

Consultation on how Year 11 and 13 grades may be awarded.

DFE have published a consultation document about the 2021 exams,
in which they state:

"We propose that in summer 2021 a student's grade in each subject will be based on their teachers' assessment of the standard at which the student is performing. In the absence of exams, teachers are best placed to assess the standard at which their student is performing."



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Accessing the Consultation

Responses to the consultation are due by 11:45pm on
January 29th at this link:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/consultation-on-how-gcse-as-and-a-level-grades-should-be-awarded-in-summer-2021>

(Respond on line at the bottom of this webpage)



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Proposed timelines

Month(s)	Activity
May into early June	Assessment using 'exams' supplied by exam board. (All usual exam access arrangements will be available to students.)
Mid June	Marks submitted to exam boards
June	Exam boards 'quality assure' marks and grades submitted by schools
Early July	Results published to students (Replacing August results days)
July	Appeals process - stage 1: appeals considered in school - these would be if the grade is not supported by the evidence of their performance or followed the correct approach - this would required assessed materials to be reviewed and remarked if necessary
	Appeals process - stage 2: appeals to the exam board - these would only cover situations where the school had not followed exam board guidelines



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What is being proposed

- **Grades** will be based on a range of **teacher assessed work**.
- **Exam boards** will make available a **set of papers for teachers use** with their students as part of their assessment - teachers will mark these.
- **Exam boards** will support in standardising marking by some sort of **moderation process** and to **standardise** all schools' approaches are appropriate.
- **Final teacher assessments to identify overall grades** will be made towards the **end of the academic year**, (dates on slide 3).
- Students should be able to **appeal** if they think their grade does not reflect the evidence of their work.



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Non-Exam Assessed Elements/Courses

- **Coursework (NEAs) to continue as planned** and be marked by teachers.
- **Art and Design / Photography** GCSE & A levels are assessed by marking the main component 1 portfolio (there will be no second 'exam' portfolio). The proposal is that a student's portfolio should be the only evidence teachers use to decide on the grade the student should be awarded.
- Students should not be penalised if, for reasons ***beyond their control***, they have been unable to complete their portfolio / coursework.
- **A Level Science practicals and spoken languages at GCSE and A level (English Language & MFL)** students have been and will continue to be assessed on their skills by their teachers.



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Proposals for “exam” papers

- If it is decided that the **exam boards** should **provide papers for schools and colleges to use** (either on a compulsory or optional basis), the exam boards would need to write those papers and then **provide information on the topics** that would be included in them.
- Questions could be a **combination of new questions and questions from past papers** – this is to be decided.
- Papers must allow students to achieve to their full potential, so all grades are covered.
- There may be **a set of papers that teachers can choose** from to reflect the topics most effectively covered at their school. These need to cover a reasonable amount of content to demonstrate understanding and breadth of knowledge in the subject.



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These points are raised in the consultation: It asks to what extent do you agree / disagree?

- Teachers should be able to use performance **evidence from throughout their course?**
- Exam boards should provide a **set of papers** to support teachers in assessing their students' work
- Sitting *these* would be **compulsory**
- 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?
- **Teachers should mark any papers** their students are asked to complete



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These points are raised in the consultation: It asks to what extent do you agree / disagree?

- Teachers should be able to take into account **other performance evidence** for a student (**not just summer exams**)
- All students should be **assessed within a given time period** for each subject – whether or not their school / college must or is using exam board papers
- **Exam boards** should set requirements for school and college **internal Quality Assurance** arrangements and should provide guidance on these requirements to support centres
- **Exam** boards **should sample, the evidence** on which the submitted grades were based
- **Appeals** should be considered by a person within the student's school or college who was not involved with the original assessment



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