



9 April 2020

We understand the uncertainty and anxiety that many of you may have been experiencing following the Government's announcement that this summer's public examinations are cancelled.

We are pleased to confirm that Ofqual have now published the details of how they intend to award A level and GCSE grades this summer. Vocational qualifications, Access to HE and Functional Skills are being dealt with separately and we expect to receive guidance on these by the end of the Easter break – as soon as we know more we will update you.

The process for awarding grades for A levels and GCSEs this summer requires schools and colleges (centres) to submit to awarding organisations (exam boards) the following information:

- a **centre assessment grade** for each student (i.e. a judgement about the grade that each student is likely to have achieved if they had sat their exams and completed any required Non-Examined Assessments (NEAs))
- a **rank order** of students within each grade (e.g. for all those with a grade of 5 in GCSE Maths, or a grade B in A level Psychology, a rank order where 1 is the most secure/highest attaining student, and so on)

This will involve looking at all the evidence we have in order to reach a fair, reasonable and carefully-considered judgement for each student. Access arrangements will be taken into consideration as part of the process for any students that have had them approved.

In order to ensure that grades awarded by different centres across the country are fair, awarding bodies will use a statistical model developed with Ofqual to standardise grades across centres in each subject. This model 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 each centre

We are confident that the approach that Ofqual have decided upon is the fairest and most consistent way of grading these qualifications in these circumstances. Students can be assured that lecturers know them well, will assess their work with the utmost diligence, and that the process for standardising results will ensure a level playing field nationally.

Please note that centres (schools and colleges) are **not permitted to tell students or parents/carers the centre assessment grades or rank order that have been awarded** at any point. Whilst we appreciate that you will be anxious about the grades, this is a very clear instruction from Ofqual to centres and we will therefore not be able to enter into any discussion of grades with students or parents/carers. Please, therefore, do not ask your lecturers or tutors to discuss centre assessment grades or rank orders with you.

Ofqual have produced a very useful summary of their processes which can be found [here](#). They have also published [this letter](#) to students and parents/carers detailing how grades will be awarded.

Please also remember that Ofqual have indicated that there will be an opportunity for students to choose to sit a formal examination in the autumn, should they be dissatisfied with their grade as a result of the process outlined above. For this reason, you are required to continue to engage with all remote learning activities specified by your lecturers and tutors until further notice.

Ofqual will be issuing further guidance in the coming weeks and we will make sure that we share any relevant information with you at the earliest opportunity.