

Consultation on how GCSE, AS and A level grades should be awarded in summer 2021

Questions listed below for reference only. [Respond online](#)

Questions:

1. To what extent do you agree or disagree that the grades awarded to students in 2021 should reflect the standard at which they are performing?
Options: Strongly agree through to strongly disagree

When teachers should assess the standard at which students are performing

2. To what extent do you agree or disagree that the alternative approach to awarding grades in summer 2021 should seek to encourage students to continue to engage with their education for the remainder of the academic year?
Options: Strongly agree through to strongly disagree
3. When would you prefer that teachers make their final assessment of their students' performance?
Options: May through to July.
4. To what extent do you agree or disagree that teachers should be able to use evidence of the standard of a student's performance from throughout their course?
Options: Strongly agree through to strongly disagree
5. Should there be any limit on the period from which previous work could be drawn?
Yes/No
6. If you answered 'yes', what should that limit be?
Options: Work completed in the previous 1 month/3 months/6 months/12 months/18 months
7. Do you have any comments on when students should be assessed?
Free text box

How teachers should determine the grades they submit to exam boards

8. To what extent do you agree or disagree that the exam boards should provide a set of papers to support teachers in assessing their students' work?
Options: Strongly agree through to strongly disagree
9. Do you think the use of the papers provided by the exam boards should be compulsory or optional, for GCSEs, AS and A levels?
Options: All A level/ All GCSE/ GCSE English Lang/GCSE Maths
10. To what extent do you agree or disagree that any papers provided by the exam boards should include questions that are of a type that is familiar to students?
Options: Strongly agree through to strongly disagree
11. To what extent do you agree or disagree that if teachers use exam board papers they should have choice about the topics covered in the questions their students answer, for example through choice of which papers they use with their students from the set of papers provided?
Options: Strongly agree through to strongly disagree
12. To what extent do you agree or disagree that teachers should be required to assess (either by use of the exam board papers or via other evidence) a certain minimum proportion of the overall subject content, for each subject?
Options: Strongly agree through to strongly disagree

13. To what extent do you agree or disagree that teachers should mark any papers their students are asked to complete?
Options: Strongly agree through to strongly disagree
14. Do you have any comments on the use of exam board papers? Free text box

Subjects with non-exam assessment and separately reported results and grades

15. To what extent do you agree or disagree that teachers should take account of a student's performance in any non-exam assessment where that has been completed in full for a subject?
Options: Strongly agree through to strongly disagree
16. To what extent do you agree or disagree that teachers should take account of a student's performance in any non-exam assessment where that has been completed in part for a subject?
Options: Strongly agree through to strongly disagree
17. To what extent do you agree or disagree that teachers should mark their students' non-exam assessments?
Options: Strongly agree through to strongly disagree
18. To what extent do you agree or disagree that the marking of non-exam assessments should not be moderated by the exam boards this year?
Options: Strongly agree through to strongly disagree
19. Do you have any comments on the use of non-exam assessment and separately reported results and grades?
Free text box

Other performance evidence

20. To what extent do you agree or disagree that a breadth of evidence should inform teachers' judgements?
Options: Strongly agree through to strongly disagree
21. To what extent do you agree or disagree that the provision of training and guidance from exam boards should support teachers to reach their assessment of a student's deserved grade?
Options: Strongly agree through to strongly disagree
22. To what extent do you agree or disagree that teachers should be able to take into account other performance evidence for a student before submitting a grade?
Options: Strongly agree through to strongly disagree
23. To what extent do you agree or disagree that performance evidence from closer to the time of the final assessment, should carry more weight in determining a student's final grade?
Options: Strongly agree through to strongly disagree
24. Do you have any comments on the use of other performance evidence?
Free text box

The assessment period

25. To what extent do you agree or disagree that all students should be assessed within a given time period for each subject – whether or not their school or college must or is using exam board papers?
Options: Strongly agree through to strongly disagree
26. To what extent do you agree or disagree that exam boards should publish all of their papers shortly before the assessments in order to manage the risk of some students being advantaged through papers being leaked?
Options: Strongly agree through to strongly disagree

27. Do you have any comments about the assessment period for the use of exam board papers or teacher devised assessments?

Free text box

The conditions under which students should be assessed

28. To what extent do you agree or disagree that the assessments should, if possible, be taken within the student's school or college?

Options: Strongly agree through to strongly disagree

29. To what extent do you agree or disagree that if the pandemic makes it necessary a student should be able to take their assessments at an alternative venue, including at home?

Options: Strongly agree through to strongly disagree

30. Do you have any comments on the conditions under which students should be assessed?

Free text box

Supporting teachers

31. To what extent do you agree or disagree that the exam boards should provide support and information to schools and colleges to help them meet the assessment requirements?

Options: Strongly agree through to strongly disagree

Internal quality assurance

32. To what extent do you agree or disagree that the exam boards should set requirements for school and college internal quality assurance arrangements and provide guidance on these requirements to support centres?

