

Awarding Grades in 2021 – A Headline Summary - England

- 1** Students will receive grades awarded and determined by teachers, with students only assessed on what they have been taught.
- 2** Teachers will be able to draw on a range of evidence when determining grades, including the optional use of questions provided by Examination Boards, as well as mock examination, coursework, or other work completed as part of a student's course, such as essays or in-class tests.
- 3** To support teachers in making their judgements, Examination Boards will provide detailed guidance before the end of the spring term.
- 4** The optional Examination Boards materials will include exemplar model answers for every grade, as well as additional grade descriptors in the marking criteria to help teachers ascertain which grade is most appropriate for a student's work.
- 5** Schools, colleges and other educational settings will conduct multiple checks – such as checking consistency of judgements across teachers and that the correct processes were followed - to ensure as much fairness as possible.
- 6** Examination Boards will conduct their own checks, through a combination of random sampling and more targeted scrutiny where they identify cause for concern.
- 7** Students studying vocational and technical qualifications (VTQs) that are often taught alongside GCSEs and A levels on one or two year courses, and used for university or college places, will also receive grades assessed by teachers rather than sitting examinations.
- 8** Examination and assessments will continue in VTQs where they are needed for students to demonstrate the necessary professional standard in an occupation.
- 9** Teachers will submit grades to Examination Boards by **18 June**, allowing as much teaching time as possible before teachers make their assessments.
- 10** Results days for GCSE, A level and some vocational qualifications will take place in the week of 9 August – moved forward from the week of the **23 August**.
- 11** No algorithm will be used.
- 12** A-level students will receive their results on **10 August**.
- 13** GCSE students will receive their results two days later on **12 August**.
- 14** Every student will have the right to appeal their grade. Appeal fees are also being scrapped to allow all students in England the chance to appeal their grades at no additional cost.