



Catherine McKinnell MP
House of Commons
London
SW1A 0AA

11 May 2020

Dear Ms McKinnell,

PQ 42032: To ask the Secretary of State for Education, whether schools may request (a) non-exam assessments and (b) coursework not yet submitted by pupils to help determine (i) GCSE and (ii) A-level grades and rankings for the 2020 cohorts.

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 (a centre assessment grade), 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 2020.¹ 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.

In some subjects students will have completed, or nearly completed, non-exam assessment. This will be helpful to schools and colleges in deciding each student's centre assessment grade and rank order. However, schools and colleges do not need to ask students to complete any unfinished non-exam assessment work for the purposes of determining the grade.

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

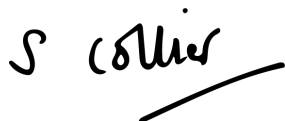
As confirmed on page 4 of the Guidance for teachers, students, parents and carers² there is no requirement for schools or colleges to set additional tasks for the purposes of determining a centre assessment grade, and no student should be disadvantaged if they are unable to complete any work set after schools were closed.

As outlined in the guidance, schools are able to use any relevant information available to them, including prior performance, when determining centre assessment grades and rankings. However, different sources of evidence must be balanced appropriately to ensure that a holistic professional judgement is reached.

Where additional work has been completed after schools and colleges were closed on 20 March, Heads of Centre should exercise caution where that evidence suggests a change in performance. In many cases this is likely to reflect the circumstances and context in which the work is done.

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 flourish underneath.

Sally Collier
Chief Regulator

²https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/880540/Summer_2020_grades_for_GCSE_AS_A_level_guidance_for_teachers_students_parents_FINAL_UPDATED_21APR2020.pdf