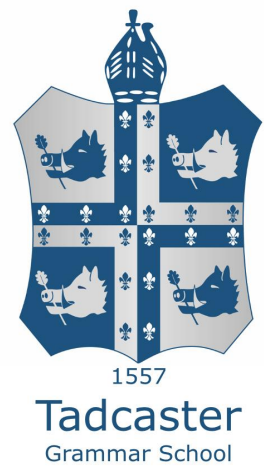


Be your best self

Friday 7th May 2021



Dear Parents, Carers (and Year 13 students),

Following on from the headteacher's update last week [[HERE](#)], I am writing to share more detailed information about the arrangements for determining qualification grades this summer (2021).

We have recently submitted our Centre Assessed Grades policy to the Joint Council for Qualifications (JCQ). Key information from the policy, including how grades will be determined this summer, is contained in the remainder of this letter.

How are grades being determined this summer?

A student's overall grade in each of their subjects will be based on professional judgement, taking into account a range of specific evidence of the standard of that student's work. As mentioned in previous correspondence, grades will be determined at a subject level across the cohort rather than individual teachers determining grades independently of each other.

Identified Evidence Base

At the end of this letter, there are details of the evidence base each individual subject will be using to determine grades this year. There are some differences between subjects and qualification types in terms of the number and nature of sources of evidence; exam boards expect this because of the different ways courses are assessed. However, in the majority of subjects, grades will be based predominantly on results from assessments done under formal conditions as indicated below:

- December 2020 mock exams
- May 2021 assessments
- NEA (coursework) where applicable

There are some exceptions, for example A level Art is based on a portfolio and some vocational courses are generally unit based and may already have some elements where grades have been "banked" with the exam board.

The main reason we have chosen these sources of evidence is that they are consistent for all students in the cohort. We can ensure that access arrangements are in place, authenticate work as the student's own and mark and standardise against exam board mark schemes/criteria. We believe, under the current circumstances, this is the fairest way to ensure judgements are objective when determining grades this summer.

Weighting

The judgement about the final grade is holistic, so it is not as straightforward as taking a simple arithmetic average of all sources of evidence. Generally speaking, more recent evidence is likely to be more representative of student performance, although there may be exceptions. Each subject area will also need to take into account whether all assessment objectives for the course are covered in a single assessment or over a combination of assessments. Assessments which cover a wider range of assessment objectives are likely to be weighted more heavily.

Quality Assurance

Internal and external quality assurance processes are in place to ensure that this year's process for assessing and grading students is fair, consistent and robust within schools and across schools nationally.

Internal Quality Assurance

All internal assessments have been designed and checked to ensure they meet the Joint Council for Qualifications (JCQ) guidelines and all students taking the same assessment do so at the same time where possible.

Assessments are primarily based on exam material which can be marked using external mark schemes, grade descriptors and grade boundaries to ensure that standards of work are consistently judged. Marked work, scores and grades are being checked by teachers, Curriculum Team Leaders and the Senior Leadership Team. All evidence upon which grades will be based is available for the exam boards upon request.

Within each subject every student's identified assessment evidence will be carefully considered before reaching a final, overall grade. These will be discussed and reviewed with a member of the Senior Leadership Team. Once subject teachers and teams have agreed final grades these will be thoroughly checked against the evidence to ensure no administrative errors have been made. 2021 grades will be compared to 2017-19 grades but if they are significantly different then providing the grades are in line with the evidence we have, we are able to explain differences, rather than adjusting the grades as Ofqual did last year.

External Quality Assurance

The Joint Council for Qualifications (JCQ) requires all schools to produce and submit a Centre Policy explaining their approach and indicating the evidence they will be using to determine final grades in each subject. Our Centre Assessed Grades policy can be found [\[HERE\]](#) (NB: this may be subject to minor amendments after being quality assured by the JCQ). Exam boards review this policy to check that the intended assessment is appropriate and that our approach to marking and grading is fair and consistent.

Once grades have been submitted, exam boards will sample the evidence underpinning the grades, across students and subjects. They will ask for students' work in each identified assessment, along with the marking guidance, grade descriptors, mark schemes and the grade boundaries we applied. This will be done by subject specialists who will check the evidence is in line with the grade the teacher has given.

Will students be told their grades?

Schools are not allowed to discuss or share final grades with students or parents/carers until the official release date in August. To do this would be classed as malpractice. Equally, students and parents/carers should not ask for this information or pressurise teachers to comment on what they think their most likely grade will be as this is also considered to be malpractice and could jeopardise the release of grades. Although students will have gained some knowledge of performance from assessments undertaken prior to Christmas, this will only form part of the

evidence base. The results of the May 2021 assessments will not be shared with students because it is likely that for most students, these will be a big factor in determining their overall grade.

Final Centre Assessed Grades will be issued to students on Tuesday 10th August. More detail will follow closer to the time.

Post results

We hope that the information above provides you with confidence in the process we have put in place to determine grades this summer. In turn, we envisage there will only be very limited grounds for appeal. Details of the appeal process can be found in the JCQ guide for students, parents and guardians [[HERE](#)]. Grades after an appeal can stay the same, or go up or down.

If students are not happy with any of the grades they achieve, Ofqual have just announced that there will be an Autumn Series of exams giving opportunity to improve upon the grade awarded in Summer. Details of the Autumn Exam Series can be found [[HERE](#)].

Stand-down

A reminder that students will not be expected to attend school following the May 2021 half term break.

Ongoing Communication

Any communication regarding Centre Based Assessment will be stored and be readily accessible on the school website at [[THIS LOCATION](#)].

