

Teacher Assessed Grades: Summer Examination series 2021

GCSE Examinations were cancelled for students in the Summer of 2021 and replaced with Teacher Assessed Grades (TAGs).

Some Year 10 students were entered to complete external unit examinations for some of their Vocational Subjects. Unit examination grades contribute to the overall qualification grade alongside pieces of coursework and other teacher assessment.

The Summer 2021 Year 10 external unit examinations were also cancelled and replaced by unit Teacher Assessed Grades (uTAGs). Enclosed is a copy of each uTAG awarded for Pearson examination board subjects.

Students are currently working on the remaining coursework and examination units in each subject, and will receive an overall qualification grade for each subject in Summer 2022.

How were students' grades arrived at?

The uTAGs enclosed were based on teacher assessment for the individual units. The grades were submitted to the examination board as a unit assessment of students' performance in a subject, following a rigorous process of assessment, moderation and quality assurance.

These grades were then approved by the relevant examination board, following external quality assurance checks.

What should I do if I am not happy with the uTAG?

All students have the opportunity to appeal their grade if they meet the eligibility criteria (see below). It is important to note that an appeal may result in a grade being lowered, staying the same, or going up. Therefore, if a student places an appeal and their grade is lowered, they will receive the lower grade and this cannot be changed back to the original grade.

Students may also have the opportunity to improve their uTAG by re-sitting the examination in Summer 2022, your child's teachers will take into account coursework, and consider if it is possible to improve the overall qualification grade by re-sitting the unit examination.

What are the grounds for appeal?

There are five main grounds for appeal, as dictated by the Joint Council for Qualifications (JCQ). They are:

- You think we have made an **administrative error**: an example of this would be putting the wrong information into a spreadsheet.



- You think we have made a **procedural error**: this means we have not properly followed our own policy. An example of this would be where you've been told you should have received extra time for assessments, but this wasn't given in a certain subject.
- You think the **academic judgement on the selection of evidence was unreasonable**: you think the evidence used to grade you was not reasonable.
- You think the **academic judgement on the grade you were given was unreasonable**.

What does 'unreasonable' mean?

'Unreasonable' is a technical term in this context and means that no educational professional acting reasonably could have selected the same evidence or arrive at the same grade.

This means that just because other forms of evidence may have been equally valid to use, the selection of evidence is not unreasonable. Because of the flexibility of the approach this year, every school and college will have used different forms of evidence.

It also means that the independent reviewers will **not** remark or grade students' evidence. Instead, they will look to see whether any teacher acting reasonably could have arrived at the same grade.

What will be the outcome of an appeal?

At either stage of the appeals process (see 'What are the two stages of an appeal?' below), a student's grade may go up, stay the same, or go down. When placing an appeal, the student will have to sign a declaration saying that they accept the fact their grade may go down and they may get a lower grade than their original TAG.

What should I do before appealing?

Students must read the JCQ Student and Parent guide before appealing, which will be available on the JCQ website (<https://www.jcq.org.uk/>).

We will not be able to offer as much advice and guidance on the likely success of an appeal this Summer as we would in normal years, as we have already moderated and quality assured all the grades ourselves.

What are the two stages of an appeal?

All appeals, on any of the grounds above, must first go through a **centre review**. At this stage, we will check for any administrative errors, and check that our policies and procedures were followed correctly. Our policy has already been approved by the examination boards, so we are ensuring that we followed this properly.

The outcome of the centre review will be communicated to students when made.

At the centre review stage, if we find that a grade should go up or down, we will ask the exam board to change it. They will then consider this request.

Following the outcome of a centre review, students may still choose to pursue an **awarding organisation appeal**. They must fill in the form below, which we will then send on their behalf to the examination boards. Students and parents cannot send appeals directly to the examination board themselves – it must come from us.

The outcome of the awarding organisation appeal will be communicated to students when made.

How do I make an appeal?

Following results days, students should fill in the first section of the Pearson form [here](#)

<https://qualifications.pearson.com/content/dam/pdf/News/btec-general-news/BTEC-UTAG-Appeals-Application-Form.pdf> and send it to cowleytagrequest@sthelens.org.uk

What is the deadline for an appeal?

The deadline for submitting a centre review is 4th February; and the deadline for submitting an awarding organisation appeal is 11th February.

Appeals received after these dates may still be considered.

Further information

Further information can be found in the Exam Portal on the College website <http://www.cowley.st-helens.sch.uk/exam-portal/>