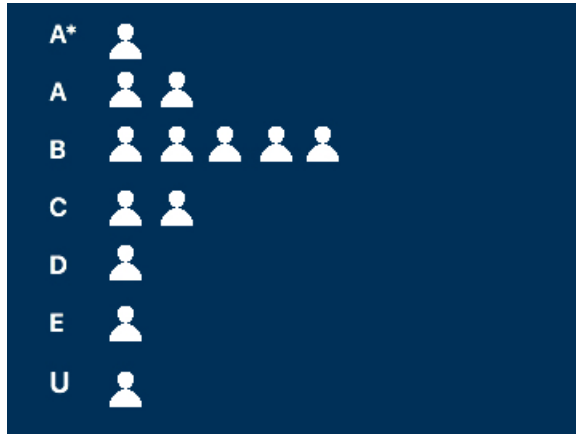
## Centre Assessment Grade

- Bear in mind that many students achieve a higher grade on their NEA than in their exams. You should balance it with your judgement about their likely performance in the written paper.
- Previous achievement by cohorts in your centre
- Previous [grade boundaries](#)
- Previous [grade statistics](#)



**An example for a A level  
Music Technology cohort**

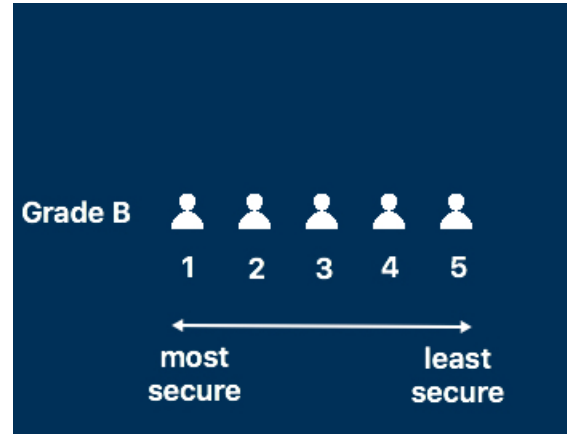
# An example for a A level Music Technology cohort



## Step 1

**Centre Assessment Grade**

You use evidence and knowledge to grade each candidate



## Step 2

**Rank Order**

You assign a rank order for candidates at each grade with 1 being the highest attaining/most secure



## Step 3

**Submit to Awarding Organisation**

Your Centre Assessment Grades and Rank Order are confirmed by HoD and Head of Centre



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**Subject Advisor – Music and**  
**Music Technology**

<https://support.pearson.com/uk/s/qualification-contactus>

[https://support.pearson.com/uk/s/group/  
0F90N000000kGddSAE/music](https://support.pearson.com/uk/s/group/0F90N000000kGddSAE/music)

**ALWAYS LEARNING**