Mr A Sykes

Senior Assistant Headteacher

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Key Stage 5 - Sources of Evidence for Determining Subject Grades

Subject	Source of Evidence	Type of Assessment
A level Biology	May Assessment taken in May 2021	Examination.
	Mock exam taken in December 2020	Examination.
AS Biology	May Assessment taken in May 2021	Examination.
A level Business Studies	Assessment 1: Sept 2020 Exam AS	Examination.
	Assessment 2: Y13 Dec Exam Paper 1	Examination.
	Assessment 3: Y13 May Exam Paper 2	Examination.
	Classroom Performance Marks (Sept 2019-March 2020; Sept 2020-Dec 2020)	Classroom performance over a range of assessments
A Level Chemistry	May Assessment taken in May 2021	Examination.
	Mock exam taken in December 2020	Examination.
AS Chemistry	May Assessment taken in May 2021)	Examination.
A-level Computer Science	May Assessment taken in May 2021	Examination.
	Mock exam taken in December 2020	Examination.
	NEA	NEA
A-level Design Engineering	Personal project strand 1, 2, 3 2020-21	NEA
	May 2021 Assessment	exam
A level Economics	Assessment 1: May 2021 Macro (2Hrs)	Examination.
	Assessment 2 May 2021 MCQ (30 mins)	Examination.
	Assessment 3 May 2021 MCQ (30 mins)	Examination.
	Assessment 4 May 2020 Micro	Examination.
	Assessment 5 May 2020 Macro	Examination.
A level English Literature	May Assessment taken in May 2021	Examination.
	Mock exam taken in December 2020	Examination.
	Section B essay: <i>The Kite Runner</i> - April 2021	Timed in-class assessment
	Section B essay: <i>The Handmaid's Tale</i> - April 2021	Timed in-class assessment
A level Fine Art	Personal Project: Portfolio (submitted digitally) Created June 2020 - April 2021	Coursework
	Personal Study	Essay

Level 3 Certificate in Food Science and Nutrition	May 2021 Unit 1 assessment	Examination.
	Unit 1 coursework and practical assessment	Written coursework and practical assessment.

Level 3 Diploma in Food Science and Nutrition	Unit 2 assessment (May 2021)	8hr written assessment.
	Unit 3 NEA investigation (Sept 2020 - April 2021)	Coursework and investigatory practical tasks.
	Unit 1	Coursework and practical assessment.

Level 3 National Diploma in Forensic and Criminology Investigation	May Assessment taken in May 2021 Final Year 13 assessment - 3 hour practical exam in lesson time followed by 1 hour 45 min - complete unit 3 exam paper from exam board	Examination.
	Mock exam taken in December 2020 Year 13 Mock exam- 2 hour practical exam in lesson time followed by 1 hour 45 min - complete unit 3 exam from exam board	Examination.
	Unit 6 coursework which will be externally verified after being internally marked and verified	Coursework conditions during year 12/13 - external standard verification to take place
	Two units of coursework will be 'holistically' marked and grades awarded	Coursework conditions during year 13
	CAG were awarded for units completed in year 12	Awarded by Pearson last year

A level Geography	May Assessment (2 papers) taken in May 2021	Examination, testing: - Hazards - Water and Carbon - Urban Issues
	NEA: Completed between September 2020-February 2021	Non-examined assessment
	Mock exam taken in December 2020	Examination, testing: - Urban - Changing Places - Global Systems and Governance

A level German	May Assessment taken in May 2021	Examination.
	Mock exam taken in December 2020	Examination.

BTEC National Diploma Graphics	Unit 8 2020-2021	Internally assessed
	Unit 10 2019 - 2020	Internally assessed, externally verified
	Unit 21 2019 - 2020	Internally assessed, externally verified
	Unit 22 2019 - 2020	Internally assessed, externally verified
	Unit 23 2020 - 2021	Internally assessed, externally verified
	Unit 24 2019 - 2020	Internally assessed, externally verified
	Unit 13 2019 - 2020	Internally assessed, externally verified

A level History	May Assessment taken in May 2021	Examination.
	Mock exam taken in December 2020	Examination.
	NEA - 4000 word enquiry	Self completed Coursework
	Guided Learning (Sept 2020- December 2020: March and April 2021)	Timed assessment in controlled conditions

AS History	May Assessment taken in May 2021	Examination.
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A level Law	Assessment 1: Y12 Examination January (1 hour 30)	Examination.
	Assessment 2: Criminal Paper 1 Sept 2020 (2hrs)	Examination.
	Assessment 3: Tort Paper Paper 2 Dec (2 hrs)	Examination.
	Assessment 4 Contract Paper 3 (2hs)	Examination.
	Assessment 5 Criminal Paper 1 (2hrs)	Examination.

A level Maths	May Assessment taken in May 2021	Examination.
	Mock exam taken in December 2020	Examination.

A level Further Maths	May Assessment taken in May 2021	Examination.
	Mock exam taken in December 2020	Examination.

A level Physics	May Assessment taken in May 2021.	Examination.
	Mock exam taken in December 2020.	Examination.

AS Physics	May Assessment taken in May 2021.	Examination.
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A level Politics	May Assessment taken in May 2021	Examination.
	Mock exam taken in December 2020	Examination.
	Guided Learning	Timed assessment in controlled conditions

A Level Psychology	May Assessment taken in May 2021	Examination. Testing: Clinical Psychology Criminal Psychology Research methods
	Mock exam taken in December 2020	Examination. Testing: Clinical Psychology Criminal Psychology Research Methods
	Mock exam taken in October 2020	Classroom based examination. Testing: Social Psychology Cognitive Psychology Biological Psychology Learning theories

A level Religious Studies	May Assessment taken in May 2021	Examination.
	Mock exam taken in December 2020	Examination.