

Following the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic, the Welsh Government decided that Summer 2021 exams will not go ahead as planned.

They established the Design and Delivery Advisory Group which has supported the work of Qualifications Wales in making changes to its regulations for qualifications, and WJEC to implement a balanced and fair approach to grading this summer.

Following discussions, it has been decided that your teachers will determine your grades (Centre-Determined Grades), based on a wide range of evidence.

Please note, this information applies to the following WJEC qualifications which are approved by Qualifications Wales:

- WJEC GCSE, AS and A level qualifications
- Skills Challenge Certificates
- Level 2 and Level 3 Health and Social Care: Principles and Contexts
- Level 2 Children's Care, Play, Learning and Development (Unit 216)

The information is correct at the time of publication: 01 April 2021.

For the latest information please visit: www.wjec.co.uk/Summer2021



How will I be assessed?

Your teachers will use their professional judgement to decide which grade you should be given and this will then be reviewed by your school/college as part of their internal quality checks before your final Centre-Determined Grade is submitted to WJEC. You will be assessed only on what you have been taught and your teachers will use a range of evidence to make their grading judgements. Teachers can assess you based on:

- Non-examination assessment (NEA), often referred to as coursework or internal assessment, even if you have not fully completed it.
- Valid work that you have produced in tasks set by your school or college. This could include substantial classwork, homework, internal tests, or mock exams.
- Schools and college set assessments which might be developed entirely by your teachers or based partially or completely on assessment materials provided by WJEC.

Importantly, these assessments are not like formal exams held in a normal year. They are more flexible, based only on the content you have been taught. They are likely to be short assessments focusing on specific themes/topics to suit your programme of learning.

Your teachers do not need to assess you on every aspect of each subject. They just need a range of evidence that shows your performance on sufficient aspects of content you have been taught. In most cases, the range of evidence that your teachers use to inform your grade will be consistent across your class or year group for each qualification.

However, your school or college may decide that different evidence may be more appropriate to fairly inform your grade. For example, if you have been absent for a significant amount of time for genuine medical reasons, more than others in your class.



Keeping you up to date

Your teachers will tell you which pieces of work will be used as evidence to inform your overall grade for each subject. For example, if they are collecting evidence from classroom assessments, they are likely to give you an assessment timetable.

You will have the opportunity to tell staff at your school or college, if you believe the evidence being used was affected by personal circumstances, such as illness.



How will the evidence be used?

No single piece of evidence will necessarily be more important than another. Teachers will be using their professional judgement in assessing you based on a range of evidence that best gives an overall picture of your performance.

Qualifications Wales has provided a range of [information for learners](#) and has produced a summary of the [key facts for 2021 for schools and colleges](#).



Making grading judgements

Once all the evidence is selected and assessments are complete, teachers will consider all your evidence and, using our grade descriptors, will make a holistic professional judgement on your overall grade for each qualification you are studying. They will do this objectively – so, if you are performing consistently at a grade B standard in a specific subject, you should be awarded a grade B. The key difference this year is that grades are not determined by the marks awarded to each assessment.

There will be no grade boundaries this summer. In coming to their holistic judgements, centre staff will use their professional judgement to balance the full range of evidence being used against the performance standard set out in the grade descriptors. We are providing your teachers with further advice and guidance to show the standard of work expected for particular grades.

It is important to say that much like with exams in normal years, the grades issued by your school or college will be based on what you have achieved, rather than your potential in a subject. They will be a snapshot of the standard you are performing at based on a range of valid evidence you have produced. It should be no easier or harder for you to achieve a grade this year based on your performance than in previous years.



What happens after my teacher assigns a grade in a subject?

Once a teacher has decided your grade based on their professional judgement, it will be reviewed by other teachers in your school or college, to make sure grades are determined consistently with your school or college's policy. WJEC will check these policies to make sure they meet our requirements.





Reasonable adjustments, access arrangements and special consideration

If you have special educational needs, and/or are disabled, and are eligible for access arrangements or reasonable adjustments, your school or college should have ensured that these were in place when evidence was produced.

Where appropriate, if reasonable adjustments were not in place when you took an assessment that is being used as evidence, your teacher should take that into account when making a grading judgement. Your school or college could also consider whether other evidence could be used instead.

If you think that your performance in an assessment has been affected by illness or personal circumstances, you should talk to your school or college about this as soon as possible. It is important that you raise any such instances before your school or college submits your grade. Special consideration requests will not apply in the usual way this summer because you will not be taking exams.

If you have any questions about how your personal circumstances will be taken into account or want to raise anything with your school or college, now is the best time to speak to them. You should not wait until after you get your results.



Private Candidates

Qualifications Wales has produced guidance for grading private candidates this summer:

Guidance for Private Candidates

There are two routes for grading private candidates this year:

1: Centre-assessed route

Where private candidates have an established relationship with a school/college that has already agreed to enter them for a qualification and carry out the necessary assessment of their work, these arrangements can continue as planned.

2: Centre-hosted route

For private candidates who do not have an established relationship with a school/college, Qualifications Wales is working with Welsh Government and local authorities to identify schools/colleges willing to accept private candidates across Wales.



When will I receive my grades and what happens next?

- AS and A level students will receive their results on Tuesday 10 August 2021.
- GCSE students will receive their results on Thursday 12 August 2021.

The arrangements for when and where you collect your results will be up to your school or college, and they will provide you with details in due course. Their plans will take into account any Covid and social distancing measures which are still in place in August.



Appeals

Everyone is working hard to make sure you get a valid grade this summer. However, if you believe an error has been made you have the right to appeal.

How will the appeals process work this year?

