



Alex Sobel MP
House of Commons
London
SW1A 0AA

30 April 2020

Dear Mr Sobel,

PQ 37749: To ask the Secretary of State for Education, what steps his Department is taking to ensure that exam boards provide timely guidance to students on requirements for coursework once the covid-19 outbreak is over.

The Rt Hon Nick Gibb MP has asked Ofqual to respond to you directly regarding your recent parliamentary question. A copy of this response will be placed in the Libraries of both Houses.

As the regulator of qualifications, examinations and assessments in England, Ofqual regulates the exam boards that offer GCSEs, AS and A Levels.

The COVID-19 pandemic has disrupted the teaching and learning of all students this year, including those who were due to take exams this summer as well as those now studying GCSE, AS or A level courses but are not due to take exams until 2021.

The majority of students due to take GCSE, AS and A Level exams in summer 2020, will receive a calculated grade. The planned additional autumn 2020 exam series will provide an opportunity for students who consider the results issued in the summer do not reflect their likely performance had the exams taken place to improve their grades. This will also allow an assessment opportunity for any private candidates for whom results cannot be issued in the summer. We will set out further proposals relating to the additional autumn series for consultation as soon as we reasonably can, this will include whether, and to what extent, non-exam assessment (coursework) should be taken into account.

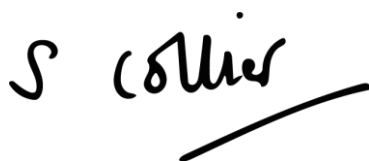
We have highlighted in our [Information for Heads of Centre, Heads of Department and teachers on the submission of Centre assessment grades](#) that any non-exam assessment work completed to date should be retained

in case students decide that they want to enter in a subsequent exam series.

For students who are due to take GCSE, AS and A Level exams in 2021, it is too soon to say what level of impact the COVID-19 outbreak will have on their performance, or on their ability to complete any required non-exam assessment. We are working with the exam boards and DfE to ensure that students are not unfairly disadvantaged by these circumstances.

I do hope this information is useful.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "S Collier". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal stroke underneath the name.

Sally Collier
Chief Regulator