

BTEC Customer Briefing January-February 2021



Summary of commonly
asked pre-event Q&As

[BTEC FAQs](#)

External Assessment

Q. Will summer exams take place?

- A. BTEC exam and Task based assessments for Spring and Summer 2021 will not go ahead. However, BTEC examinations that contribute to qualifications that include a Licence to Practise (e.g. Childcare) may need to take place, and the consultation outcome will inform any alternative arrangements.

Q. Do we need to make entries, even though we know Exams are not taking place?

- A. We expect there to be sufficient time after receiving the consultation response and guidance from us, for centres to make BTEC external entries before the deadline of 25 March, therefore we are advising to wait until the consultation response before making entries for learners.

Q. Will we need to provide teacher assessed grades now exams are not taking place?

- A. We are working closely with Ofqual and DfE on our approach to awarding results this year. Following the outcomes of the Ofqual consultation, we will write to you again with further information.

External Assessment

Q. I have a learner who is due to complete in April but wasn't able to sit the Exam in January. Can they still complete?

A. We are continuing to work with DfE and Ofqual to ensure that BTEC learners are not disadvantaged. Whilst we await further information, should you have learners due to complete (certificate) using their January assessment outcomes, please contact us and we will be able to use the existing special consideration process to enable this; if they have not been able to take the assessment in January.

Q. What will happen with exam grades deferred from last year?

A. Once full award claims are made, we will calculate grades for all entries marked as 'Absent' from the summer 2020 examination session, [using the method that informed our review \(PDF\)](#). We will not be releasing deferred grade calculations following the outcome of standards verification as previously suggested. Grades will be calculated and released in line with results day

General Teaching, Learning and Assessment (TLA)

Q. Can we amend our Assessment Plan(s) to best fit online learning?

- A. Yes, it is absolutely fine to amend your assessment plan to suit your current circumstances and enable your learners to progress. We would ask you use version control if you do make changes and ensure your Standards Verifier is kept -up-to-date on your plans

Q. How do we deliver and assess units with ‘practicals’ during lockdown?

- A. Refer to the [Teaching and Learning guidance document](#) for your sector for subject specific advice. From a general perspective, teaching and learning can focus on those elements of a unit that are possible in the context and we encourage you to continue assessing your learners, even if this is partial assessments of units whilst centres are closed.

Q. Can learners undertake a resubmission for a unit that received a Centre Assessed Grade (CAG) last year?

- A. Yes, the CAG is treated as the first submission so a resubmission is allowed. Guidance for managing this can be found in our updated [Centre Guide to Internal Assessment](#).

Reduced Unit Assessment

Q. What unit adaptations can we now apply?

- A. This will depend on the qualification and size you are delivering. The Reduced Internal Assessment Adaptation for each qualification within the BTEC Firsts, Level 2 and BTEC Nationals suites is outlined in this [guidance document](#) and other qualifications are outlined in our [VQ Bulletin 6](#)

Q. What evidence will we need to provide for non-assessed units?

- A. We will be issuing administration guidance on how to manage this in our systems, once we have the responses to the Ofqual consultation. For now, please keep a record of the units where you intend to reduce assessment, on your assessment plan, so your Standards Verifier is aware of what assessment will or will not be available for sampling.

Setting Standards

Q. How will grades be awarded?

- A. We are working closely with Ofqual and the DfE to ensure that the standards set for January and Summer 2021 are aligned where appropriate to the principles that will underpin the General Qualifications approach.

Standards Verification

Q. How will the Standards Verification process work this year?

A. BTEC Standards Verification will continue as planned in 2021 to ensure you have the appropriate support to enable certification release. We have begun the process of allocating Standards Verifiers for this year's process; please do engage with them as they now begin to contact you. Share the latest version of your assessment plan(s) so they can easily identify available work for sampling. To aid this, you may want to update assessment plans to:

- identify any units/components that received a Centre Assessed Grade last year
- identify any Centre Assessed Grade units/components where resubmissions have taken place
- identify any units/components selected for Internal Assessment Adaptation

We remain committed to our current timelines set out in the guidance already issued. Following the outcomes of the Ofqual consultation, we will write to you again with further information about the timeline.