What Assessment Support is Available

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What are we covering in this session?

1. General overview of the 2021 Summer assessment window
2. What Assessment Support is Available (GQ)
3. Q&A section
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 Summer 2021

• 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.
JCQ and Pearson Guidance
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
What support materials are available
Subject Overview Document

- We have produced subject overview documents that collate a number of resources to support teachers this summer.
- Each subject has its own overview document which links to all the pertinent information for your subject area.
- To find your subject overview you should:

Find your subject pages > Course Material > Teaching and learning material > Summer 2021 assessment materials for centres > Overview Document (first document above the drop down list in this area)
Additional Assessment Materials

For each subject we have released organised additional assessment material which is made up of sets of questions, mapping grids and mark schemes.

• These are optional for teachers and could be used in a few different ways. For example, they could be set as a test or as a class or homework activity.

The materials could be used to:

• give students the opportunity to show what they know, understand or can do in an area of content that has been taught but not yet assessed;

• give students an opportunity to show improvement, for example to validate or replace an existing piece of evidence;

• support consistency of judgement between teachers or classes within a centre by giving students the same task to complete where appropriate.
Each subject has a mapping grid which lists out past questions within a defined period. Be used to identify questions that assess particular skills or content areas for you to use in assessing your students. These can be used in conjunction with ExamWizard to compile topic tests or to identify additional assessment materials which you may wish to use.
Support Materials: Past papers, mark schemes and Examiner Reports

This area within the overview document links to all past papers, mark schemes and examiner reports.

Please note that assessments from June 2019 and Autumn 2020 remain padlocked.

Examiner reports provide detailed feedback about how students typically responded to questions and performed overall in past assessments.
Grade descriptors

Grade descriptors are general statements that give a high-level reflection of student performance characteristics. They are based on the assessment objectives for the relevant specification.

These are to help support you in reaching judgements about students’ performance for Summer 2021. These descriptors give an indication of secure performance at the mid-point of each grade.

Remember, grade descriptors must be used to make holistic judgements about student performance and will help identify how the range of evidence for a student aligns with the expected performance standards.
Grade exemplification

Grades have been exemplified by using student responses from historical examination scripts to illustrate secure performance at the mid-point of each grade. The exemplification gives you examples of the standards you will use to make grading judgements.

Grade descriptors have been created for GCSE, AS and A level subjects.

A level: grade descriptors exist for Grades A, C and E. Characteristics of performance at the Grade A/Grade B borderline are included.

AS level: grade descriptors exist for Grades A, C and E only. GCSE: grade descriptors have been created at Grades 8, 6, 5, 4 and 2. The Ofqual descriptors for 8, 5 and 2 have been used as the starting point. Characteristics of performance at the Grade 4/Grade 3 borderline are included
For each subject we have made clear whether we have a modified papers available for student that may need this.

- These have been gathered based on past modified papers that have been created.

- These have also been sorted into the different modified paper types, for example Braille.

- To access the modified papers, go to the Modified Paper area on the Pearson website to download those papers you require.

Existing support

Located within each overview document are links to existing support to help aid teachers for Summer 2021.
Useful links

GCSE grade descriptors:


A/AS grade descriptors:

Q&A Section