

APPEALS PROCEDURE TEACHER ASSESSED GRADES 2021

Grades this summer were based on Teacher Assessed Grades (TAGs/Q-TAGs). These were submitted to the exam boards by the College as a holistic assessment of students' performance in a subject, following a rigorous process of assessment, moderation and quality assurance. These grades were then approved by the relevant exam board, following external quality assurance checks. This year no grades have been changed as a result of an algorithm.

Before deciding to make an appeal you should consider the following points to make sure you are happy that an appeal is in your best interests and you are not taking any unnecessary risk:

- Your teachers have always had your best interests at heart and will have awarded you the highest grade possible based on the evidence provided.
- You should be aware that if you appeal your grade can go down, stay the same or go up. Given the context that your teachers will have been as positive as possible there is a real risk your grade could go down.
- There is also the option to resit GCSEs and A levels in the Autumn, which may be preferable to some students. The design, content and assessment of these papers will be the same as in a normal year. There will be no NEA/coursework, with the exception of Art and Design subjects where the exam board will set and mark a new task to determine a student's grade.
- JCQ guidance clarifies what an appeal to an awarding organisation involves: 'The independent reviewer will consider whether the original Teacher Assessed Grade decision was reasonable. The independent reviewer will not consider whether they would have given an alternative grade or whether an alternative grade could also reasonably have been given.'

In light of these points above, you might also want to consider sitting an exam in the Autumn series or, if your first-choice university place is affected, taking advice from our Careers Team on Higher Education alternatives.

Appeals Process and Deadlines:

If you wish to appeal your grade as you think it is incorrect, the appeals process is split into two stages:

STAGE 1: CENTRE REVIEW

1. You think we have made an **administrative error**: an example of this would be putting the wrong information into a spreadsheet.
2. You think we have made a **procedural error**: this means we haven't properly followed our own process, as approved by the exam board.

All appeals, on any of the grounds above, must first go through a **centre review**. You must complete a form which will be available to download on the College website. Once we have received your completed form, we will check for any administrative errors, and check that our policies and

procedures were followed correctly. Our policy has already been approved by the exam boards, so we are only ensuring that we followed this properly.

The outcome of the centre review will be communicated to you. At the centre review stage, if we find that a grade should go up or down, we will ask the exam board to change it. They will then consider this request.

Following the outcome of a centre review, you may still choose to pursue an **awarding organisation appeal**:

STAGE 2: AWARDING ORGANISATION APPEAL – where we appeal to the exam board on your behalf

1. You think the **academic judgement on the selection of evidence was unreasonable**: you think the evidence used to grade you was not reasonable.
2. You think the **academic judgement on the grade you were given was unreasonable**.
3. You think we have not followed our procedures correctly
4. You think the awarding body has made an administrative error

Students must complete a second form, which again you must send back to the College to process, and we will send on your behalf to the exam board. Students and parents cannot send appeals directly to the exam board themselves – JCQ says it must come from us. The outcome of the awarding organisation appeal will be communicated to students when made.

The following deadlines apply:

STAGE 1	DEADLINES
MONDAY 16th AUGUST – 4pm	Stage 1 Centre Review Priority Appeal* Deadline
FRIDAY 3rd SEPTEMBER – 4pm	Stage 1 Centre Review Appeal Deadline for Non- Priority Deadline
STAGE 2	DEADLINES
MONDAY 23rd AUGUST – 4pm	Stage 2 Awarding Organisation Priority Appeal* Deadline
FRIDAY 17th SEPTEMBER – 4pm	Stage 2 Awarding Organisation Appeal Non-Priority Deadline

***PLEASE NOTE THAT PRIORITY APPEALS ARE FOR THOSE STUDENTS APPLYING TO HIGHER EDUCATION WHO DIDN'T ATTAIN THE OFFER THEY ACCEPTED AS THEIR FIRST CHOICE. STUDENTS SHOULD INFORM THEIR HE PROVIDER THAT THEY HAVE REQUESTED A CENTRE REVIEW/AWARDING ORGANISATION APPEAL STUDENTS WILL ALSO NEED TO ADD THEIR UCAS ID TO THE APPEAL FORM.**

Please read the FAQs for further information – these will be published on our website on 9th August.