



**HAGLEY CATHOLIC
HIGH SCHOOL**
SEMPER FIDELIS

Summer 2021 Results and Appeals

Teacher Assessed Grades

In January 2021 the DFE announced that examinations could not take place fairly in the summer of 2021 due to the continuing disruption as a result of the pandemic. A guide produced by Ofqual outlining how grades are to be awarded in 2021 can be found in the examinations section of the school website.

[Guidance for students, parents and guardians](#)

How were my / my child's grades arrived at this year?

Grades this summer were based on Teacher Assessed Grades (TAGs). TAGs were submitted to the exam boards by us as a holistic assessment of students' performance in a subject, following a rigorous process of assessment, moderation and quality assurance. The evidence that was to be taken into account when arriving at final grades was shared with all students/parents/carers in a letter that Mr Hodgson sent before the Easter break.

The grades that teachers generated as a result of continuing assessment were then submitted to the relevant examination boards. As part of a nationwide quality assurance programme, Ofqual checked all policies and ensured that the JCQ guidance on awarding grades was followed by each school. Another part of the quality assurance process involved all schools submitting a sample of evidence to examination boards, who then correlated this with the grade that schools had submitted.

An overview of the schools' policy when determining student grades can be found by following the link below:

[Centre Policy for Determining Teacher Assessed Grades Summer 21](#)

This policy has passed stages 1 and 2 of the quality assurance process that was outlined by JCQ.

Appeals

JCQ have produced detailed guidance on the appeals process for summer 2021 which can be found by following the link below:

https://www.jcq.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/JCQ_Appeals-Guidance_Summer-2021.pdf

What do I do if I'm not happy with my / my child's grade?

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.

There is also the option to resit GCSEs, A levels and some AS levels in the autumn, which may be preferable to some students. The design, content and assessment of these papers will be the same as in a normal year.

What are the stages of appeal?

As outlined in the JCQ document above there are two stages to appeal. Stage 1 involves a centre review and stage 2 requires an appeal to the awarding body. With stage 2 appeals, a stage 1 centre review must have initially taken place.

Stage 1 – Centre Review

A robust process of checking grades did take place before they were submitted to the examination boards. However, at stage 1 students can appeal if they believe that the school has:

- failed to follow its procedures properly or consistently in arriving at that result, or

- made an administrative error in relation to the result.

Stage 2 – Appeal to the Awarding Organisation

Appeal to the awarding bodies can take place if:

- A candidate considers that there has been a procedural error, an administrative error or that their grade reflects an unreasonable exercise of academic judgement (either because of the way that the grade has been determined and/or the selection of the evidence).

As outlined in the JCQ guidance document, any student who believes that the centre's decision to withdraw an entry due to insufficient evidence on which to determine a Teacher Assessed Grade, or not to make an entry in the first place, must raise such concerns through the centre's complaints process.

What will be the outcome of an appeal?

At either stage of the appeals process 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's a priority appeal?

- Priority appeals are only open to **A level students starting university this autumn, who have missed out on the conditions of their firm or insurance offer.**
- If you decided not to confirm a firm conditional offer and to go through clearing instead, JCQ cannot offer you a priority appeal.
- JCQ cannot offer priority appeals for GCSE students, unfortunately.
- When making a priority appeal, students will have to include their UCAS number so it can be confirmed that it is a genuine priority appeal.

What should I do if I don't get into my first choice of university?

First, don't panic. Speak to Members of the Sixth Form Team about your options. You may wish to go through clearing, or sit the autumn exams or summer exams next year to try to improve your grade.

If you are going to appeal your grade, you must let your university know you are appealing. They will then let you know whether they will hold a place for you pending the outcome of an appeal (note that universities are not obliged to hold a place for you; this is at their discretion).

What should I do before appealing?

Students must read the JCQ Student and Parent guide before appealing, which will be available on the school website by results days.

We may 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.

How do I make an appeal?

Following results days, students should fill in Appendix B from the JCQ Appeals Guidance Summer 2021 document that can be found on the school website and forward the appeal form to exams@hagleyrc.worcs.sch.uk.

[Appendix B Appeals Form](#)

What are the deadlines for priority appeals?

The suggested deadline for requesting a **Stage 1** priority Centre Review is **16th August** (students cannot appeal before results day on **10th August**).

We will attempt to complete the centre review by **18th August***. If students wish to progress this to a **Stage 2** awarding organisation appeal, they must send the completed form to school by 9am on the **20th August** for priority appeals so that the required information can be submitted to exam boards by **23rd August**.

*At both stages of the appeals process, there may be the need for specialist, expert knowledge (e.g. subject teachers, SEND knowledge). This may not be possible in August. In such cases, we may have to wait until the start of term, but priority appeals will still be treated as a priority.

What are the deadlines for non-priority appeals?

Non-priority appeals are any A levels, GCSEs or vocational qualifications, where a firm or insurance university place is not pending.

The deadline for submitting a Stage 1 centre review is **3rd September**; and the deadline for submitting a Stage 2 awarding organisation appeal is **10th September**.

Appeals received after these dates may still be considered.

You know my / my child's grades. Why can't you tell us? What if you know we haven't met our university conditional offer?

We are forbidden from disclosing the Teacher Assessed Grades to any third party, including students and parents, until results days. Any teacher or member of staff who does this is committing exam malpractice. Although students may have been given marks or grades on single pieces of evidence, we cannot disclose the final submitted TAG.

During the external quality assurance process taking place in June or July, our submitted TAGs may be moved up or down (although this will always be done through human agency, not by an algorithm).

We only know what a student's conditional offer is if they have chosen to share that information with us. It has not formed part of our objective grading of students. Where we do know this information, we must not let students know their submitted TAGs, even if they haven't met the conditions of their offer.