



Summer Exams 2021 – FAQs for Students and Parents

1. How will my child's grades be calculated this summer?

The DfE and Ofqual have asked teachers to provide students with grades based on the standard they are working at. This means grading students on what they know, understand and can do. Teachers cannot judge student's potential or predict grades – it **MUST** be based on evidence teachers have collected from the students over the course of their study.

2. Will grades be calculated for all of my child's qualifications?

Yes. The DfE and Ofqual have requested that teachers provide grades for all A Level, AS Level, GCSE and vocational qualifications that were due to be completed in Summer 2021.

3. What evidence will be used to create the teacher assessed grades?

Teachers can use a range of evidence to make a judgement of the grade their students are performing at. Any work produced by students that reflects the exam specifications with exam style questions could be used. This could be:

- Mock exams and in class tests
- Substantial classwork or homework
- Internal tests (before and after lockdown)
- Any records of progress and performance over the course of study
- NEA, even if not fully complete

Students and parents will be told what evidence will be used to assess them.

4. How will teachers come to an overall grade?

Teachers will look at a broad range of evidence to make a holistic judgement of the grade their students are performing at. All work can be used (from before lockdown, during lockdown and when students have return to school) as long as teachers are sure the work is their own.

Teachers may place a greater emphasis on the work completed towards the end of the course as it should reflect a higher standard.

In order for students to demonstrate their best work, students will be sitting a series of assessments over the summer term. A schedule for these assessments has been clearly communicated to them.

5. How long does my child have to produce the evidence that will be used in the grading process?

Teacher assessed grades must be submitted to exam boards by **Friday 18 June** so all assessments and pieces of evidence must be completed before then. In practice, we expect



them all to be completed before the May half term, though there may be some exceptions (for example if your child had to isolate and missed many of them).

6. What will my child be assessed on in the summer term?

Departments will ensure that students will only be assessed on content they have been taught as some elements may have not been covered due to lockdown. The topics assessed have been communicated to students.

7. When will final assessments take place?

Assessments will take place during first half of the summer term. The last possible day for any assessments is Friday 11 June 2021 (as Friday 18 June is the deadline for the submission of grades and time will be needed for marking and moderation). Each subject will be following their own assessment schedule and the students will be informed of the dates of these with plenty of notice.

8. When are the results days this summer?

Results days will still take place in August.

- AS and A Level – Tuesday 10 August 2021
- GCSE – Thursday 12 August 2021

9. Can my child find out their grade before the formal results day if their teachers are calculating it?

Students and parents **CANNOT** find out teacher assessed grades before results day.

If students or parents ask the school or teachers for their grades or to be given high grades, this is **MALPRACTICE. The school is required to report this to the exam boards.**

10. What is the appeals process if my child is not happy with their teacher calculated grade?

So far, the DfE and Ofqual have confirmed that there will be two stages to the appeals process.

- Stage 1 – the student appeals to the school who will check for any errors in awarding your grade(s) by the school.
- Stage 2 – if the student is still not happy, they will be able to ask the school to appeal to the exam board where the school will be required to send the student's evidence to the exam board for review.

Please note that grades can go **UP OR DOWN ON APPEAL, so after this process the school will not be able to uphold its original grade.**

The details of the appeals process are still being consulted. We will update this section on appeals in due course.



11. My child has been sent home to isolate and will miss scheduled assessments. What will happen for their assessments?

Students who are at home or self-isolating will still be expected to complete the assessments they were due to complete in school. Depending on the individual's circumstance and the subject, the student may be asked to complete their assessment in exam conditions at home on MS Teams or to complete the assessment on a different date when they return to school.

The student's subject teacher will be in touch with the student directly to explain the circumstance to them.

12. My child had to isolate just before an assessment was taken and didn't do as well. Will this be taken into account.

Yes – teachers will take this into account when grading students. As students are taking several assessments over the course of this term, they will have other opportunities to show their teacher(s) the standard they are working at. It is important to remember that students must be graded on the evidence available, and not on their potential.

13. My child is isolating so is missing a lot of their summer term revision lessons. How can they catch up?

Teachers are uploading all of their class resources and setting assignments on MS Teams so students will be able to continue with the work at home.

14. My child is isolating, can they complete assessments online?

Yes. Depending on the individual's circumstance and the subject, the student may be asked to complete their assessment in exam conditions at home on MS Teams or they may be asked to complete the assessment on a different date when they return to school. In some cases, they may be asked to complete it as a piece of homework rather than as an assessment.

The student's subject teacher will be in touch with the student directly to explain how they will complete a missed assessment.

15. My child has suffered significant mitigating circumstances that has affected their ability to perform in their assessments across the summer term. How can this be taken into consideration in the grading process?

Students who have suffered mitigating circumstances must inform the school for special consideration via the office email, FAO Heather Tombs, Examination Officer. Last term we asked students and parents for any periods of mitigating circumstances during the course of study, these will also be taken into account.

Some examples of mitigating circumstances which would warrant special considerations include but are not exclusive to:



- Bereavement
- Isolation due to a positive COVID-19 test Isolation due to a being a close contact of a person with a positive COVID-19 test
- Shielding as requested by the government
- Diagnosis/management of a new medical condition
- Absence due to a long term illness
- Caring for a relative
- Cases of domestic violence or crisis

16. What date do Year 11 and Year 13 students need to be available until?

Year 11 and Year 13 students **MUST** be available until **Friday 18 June 2021**. Students may be required to attend school up until this date so they must remain local to the school site and be available to come in.

Please do not book holidays or arrange work/work experience before this date.

Please also note that **our Sixth Form Transition Day will be on Thursday 24 June**, so a number of Year 11 students will be involved.