

A guide to Centre Assessed Grades

Following the closure of schools during the Coronavirus pandemic, the Government decided to replace exams with Centre Assessed Grades (CAGs).

This document explains the process we followed at York High to award CAGs within each department, as a school and then how this information will be moderated by the exam boards and Ofqual.

How did we award Centre Assessed Grades as a school?

The exam boards asked all schools to submit two pieces of information for each individual subject a student was entered for. These were

1. The grade they believed students were most likely to achieve if teaching, learning and exams had gone ahead as normal.
2. A rank order of students by performance for each grade in the individual subject.

In order to produce this information, we followed the process outlined below:

- We studied carefully what the government were asking us to do and we ensured all our teachers were trained properly to do this process fairly across all subjects.
- We looked at the most recent data we have – March and then back at November and year 10 to understand the progress you were making and what that would result in for your final grade. If you have intervention data we may have looked at that if we needed to. Our aim was to ensure the grade was given objectively, which means it was based very clearly on your data and your progress.
- We did not use any information that might allow feelings to come into the grade we gave you. Our decisions were focused on the marks you gained and how that changed at each data entry point.
- At every stage the grades were moderated – this means that they were checked by the heads of department, the senior leaders attached to those departments and finally by senior leaders independent of those departments. They ensured the process being applied was consistent to everyone, that the data being used was accurate and that the grades awarded are fair to each and every pupil.
- The grades were then checked a final time by two members of staff and sent to the exam boards.

We did not take into consideration any work completed after the national school closures happened. The Department for Education made it clear that any work submitted after March 20th should not be considered. This was to avoid students who were not able to complete work at home being disadvantaged.

How will the Centre Assessed Grades be used to calculate your final exam grade?

Ofqual and the exam boards will now use this information to standardise grades nationally across schools and colleges. This is to ensure the results are as fair as possible. This process should also ensure that students are not advantaged or disadvantaged because their school is more generous or harsh than others when grading subjects.

They will consider the following information when deciding a student's final grade in each subject:

- The CAG grade and rank order submitted by each school.
- Individual KS2 data for each student
- Each school's historical data (For GCSE this is the previous two academic years)
- Specific subject performance within a school's historic results.
- The expected national grade distribution for each subject.

This process may result in the final grade awarded being different from the CAG submitted by the school.

Any change to the grades will happen at subject level and not at a whole school level. We will not know if any of the grades we have submitted have been changed until we receive the results in school.

Students will receive their grades on the national GCSE results day – 20th August 2020.

What if you believe your grade is incorrect or unfair?

Once we have the exam results we will check these carefully against the CAGs and ranks we have submitted. We will be looking for any clerical errors. If we find any, we will appeal to the exam board to ask them to look into this. We will inform any student this has an impact on.

Ofqual have decided that individual appeals about results will only be possible in exceptional cases. This is because of the unique nature of this year's exam series. Further information can be found in the document that Ofqual published on June 30th 2020.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/ofqual-publishes-more-details-on-appeals-and-confirms-autumn-exam-arrangements>

If a student is unhappy about a final grade(s) they will have the opportunity to discuss this with members of staff who will advise them on next steps.

Students will have the opportunity to take resit exams in the Autumn Term. Ofqual have committed to running a full suite of resits. Further details about the resit exams will be released by Ofqual and exam boards in due course. We will update students and families about the resit exams once we have more information.