

Summer Grades Frequently Asked Questions

We've had a number of queries regarding the awarding of grades this summer. These are listed below with the corresponding answers. This will continue to be updated as any new questions come in. Please note that all answers are subject to the most up to date information released by Ofqual and the exam boards.

Q. Will the grade judgements just be made on my performance in the internal assessments?

A. No – the internal assessments are an opportunity to improve on the standard of work produced to date over the course.

Q. Will exam concessions still be made available?

A. Those students who are eligible for exam concessions, such as using a laptop, having a scribe or extra time, will receive this in each of their internal assessments.

Q. If my grade in the internal assessments is better than the grades I have achieved historically will this grade be submitted?

A. It is very likely that it will determine your grade. The internal assessments for every subject will cover sufficient coverage of the course content and assessment objectives for the grade to be awarded. It would also follow the Ofqual advice that the most recent evidence will be the most representative of student performance.

Q. If my mock grade is better than my internal assessment grade which will be used?

A. Ofqual have made it clear that a wide range of evidence can be used to make the grade judgement. If a student has performed below their prior performance in the internal assessments, then other evidence can be used. In a number of subjects, the mock grades will provide strong evidence of student performance as the exams will have covered a significant proportion of the course content and used past exam papers, mark schemes and grade boundaries. Students will receive the highest grade achieved that we have sufficient evidence for.

Q. How will exam boards check the grades that are submitted?

A. Exam boards will check the internal quality assurance process used in each school to make sure that is robust and fit for purpose. Once grades have been submitted exam boards will perform moderation of schools at random as well as of those schools/subjects whose grades may either be significantly better or worse than they have been historically. Exam boards will want to see the work that has been used as evidence to support the grade judgement, which is why it is imperative that any judgement is based on the standard actually achieved and not on a prediction.

Q. Could my internal assessment grade be affected by the moderation process?

A. Yes - to make sure grades are awarded fairly and consistently, both in school and nationally, any work that is used as evidence to support a grading judgement will be moderated. This will also include mock papers, controlled essays etc. The moderation is really important because it will make sure that there is no discrepancy between the awarding of grades within a department. The exam boards may then moderate independently to make sure that we haven't been too harsh or too generous.

Q. Will I be able to retake any internal assessments if I don't think I did very well in one or more of them?

A. No – the week before half term is only available to those students who miss any assessments during the 4-week internal assessment period. To try and mirror the usual assessment process

Q. How will the internal assessments differ to a formal examination?

A. Internal assessments will be shorter, ranging between 45 minutes and 1 hour in length, they will be held in classrooms and they will cover a significant proportion of the specification content, but not all of it.

Q. Will lessons carry on during the internal assessment period?

A. Students will continue to follow their current timetable and will receive taught lessons during this time. Those subjects where students will be sitting internal assessments will be actively revising in lessons leading up to the internal assessments. Normal lessons will continue during the assessment period.

Q. Will all assessments take place in the classroom?

A. Every assessment will take place in the classroom with the exception of the Year 10 RS short course GCSE assessment which will be held in the Sports Hall.

Q. What will happen if I miss an assessment?

A. The final week before the summer half term is available for any students who missed one or more of their internal assessments will do them during this week. If they don't sit them during this week then all other relevant evidence will be used to make a grade judgement.

Q. What will I be doing in the final week of the half term (w/b 24th May) if I don't have any assessments to catch up on?

A. All students will continue to attend lessons and will either be taught parts of the course which are yet to have been covered or develop further depth in their understanding in an aspect of the course.