Options: Strongly agree through to strongly disagree

33. To what extent do you agree or disagree that the head of a school or college should make a declaration to the exam board confirming its requirements had been followed and teachers had regard to the guidance and support materials provided?

Options: Strongly agree through to strongly disagree

34. Do you have any comments about internal quality assurance?

Free text box

External quality assurance

35. To what extent do you agree or disagree that the exam boards should quality assure how schools and colleges are determining grades?

Options: Strongly agree through to strongly disagree

36. To what extent do you agree or disagree that the exam boards should quality assure the overall approach for all schools and colleges?

Options: Strongly agree through to strongly disagree

37. To what extent do you agree or disagree that the exam boards should sample, at subject level, the evidence on which the submitted grades were based?

Options: Strongly agree through to strongly disagree

38. To what extent do you agree or disagree that the exam boards should target their more in-depth quality assurance activities?

Options: Strongly agree through to strongly disagree

39. To what extent do you agree or disagree that exam boards could only change a student's grade after a review of the evidence and discussion with the school or college?
Options: Strongly agree through to strongly disagree
40. Do you have any comments about external quality assurance?
Free text box

How students could appeal their grade

41. To what extent do you agree or disagree that students should not be told the grade their teacher has submitted before results day?
Options: Strongly agree through to strongly disagree
42. To what extent do you agree or disagree that students should be able to appeal their grade on the grounds that their teacher made an error when assessing the student's performance?
Options: Strongly agree through to strongly disagree
43. To what extent do you agree or disagree that the school or college should consider the appeal?
Options: Strongly agree through to strongly disagree
44. To what extent do you agree or disagree that the appeal should normally be considered by a competent person within the student's school or college who was not involved with the original assessment?
Options: Strongly agree through to strongly disagree
45. To what extent do you agree or disagree that a school or college should be able to appoint a competent person from outside of the school or college to consider the appeal?
Options: Strongly agree through to strongly disagree
46. To what extent do you agree or disagree that a grade should only be changed if it is found not to represent a legitimate exercise of academic judgement?
Options: Strongly agree through to strongly disagree
47. To what extent do you agree or disagree that a student should be able to appeal to the exam board on the grounds that the school or college did not follow the exam board's requirements when it assessed the student's performance?
Options: Strongly agree through to strongly disagree
48. To what extent do you agree or disagree that a student should be able to appeal to the exam board on the grounds that the school or college did not properly consider the student's appeal?
Options: Strongly agree through to strongly disagree
49. To what extent do you agree or disagree that we should seek to bring forward results day(s), in order for appeals to begin earlier?
Options: Strongly agree through to strongly disagree
50. To what extent do you agree or disagree that if results day are brought forward, we should seek to decouple when a student is informed of their results, and universities are informed of their formal result for the purpose of admissions decisions?
Options: Strongly agree through to strongly disagree
51. To what extent do you agree or disagree that the exam boards should provide information for schools and colleges on how they should handle appeals?
Options: Strongly agree through to strongly disagree
52. Do you have any comments on the proposed appeal arrangements?
Free text box

Private candidates

53. To what extent do you agree or disagree that private candidates should be able to complete the papers set by exam boards, with them marked by the exam boards?
Options: Strongly agree through to strongly disagree
54. To what extent do you agree or disagree that private candidates should be able to work with a school or college to produce the same type of evidence as the school or college's other students? Options: Strongly agree through to strongly disagree
55. To what extent do you agree or disagree that exam boards should run normal exams for private candidates in summer 2021?
Options: Strongly agree through to strongly disagree
56. To what extent do you agree or disagree that exam boards should run normal exams for private candidates in autumn 2021?
Options: Strongly agree through to strongly disagree
57. Do you have any comments on the options for how grades should be made available to private candidates?
Free text box
58. If the preferred option for private candidates is an exam series, should any other students be permitted to enter to also sit an exam?
Free text box
59. Should the exam boards be prohibited from offering GCSE, AS and A level exams in any country in 2021?
Yes/NO
60. If you answered no, which students should be allowed to enter for them?
(Any, Private, outside UK)

Equality impact assessment

61. Do you believe the proposed arrangements (any or all) would have a positive impact on particular students because of their protected characteristics?
Yes/No
62. If you have answered 'yes' please explain your reason for each proposed arrangement you have in mind.
Free text box
63. Do you believe the proposed arrangements (any or all) would have a negative impact on particular students because of their protected characteristics?
Yes/NO
64. If you have answered 'yes' please explain your reason and suggest how the negative impact could be removed or reduced for each proposed arrangement you have in mind.
Free text box
65. Are there additional burdens associated with the delivery of the proposed arrangements on which we are consulting that we have not identified above? If yes, what are they?
Free text box
66. What additional costs do you expect you would incur through implementing the proposed arrangements on which we are consulting?
Free text box

67. What costs would you save?

Free text box

68. We would welcome your views on how we could reduce burden and costs while achieving the same aims.

Free text box