There are 3 stages to this year's approach to appeals. Please note, you will not need to progress through every stage if an error is addressed at an earlier stage:

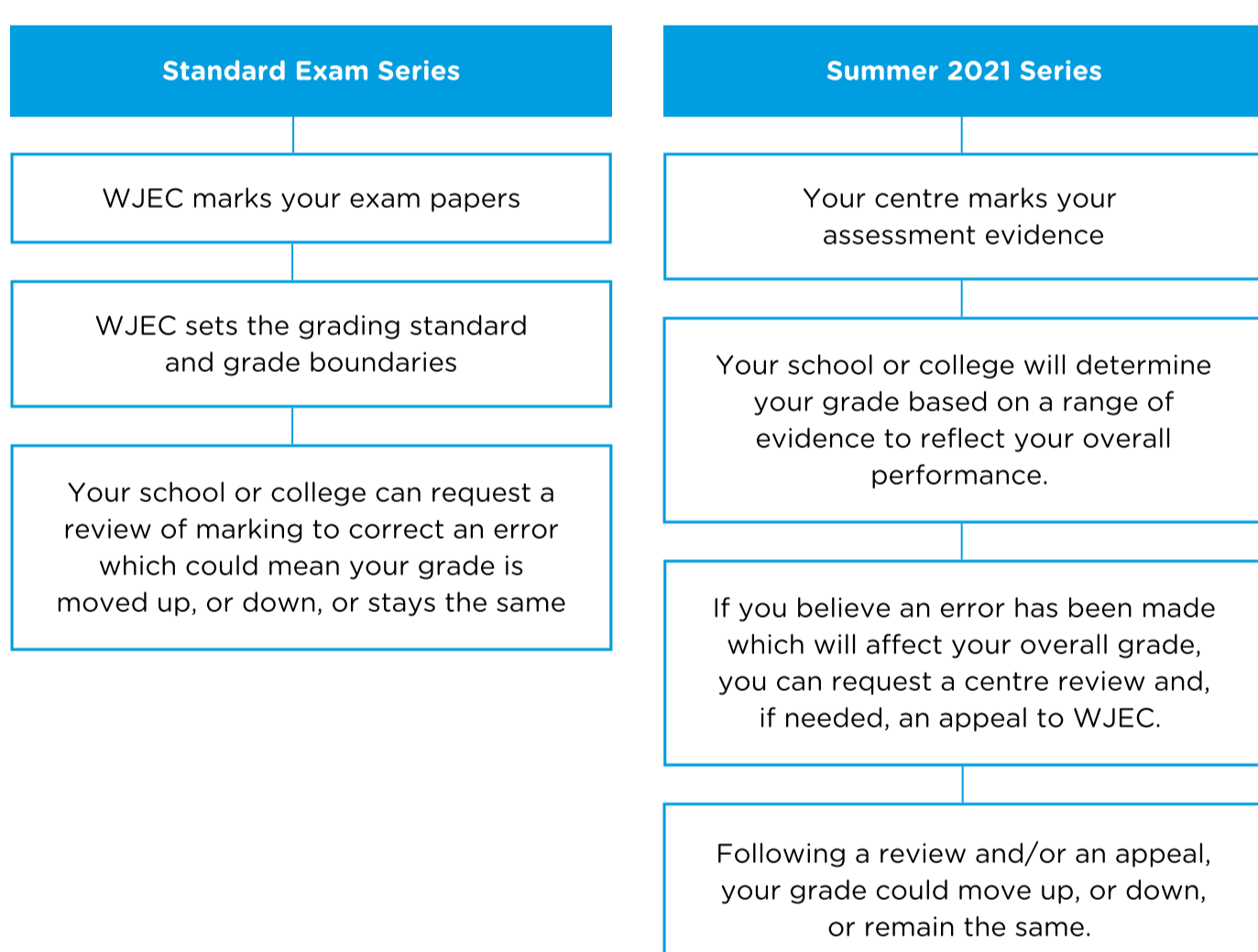
- Stage 1 - Centre Review: You'll receive your provisional Centre-Determined Grade from your school or college by 30 June. If you believe there has been an error, you can ask your school or college to complete a centre review. [Find out more here](#)
- Stage 2 - Appeal to WJEC: If you still believe that an error has not been resolved at Stage 1, you can ask your school or college to submit an appeal to us. [Find out more here](#)
- Stage 3 - Exam Procedures Review Service: If you still believe the error has not been resolved at Stage 2, you can ask Qualifications Wales to review whether we followed the right procedures. [Find out more here](#)

Each stage must be completed before moving to the next.

Please remember, you must give your permission when asking for an appeal as your grade(s) can go up, down, or stay the same.

How is the appeals process different this year?

Your grades are being determined by the professional judgement of your school or college this summer. This is a very different approach to the normal [examinations system](#). It is a grade based rather than a mark-based system. The appeals process is also different. Below is an infographic outlining, at a high level, the different approaches.



Need further information?

You can access further information via Qualifications Wales' [guidance for learners and parents here](#). For further information on 'access arrangements and special considerations' please see the section above.



What will happen and when?

March/April: Your school or college shares information with you on how your grade will be determined, including the range of evidence that will be used.

June: Your school or college will share provisional grades with you for each subject.

June/July: Your school or college will submit your grades to WJEC.

August:

- 10 August - AS/A level Results Day
- 10 August - 7 September - AS/A level appeals window
- 12 August - GCSE Results Day
- 24 August - 21 September - GCSE appeals window (provisional)



Stay up-to-date

We understand that is a challenging time for students. To keep you informed we regularly update [our Student webpage](#).

You can also follow our Instagram account - [@WJECforStudents](#) - for all the latest information.



Keep learning

It's important that you stay focused on your studies and keep learning. There's a whole host of FREE learning resources to help you at:

- [BBC Bitesize](#)
- [WJEC Resources](#)
- [Hwb](#)