

# Appeals Overview

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# What are we covering in this session?

1. General overview of the 2021 Summer assessment window
2. Overview of the appeals process (GQ)
3. Q&A section





# Summer 2021 (General Qualifications)

- Students will receive grades awarded and determined by teachers
- Pupils will only be assessed on what they have been taught
- No algorithm will be used
- Teachers will be able to draw on a range of evidence when determining grades, including:
  - *the optional use of questions provided by exam boards*
  - *mock exams*
  - *coursework*
  - *other work completed as part of a pupil's course, such as essays or in-class tests*
- Exam boards have provided guidance for teachers on their websites
- Teachers will submit grades to exam boards by 18 June
- Results days for GCSE, A level and some vocational qualifications will take place on the 10 (GCE) & 12 (GCSE) August.



# Timeline

- We have updated our full timeline via the [Pearson Qualification website](#) for both UK and International centres.
- **26 April:** Entry deadline for **private candidates**
- **30 April:** Deadline for centre **Quality Assurance Policy submission** via proforma on CAP (Centre Admin Portal) accessed via Edexcel Online
- **26 May to 18 June:** **Teacher Assessed Grades Submission** window opens via awarding organisations' respective portals
- **10 August:** A/AS Levels and relevant Level 3 results
- **12 August:** GCSE and relevant Level 2 results.

Accessing International GCSE and IAL Unseen Modified Materials

## Timelines

We know that you are keen to start preparing for grading candidates for our UK General Qualifications, and we are fully committed to making sure you'll have everything you need for each individual qualification at the very earliest opportunity.

Below is the initial timeline of some of the key activities that we are working towards. We will update this as more key dates become available.

 [2021 Key dates and deadlines for general qualifications](#) (PDF | 198.6 KB)

Private candidates



# JCQ and Pearson Guidance



# JCQ and Pearson Guidance on Determining Grades

- On Friday 26 March the [JCQ Guidance on Determining Grades was released](#).
- On Thursday 1 April our Pearson Guidance on Determining Grades for International Qualifications was released.
- This is the main guide that UK centres will need to follow as they arrive at grades for learners this summer.
- Make sure you have downloaded the following from the JCQ website
  - Editable Centre Policy
  - Assessment Record Sheet
  - Head of Department Checklist
  - Grade Descriptors
- We have shared the link on our website and provided a 'Top 10 Important Things to Note' interactive pdf.

