

GCSE and A-level results in 2021: what you need to know

Find out how pupils will receive teacher-assessed grades this summer for GCSEs, AS and A-levels, and vocational and technical qualifications (VTQs).

What is happening?

- › Exams are cancelled this summer for GCSEs, AS-levels and A-levels, as well as some VTQs
- › Instead of exams, pupils will receive grades based on assessments by their teachers
- › Teacher-assessed grades will be sent to the exam board to be processed

How will teachers make judgements on grades?

- › They will use a range of evidence of pupils' work, like coursework, practice papers and classwork collected over the duration of the course to inform their decisions
- › There will be a set of formal internal assessments taking place in the sports hall after the Easter break, these assessments will only cover content that has been taught in class.
- › Some subjects may set additional in class assessments to provide more evidence to support the awarding of initial teacher assessed grades.
- › Teachers will let pupils know what evidence they will use before submitting grades to the exam board. This is so pupils can confirm it is their own work, and let teachers know of any mitigating circumstances that might have affected it
- › Teachers will only assess pupils based on what they have been taught, grades will not be awarded on what teachers thought students would get if the exams had gone ahead

How will we know grades are awarded fairly?

- › Our school will have an internal quality assurance process in place that will take into consideration our results in previous years. This is to make sure teachers' judgements are not too harsh or lenient
- › Exam boards will also have their own quality assurance process. They will check that our internal procedure is fair before they process any grades, and they might also visit our school to review evidence from some subjects
- › We will submit a declaration to the exam board confirming that we have followed the requirements for our internal quality assurance process

When will we get our results?

- › **AS and A-level:** Tuesday 10 August
- › **GCSE:** Thursday 12 August

Can we still appeal?

- › Yes, all pupils will have the right to appeal their grade. As with all appeals your grade can go up or down on review.
- › If you appeal, we will carry out a review to make sure we have followed all processes correctly and that we have not made an error in your grade

- If we do find an error, we will submit your revised grade to the exam board. If the board is satisfied, it will issue a revised grade
- If we do not believe an error has been made, you can ask us to appeal to the board on your behalf. We will share the evidence your teacher used to set your grade, and the board will review it to see if we made the right judgement. If they find the grade, we set is not reasonable, they will provide an alternative grade
- If you disagree with the school's or the exam board's decision, you can refer the issue to Ofqual's Exams Procedure Review Service (EPRS). The exam board will have the final say unless the EPRS finds that it has made an error

What about vocational and technical qualifications?

- If you are taking VTQs to progress to further or higher education, you will not have exams. Your grades will also be awarded based on teachers' judgements
- If you are taking VTQs to go directly into employment, your exams will go ahead **if** they:
 - Are needed to show occupational and professional competence
 - Can be carried out in line with public health measures (If they cannot take place safely, they will be delayed)
- If you want to appeal your results, we can do that on your behalf following the process set out by the individual awarding organisation concerned

Key dates assessment dates

15/03/21	Delivery of subject content/completion of NEA
22/03/21	Delivery of subject content/completion of NEA
29/03/21	Delivery of subject content/completion of NEA
EASTER HOLIDAY	
19/04/21	Year 11 & Year 13 formal assessments under examination conditions
26/04/21	Year 11 & Year 13 formal assessments under examination conditions
3/05/21	Review of subject content +in class final assessments if required
10/05/21	Review of subject content +in class final assessments if required
17/05/21	Review of subject content +in class final assessments if required
24/05/21	Review of subject content +in class final assessments if required
HALF TERM	
7/06/21	Grade submission week/final checks
14/06/21	Grade submission week/final check
Friday June 18 2021	Deadline for submission of grades to the examination board
Results days	AS and A-level: Tuesday 10 August, GCSE: Thursday 12 August

Sources

This factsheet was produced by The Key for School Leaders and Whitburn Church of England Academy, based on the following sources. All information is correct as of 15 March 2021.

- [Awarding qualifications in summer 2021](#), GOV.UK – DfE
- [Decisions on how GCSE, AS and A level grades will be determined in summer 2021](#), GOV.UK – Ofqual and DfE
- [Decisions on alternative arrangements for the award of VTQs and other general qualifications in 2021](#), GOV.UK – Ofqual and DfE