



Catherine McKinnell MP
House of Commons
London
SW1A 0AA

11 May 2020

Dear Ms McKinnell,

PQ 42030: To ask the Secretary of State for Education, with reference to the cancellation by the Government of A-levels in 2020 as a result of the covid-19 outbreak, if he will make it his policy to enable schools to consider pupils' raw GCSE scores when determining their centre assessment grades and rankings at A-level.

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 exams will not take place this summer, students' grades will instead be based on evidence of their likely performance in the exams had they gone ahead. Schools and colleges (centres) will submit to exam boards, for each student and for each subject for which they were entered, judgements on the grade the student would most likely have received had the exams taken place, and the rank order of each student at each grade in each subject in that centre.

On 3 April, we published our Guidance for GCSEs, AS and A level awarding: summer 2020¹. This information is relevant to all students and exam centres in England using GCSE, AS and A levels, Extended Project Qualifications (EPQ) and Advanced Extension Awards (AEA) in maths regulated by Ofqual and offered by AQA, OCR, Pearson, WJEC Eduqas, ASDAN and City & Guilds.

As highlighted in the guidance, the centre assessment grades submitted to exam boards must reflect a fair, reasonable and carefully considered judgement of the most likely grade a student would have achieved if they had sat their exams this summer and completed any non-exam assessment. As outlined in our guidance, schools are able to use any relevant information available to them, including prior performance, when

¹ <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/awarding-qualifications-in-summer-2020>

determining centre assessment grades and rankings. However, different sources of evidence must be balanced appropriately to ensure a holistic professional judgement is reached.

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 extending from the end of the name.

Sally Collier
Chief Regulator