# Support from Pearson

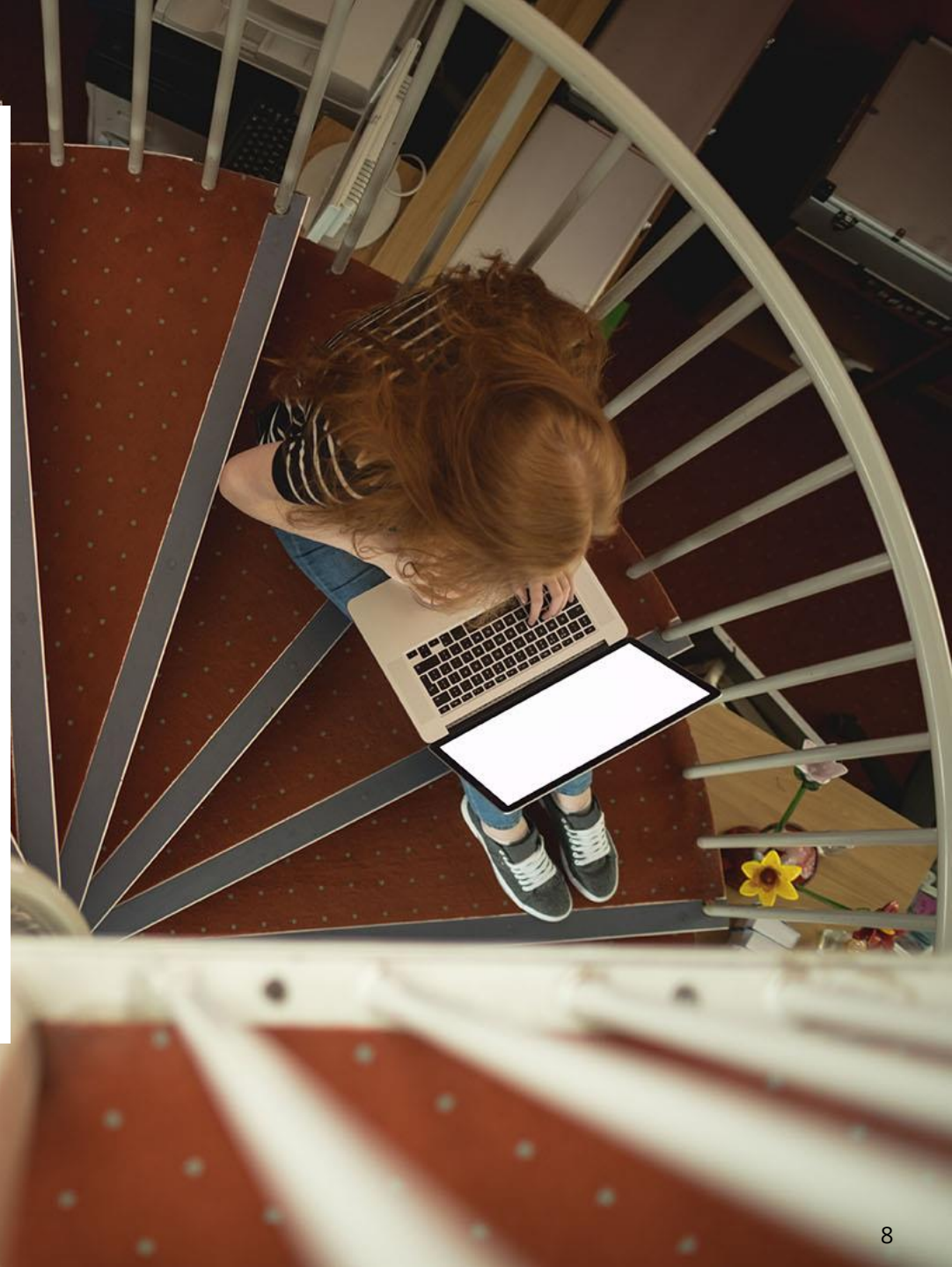
- To keep up to date with support Pearson has committed to sending out regular qualifications bulletins to Exams Officers
- Our dedicated Summer 2021 Support page – for general information
- The Pearson Professional Development Academy – for support on key areas of the Summer 2021 approach
- Subject pages – for subject specific information including additional assessment materials



The screenshot shows the Pearson Qualifications website's 'Summer 2021 support' page. The header includes the Pearson logo, navigation links for 'Our qualifications', 'Subjects', 'Support', 'About us', and 'Contact us', along with a 'COVID-19 update' button and a language selector set to 'UK'. A breadcrumb trail shows 'Home > Summer 2021 support'. The main heading is 'Summer 2021 support'. Below this is a large image of students in a library with a blue overlay containing the text 'Summer 2021 support'. To the right of the image, under 'Further guidance', are links for 'Regulatory update', 'Private candidates', and 'Support for students, parents and carers'. Below that, under 'Additional resources', are links for 'Pearson Edexcel Mocks Service', 'Revision resources', 'BTEC approach to adaptation to delivery and assessment in 2020/2021', and 'Pearson meet makers'. A text block below the image states: 'The Department for Education (DfE) and Ofqual have confirmed their approach for issuing grades in summer 2021. Grades will need to be submitted by **18 June 2021**. You can find more detailed information on their website [ofqual.gov.uk](#). We're providing support and guidance documents via the **Pearson Professional Development Academy** [ofqual.gov.uk](#) as well as running pre-recorded and live training sessions. [PDA](#)'.

