



The
Portsmouth Academy

Our ref: AND/kma/exams2021ltr

3rd March 2021

Dear Students, Parents and Carers,

Miss Piper and I have been very impressed by the attitudes and hard work of our year 11s during this unclear time whilst we have waited for guidance from the Government and Exam Boards about how grades will be determined this Summer.

You will, no doubt, have heard that Ofqual has now published how they expect examination grades to be awarded this Summer.

I am writing to you to outline the key points of Ofqual's guidance and how we will be supporting students and staff to ensure that grades are as fair and accurate as possible.

The key points from the guidance are as follows:

- Students will receive grades awarded and determined by teachers, with pupils only assessed on what they have been taught.
- Teachers will be able to draw on a range of evidence when determining grades, including the optional use of questions provided by exam boards, as well as mock exams, coursework, or other work completed as part of a pupil's course, such as essays or in-class tests.
- To support teachers in making their judgements, Exam Boards will provide detailed guidance before the end of the spring term.
- Exam Boards will also publish optional assessment materials by Easter, some of which will be based on past papers and others that will be previously unseen.
- Exam Boards will publish requirements for centres' quality assurance including checking consistency of judgements across teachers.
- Teachers will submit grades to exam boards by 18 June.
- Exam boards will conduct their own checks, through a combination of random sampling and more targeted scrutiny where they identify cause for concern.
- GCSEs and other KS4 results will be published on August 12.
- Every student will have the right to appeal their grade.
- For those students who want a further chance to improve on their teacher assessment grades, the government is expected to announce that a full autumn exam series will be held for the second year in a row.

The full Ofqual response to the consultation can be found here:



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https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/964597/6747-1_decisions_-_GQ_consultation_on_awarding_grades_in_2021.pdf

We are committed to ensuring that grades awarded to students are as fair and accurate as possible. Therefore, we are putting in place the following framework to support students and teachers:

- Curriculum Leaders are tracking work being set by teachers to ensure that there is a fair and comparable evidence base for deciding grades for students in each subject.
- We have drafted an evidence robustness framework that we will now finalise so that teachers are able to consider how much weight to place on different pieces of work they are using to decide student grades. To support students, we will publish this framework and teachers will identify where work being set fits into this framework.
- Students were advised from the start of January that work they completed could be used to inform grades.
- As soon as Exam Boards publish their guidance, we will finalise our arrangements for how teachers will assess students and share these arrangements with you.
- Once the Exam Boards publish their optional assessment materials we will inform students how we intend to use these to support teachers in making judgements about grades to be awarded.

If you have any questions regarding how we are working to ensure students receive fair and accurate grades this summer please contact the school.

The most important thing over the next term is that students keep attending and working to the very best of their ability. We are looking forward to welcoming year 11 back on Monday and continuing to develop robust evidence that will get the students the grades that they deserve.

Yours faithfully,

Chris Andrews
Assistant Principal: KS4 Quality of Education

How GCSEs, AS and A levels will be awarded in summer 2021



Ofqual/21/6751/2

Working out your grade	Evidence	Results and appeals
<ul style="list-style-type: none">  Graded by teacher judgement  Not graded by an algorithm  School and college assessments can continue  You'll only be assessed on what you've been taught  Your teacher will tell you what evidence is used to grade you  Private candidates to work with a school, college or exam centre to provide evidence for them to be graded 	<ul style="list-style-type: none">  Mocks, tests and work already done can be used as evidence  Non-exam assessment should continue  Non-exam assessments can be used as evidence even if incomplete  Art & design grade based only on your portfolio  Teachers can use question banks provided by exam boards if they want to  Results will be based on completed and future work, so keep doing your best 	<ul style="list-style-type: none">  Results days AS and A level 10 August GCSE 12 August  If you're unhappy with your grade, you can appeal it. First step is to submit an appeal to your school or college. <p>You can find out more details from your school, college or exam board, or by visiting the Ofqual website</p> <p> www.gov.uk/ofqual</p>