

FAQs following Cancellation of Examinations

The government guidance released on Friday 20th March can be found here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/further-details-on-exams-and-grades-announced>

A level

If there are no exams, do I need to keep working for my courses?

As Mr Haigh said, “continuing to study, despite the fact exams won’t happen is what I’d like you to do. To have the knowledge and understanding that A levels provide to start a degree will give you something positive to focus on.” You have embarked on a two year course, and you should aim to complete that course, particularly if you will be building on it in future studies.

Will work set from now on contribute to my estimated grade?

We do not know at the current time. Keep working until further notice (see above).

What about coursework?

Coursework should be completed as far as is possible (if you would need additional practical evidence to complete your PE coursework, for example, that might not be possible at the current time so we would apply for special consideration). All deadlines already given should be adhered to. Contact your teachers as soon as possible in the event you become ill or have caring responsibilities which would make this challenging.

What will happen about grades?

Grades will be generated by taking into account various pieces of information that the school already has. These may include predicted grades. Predicted grades are based on a variety of previous assessments and judgements (e.g. mock exams, coursework, class work...).

The exam boards will also use other data (for example, the school’s past performance, students’ previous exam data...) to generate their grades.

All data that is required for this process is already in place and the school will be working with the exam boards to support them in this process.

Parents and students should not contact the school or individual teachers to enquire about predicted grades or to request a change to their grade. All data is already in place and no changes will be made as a result of such requests.

Will I just be given my predicted grade?

Not necessarily. Read the answer above. Predicted grades are one piece of data the exam boards will use to generate your grade.

When will I find out what grade I have got?

We assume this will be on the published results days in August. This is 13th August 2020 for A Levels and 20th August for GCSEs.

Can I appeal against my grade?

The government has said you have the right to appeal if you believe the school has not followed the 'correct process'. This probably means you will not be able to appeal if you don't agree with the grade, only if you believe the school has not taken the relevant information into account. The government advice says:

If a student does not believe the correct process has been followed in their case they will be able to appeal on that basis. In addition, if they do not feel their calculated grade reflects their performance, they will have the opportunity to sit an exam, as soon as is reasonably possible after schools and colleges open again. Students will also have the option to sit their exams in summer 2021.

Have I got another chance if I am disappointed?

Please see above. You should be able to sit your exams in the autumn term if you wish to, or in the following summer as an alternative. This would most likely be if you wish to try and improve your grade. There is no definite information about how this will work or exactly when it will be.

What do I need to do for Art? How can I collate and submit my work?

We need to await clarification from the examboard before we can answer this.

We will try to get your coursework back to you in September and hope to be able to run the exhibition if possible.

I have dropped a subject. Will I still get a grade?

Grades will be awarded to everyone entered with the exam board. If your entry was withdrawn, you will not receive a grade for that subject.

I completed my A levels last year but have re-entered. How will my estimated grade be calculated?

As we have not seen your work this year, we will not be in a position to estimate any grade other than the one achieved last year. You should continue preparing for the examination which will take place 'at the earliest reasonable opportunity, once schools are open again'.

BTEC

Will BTECs get a calculated grade as well?

You will already have completed work for many units, and will just need to submit assignments for others. We are awaiting further information from the exam boards to see what will happen with assignments which have not been taught yet.

The guidance states – “We are encouraging these organisations to show the maximum possible flexibility and pragmatism to ensure students are not disadvantaged. Ofqual is working urgently with the sector to explore options and we will work with them to provide more details shortly.”

Should students continue to complete coursework?

All assignments set so far must be completed and submitted by the deadline.

How can I submit my work?

You can submit by emailing your teacher, or, if this is not possible (eg where your task is to complete a booklet) you should take a photo of the completed work (for evidence of completion) and post the original to school. Staff will be able to collect these when government guidance allows. Deadlines must be adhered to for electronic submission. Assignments which are to be posted must have a date stamp on or before the date of submission.

General

I have just seen a story about something to do with exams in the newspaper/on social media. Should I believe it?

Always treat news via social media with extreme caution. If it is reported in the news, it is definitely worth going to the government’s own website (gov.uk) and looking at the news updates on there. If something is official, there should be a press release or guidance online about it. Don’t just rumours are true.

What should I do during my time off?

Study – education is valuable in its own right. Complete your courses. Look into new things to learn (eg MOOCs such as Future Learn are a good starting point).

Keep active – there are lots of exercise videos on YouTube. This could be an opportunity for you to start something new.

Get organised – tidy your room, plan for university

Look for opportunities to support your family and local community

Be creative

Learn a new skill