Appeals

Summer 2021 GQ appeals







# Appeals (GQ) -Overview

- The 2-stage appeal process for summer 2021
- The grounds for appeal at each stage
- Retention of information
- Information for learners
- Other points to note



# Appeals (GQ)

If a learner is not happy with their grade they may appeal. There will be a 2-stage process. The first stage managed by the centre and the second by the awarding body:

## Stage 1 – Centre review

- A learner who is unhappy with their grade will first ask the centre to check whether an administrative or procedural error had been made.
- Where a centre identifies an error in the grade, it can submit a revised grade and a supporting rationale for the awarding body to consider. If the awarding body is satisfied with the rationale, it will issue a revised grade.
- Where a centre does not believe an error had been made, a learner can ask the centre to appeal to the awarding body on their behalf.



# Appeals (GQ)

## Stage 2 – Awarding body appeal (following completion of a centre review)

- The centre is required to submit the learner's appeal to the awarding body and provide relevant information e.g. the evidence on which its judgement had been made.
- The awarding body will consider the appeal e.g. whether the centre followed its process and/or whether the grade reflected an unreasonable exercise of academic judgement.
- If the awarding body identifies an issue, it will take the appropriate steps e.g. for academic judgement appeals we will determine the grade that the evidence supports, if we decide the original grade was unreasonable.



# Appeals (GQ) - Grounds for Appeal

The grounds for appeal in summer 2021 will be:

**At stage 1:** The centre made an administrative error in relation to the result, e.g. an incorrect grade was submitted; an incorrect assessment mark was used when determining the grade.

**At stage 1:** The centre did not apply a procedure properly and consistently in arriving at the result e.g. the centre did not follow its Centre Policy, there was a failure in internal quality assurance, did not take account of access arrangements or mitigating circumstances such as illness.





# Appeals (GQ) - Grounds for Appeal

The grounds for appeal in summer 2021 will be:

**At stage 2:** The centre did not apply a procedure properly and consistently (as above), including the conduct of the centre review.

**At stage 2:** The awarding body made an administrative error, e.g. the grade was incorrectly changed during the processing of grades.

**At stage 2:** The result reflects an **unreasonable** exercise of academic judgement on the part of the Centre.

# Appeals (GQ) - Grounds for Appeal

At stage 2: The result reflects an **unreasonable** exercise of academic judgement on the part of the Centre.

- The **draft guidance** recently published by Ofqual for consultation clarifies that this is intended to include an unreasonable exercise of academic judgement:
  - i. in the selection of evidence used to determine the TAG
  - ii. in the determination of a TAG from the selected evidence

# Appeals (GQ) -retention of information

Safe/accessible retention of the evidence used to determine grades will aid the appeals process, including:

- Evidence used for determining grades for the class/cohort along with a rationale for what was selected.
- Records of any exceptional circumstances for students, e.g if approved access arrangements/reasonable adjustments were in place and if not, how they were taken account of when determining the grade; how any mitigating circumstances such as illness were taken into account.

# Appeals (GQ) - Information for learners

If centres haven't shared the following information before results day, they will need to be prepared to do so on results day if students request it:

- The Centre Policy
- The sources of evidence used to determine their grade along with any grades/marks associated with them
- Details of any special circumstances that have been taken into account in determining their grade, e.g. access arrangements, mitigating circumstances such as illness.





