



Stepney All Saints School

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Headteacher: Mr P Woods

March 2021

Dear Year 11 & 13 students, parents and carers,

Re. GCSE and A Level Assessments

I appreciate you have many questions regarding GCSE and A Level Teacher Assessed Grades. This letter contains two useful documents which may help to answer your queries.

1. A factsheet entitled 'GCSE and A-level results in 2021: what you need to know'. This contains useful information which will hopefully pre-empt your questions and address any anxieties you may have about the process of 'teacher assessed grades'. Please remember the system will be fair and balanced. Grades will be awarded based on objective evidence. Any grades that your teachers set will be moderated carefully, to ensure that are consistent within and between schools.
2. A document entitled 'How GCESs, AS AND A Levels will be awarded in summer 2021'. This document has come from OFQUAL, the government body that regulates qualifications, examinations and assessments in England.

I hope these summaries will answer the key questions you may have over our plans regarding GCSEs and A Levels this year.

The timetable for GCSE and A Level final assessments can be viewed on the school website -

Yours sincerely

Paul Woods
Headteacher

GCSE and A-level results in 2021: what you need to know

What's happening?

- Exams are cancelled this summer for GCSEs, AS-levels and A-levels
 - Instead of exams, pupils will receive grades based on assessments by their teachers
 - Teacher-assessed grades will be sent to the exam board by **18th June 2021** to be processed
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How will teachers make judgements on grades?

- Teachers will only assess pupils based on what they've been taught
 - **Final assessments will be held in April/May 2021** (timetables will be posted at a later date and individualized ones given to pupils)
 - Teacher assessed grades will be based on a range of evidence completed as part of the course, including evidence produced in the coming months, which demonstrates the student's performance on the subject content they have been taught.
 - Exam boards will provide a package of support materials to help teachers make these judgements and will provide further advice on how centres should collect and submit evidence.
 - Teachers will use a range of evidence of pupils' work, like coursework, practice papers and classwork over the whole of the course, to inform their decisions (**formative assessments are still on-going and therefore attendance is vitally important**)
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How will we know grades are awarded fairly?

- Our school will have an internal quality assurance process in place that'll take into consideration our results in previous years. This is to make sure teachers' judgements aren't too harsh or lenient
 - Exam boards will also have their own quality assurance process. They'll check that our internal procedure is fair before they process any grades, and they might also visit our school to review evidence from some subjects
 - We'll submit a declaration to the exam board confirming that we've followed the requirements for our internal quality assurance process
 - **Final assessments in April/May 2021 will be held under exam conditions to ensure rigour and integrity**
 - Exam boards will also check a sample of the evidence used to support teacher grades
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When will we get our results?

- **A-level pupils:** Tuesday 10th August 2021
 - **GCSE pupils:** Thursday 12th August 2021
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Can we still appeal?

- Yes, all pupils will have the right to appeal their grade. Please contact the Exam's Officer (Abdul Somad via email on: abdul.somad@stepneyallsaints.school)



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- If you appeal, we'll carry out a review to make sure we've followed all processes correctly and that we haven't made an error in your grade
- If we don't believe an error has been made, you can ask us to appeal to the board on your behalf. We'll share the evidence your teacher used to set your grade, and the board will review it to see if we made the right judgement. If they find the grade we set isn't reasonable, they'll provide an alternative grade
















You may want to refer to the following for further information:

- [Awarding qualifications in summer 2021](#), GOV.UK – DfE
- [Decisions on how GCSE, AS and A level grades will be determined in summer 2021](#), GOV.UK – Ofqual and DfE

OFQUAL PUBLICATION

How GCSEs, AS and A levels will be awarded in summer 2021

ofqual

Working out your grade	Evidence	Results and appeals
 Graded by teacher judgement	 Mocks, tests and work already done can be used as evidence	 Results days AS and A level 10 August GCSE 12 August
 Not graded by an algorithm	 Non-exam assessment should continue	 If you're unhappy with your grade, you can appeal it. First step is to submit an appeal to your school or college.
 School and college assessments can continue	 Non-exam assessments can be used as evidence even if incomplete	<p>You can find out more details from your school, college or exam board, or by visiting the Ofqual website</p>  www.gov.uk/ofqual
 You'll only be assessed on what you've been taught	 Art & design grade based only on your portfolio	
 Your teacher will tell you what evidence is used to grade you	 Teachers can use question banks provided by exam boards if they want to	
 Private candidates to work with a school, college or exam centre to provide evidence for them to be graded	 Results will be based on completed and future work, so keep doing your best	