

Examination results and appeals Summer 2020

The Covid 19 pandemic has had a major impact on examination results this year because the government closed schools and decided that in the interests of public safety all examinations were halted. This meant that a completely new system of arriving at examination results for students had to be found, and that it needed to be as fair as possible to students and schools/colleges. **All grades awarded this year carry the same weight as all previous years and the certificate will be identical.**

What process was used to award my grade?

For GCSE, AS and A Level subjects schools were asked to provide a calculated grade for every student in each subject and then to place students into a rank order within each grade. The grade was calculated by teachers using their professional judgement to make fair and objective judgements about all students using a wide range of information. The evidence used may have included any of the following: progress review data, classwork, homework, non-examined assessment (coursework), mock examinations, AS examinations where appropriate, participation in sporting or performance activities, etc. This list is not exhaustive.

Several teachers would have collaborated on arriving at the grades and rank orders and this would have been overseen by a senior member of staff. Once agreement was made within a subject a Declaration Form was signed by the Subject Leader and one other teacher. This form also declares that no bias or discrimination, either favourable or unfavourable was present in the decisions that were arrived at. Both existing Access Arrangements and Special Consideration for individual students were taken into account when making decisions about grades and rank orders.

A further check was then made by Sir Kevin Satchwell, who only signed the Head of Centre Declaration once he was satisfied that the grades and rank orders were a true reflection of the likely outcome if the examinations had taken place.

The final result given on each of the two results days and the **grade awarded by the examination boards (awarding bodies)** once they had made further checks on the grades that schools awarded to make sure that all centres were being fair in their judgements. In this way any centre who was seen as being too lenient might have had some of their grades lowered, while centres who were seen as too harsh might have had some grades raised.

In order to do this the awarding bodies used a statistical standardisation process whereby they looked at each centre's results over previous years, as well as the prior attainment of the students who would have taken examinations this year.

Vocational subjects had a similar process, although there were slight differences in the way in which grades and/or rank orders were processed. Many of the internal assessments had already been completed during the previous twelve months had already been processed. The same strict controls were in place in terms of checking grades and rank orders. Vocational subjects also had to be signed off by a Subject Leader and one other teacher, as well as Sir Kevin Satchwell signing off his Head of Centre Declaration Form.

Can I appeal my result?

There is an appeals process, but it very different to appeals from previous years, mainly due to the fact that there are no examinations to request a review of marking. There are only a limited number of opportunities for this to take occur. They are summarised as follows:

- The School can make an appeal if it believes that we made an error when submitting a centre assessment grade or rank order
- If the School believes that the examination board made a mistake when calculating, assigning or communicating a grade
- If you can provide evidence about bias, discrimination or any other factor that suggests that the School did not behave with care or integrity
- You are **not allowed** to appeal the grade or rank order made by the School

If you are unhappy with the result you have for any subject there is an opportunity to sit an examination in that subject in the Autumn Term. The dates for these are:

- A Level: 5 October -23 October (entry deadline is 4 September)
- GCSE: 2 November – 23 November (entry deadline is 4 October)

Further details on appeals and the autumn examinations will be published during the summer.

Should you want to request an appeal based on bias or discrimination please contact Mr Williams (Examinations Officer) at school for more information and a request form.

Also, see Mr Williams if you require further information and want to sit examinations in Autumn Series. Please be mindful of the closing dates for sitting A Level examinations.

Paul Williams
Examinations Officer