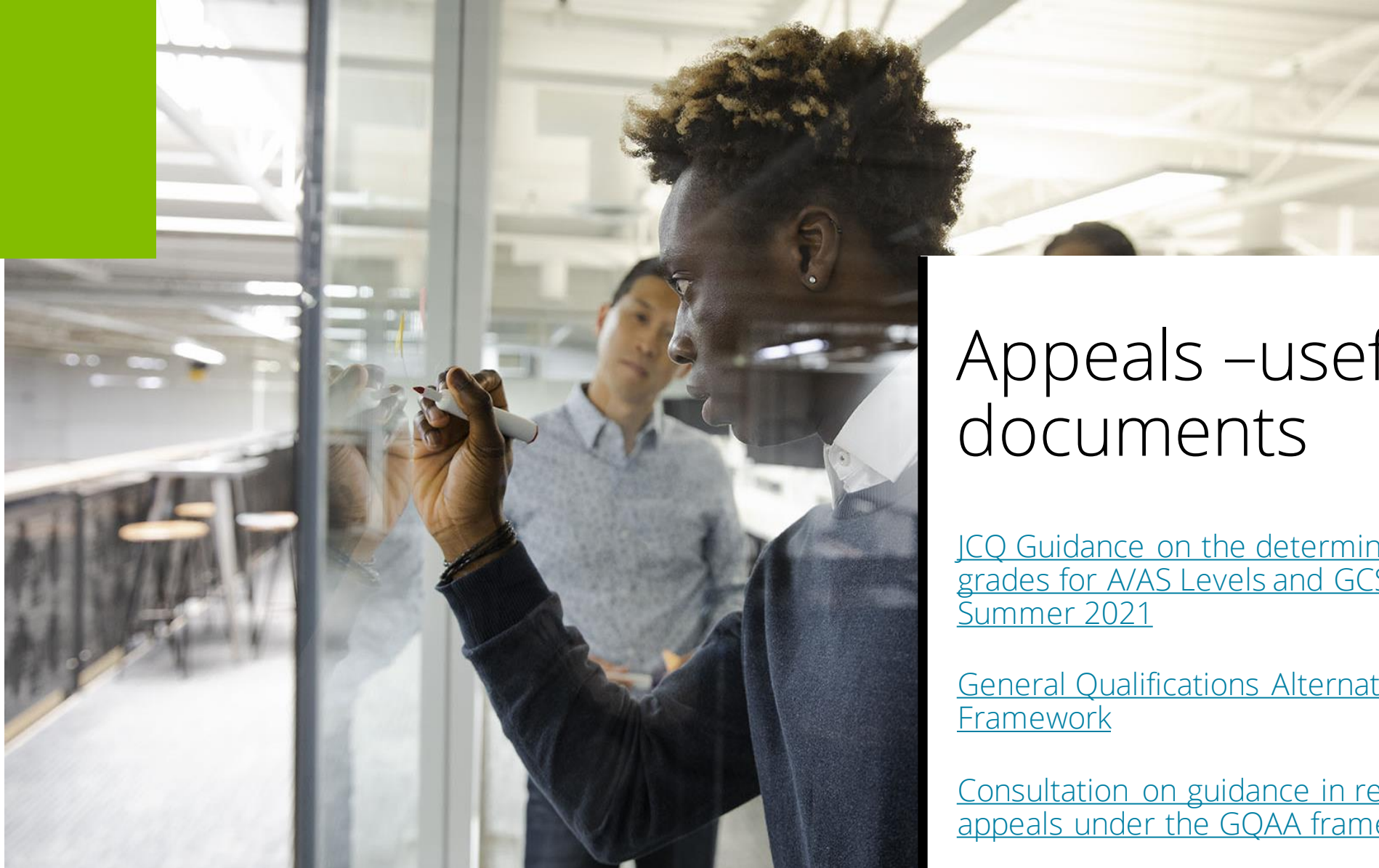
# Appeals (GQ) -other points to note

- Appeals for private candidates will follow the same process.
- An appeal must not be submitted on behalf of a Learner without that Learner's consent.
- There is a risk that a Learner's result may be decreased following a review or an appeal.
- The centre will have no discretion whether or not to conduct the review or submit the appeal.
- There will be an Exams Procedure Review Service EPRS available - regulators will publish details.



# Appeals (GQ) -other points to note

- There will be a JCQ guide to the appeals process which will be published in the next few weeks.
- There is an Ofqual consultation on appeals guidance which is open until 05 May – please do respond.
- The regulations that relate to appeals are specified in the published General Qualifications Alternative Awarding Framework in GQAA4.
- We will be providing further information on appeals in the coming weeks.
- We will be providing information in relation to VQ routes to appeal in the coming weeks.



# Appeals –useful documents

[JCQ Guidance on the determination of grades for A/AS Levels and GCSEs for Summer 2021](#)

[General Qualifications Alternative Awarding Framework](#)

[Consultation on guidance in relation to appeals under the GQAA framework in 2021](#)



# Q&A Session





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