**How will my A Level or GCSE Grade be derived this summer (2021)?**

**Introduction**

Following the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic, the UK government has decided that the summer 2021 examination series will not go ahead as planned. Instead, teachers will determine your grades, based upon a range of evidence verified by the College. These grades will be referred to as Teacher Assessed Grades (TAGs).

These results will then be reviewed by the exam boards who designed each course, before awarding the final grades which reflect your performance on content you have been taught, and allow you to confidently progress to the next stage of your education or into employment.

**How Will I be Assessed?**

Your teachers will initially determine your grades, which will then be reviewed by the College through our own internal quality assurance process. The professional judgement of teachers will only be based on what you have been taught and your teachers will use a range of evidence from across the course of study to make their decision.

Teachers can assess, and therefore base their Teacher Assessed Grades (TAGs) on:

* Records of your performance on the content you have been taught over the entire course of your studies.
* Non-exam assessment, often referred to as coursework or internal assessments, even if you have not fully completed it.
* Work that you have produced in tasks set by your teachers throughout your course. This could include substantial classwork, homework, internal tests, work during ‘lock down’ or mock exams.
* Forthcoming assessments that you will be asked to complete between now and the end of the academic year. Your teachers do not need to assess you on every aspect of each subject, but will use a range of evidence that shows your performance on the aspects you have been taught.

**Keeping you in the know**

Due to the transparent nature of our internal College systems, you should be fully aware of your current performance and ‘working at grade’ based on all of the evidence listed above. You will have the opportunity to raise any concerns about the evidence being used, for example, if the evidence was affected by personal circumstances, such as illness. Your teacher will make the final judgement about what evidence is to be included - this is not a negotiation. Your teachers will not be able to tell you the grade they have submitted to the exam board.

**How is the evidence used?**

No single piece of evidence will necessarily be more important than another, as your teachers will be assessing you based on a range of evidence that can give an overall picture of your performance. Ofqual has issued separate guidance to schools, colleges and teachers about the submission of teacher assessed grades, including the evidence that can be used (the link to the JCQ website is listed below).

**Determining Grades**

Once all the evidence is selected and assessments are complete, teachers will decide on an overall grade. They will do this objectively – so, if you are performing consistently at a grade B standard in a subject at A Level, you should be awarded a grade B. Exam boards will provide further advice and guidance to show the standard of work expected for particular grades, including additional grade descriptors, to supplement those previously published by Ofqual. It is important to say that much like with exams in normal years, the grades issued by teachers, schools and colleges will not take account of your potential. They will be a snapshot of the standard you are performing at based on a wide range of evidence. 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 determines my grade?**

Once a teacher has determined your grade, it will be reviewed by other teachers/managers in the college, so grades are determined consistently within our college’s internal quality assurance policy. Exam boards will check these policies to make sure they meet their requirements.

**When will I receive my grades and what happens next?**

**Results Days**

* As an A Level students you will receive your results on Tuesday 10 August 2021.
* As a GCSE student you will receive your results on Thursday 12 August 2021.

The exact details on when and where you collect your results will be communicated you at a later date. We will take into account any Covid and social distancing measures which are still in place in August.

**Appeals**

Everyone at BMet will be working extremely hard to make sure you are issued with the correct grades on results day, and we are confident that our internal quality assurance will ensure that this happens. There is however, an appeals system to act as a safety net to fix any genuine errors that were not identified. If you believe an error has been made in determining your grade, you will have a right to appeal. There are two stages to the appeals process:

**Stage 1: Centre Review**

If you don’t think you have been issued with the correct grade, you can appeal to the College, and we will review whether we have:

* made an administrative error, e.g. they submitted an incorrect grade; they used an incorrect assessment mark when determining your grade.
* did not apply a procedure correctly, e.g. they did not follow their Centre Policy, did not undertake internal quality assurance, did not take account of access arrangements or mitigating circumstances, such as illness.
* did not make a reasonable judgement when deciding which evidence to use to determine your teacher assessed grade or did not make a reasonable judgement about your grade based on the evidence gathered.

**The deadline for submitting an appeal for student is:**

1. **16 August 2021** (priority appeals - for students applying to higher education who did not attain their firm choice, i.e. the offer they accepted as their first choice, and wish to appeal an A level or other Level 3 qualification result)
2. **3 September 2021** (in all other cases).

**Stage 2: Appeal to the Exam Board**

If you still don’t think you have the correct grade after the centre review is complete, you can ask the college to appeal to the exam board, who will review whether:

* the college made an unreasonable exercise of academic judgement in the choice of evidence from which they determined your grade and/or in the determination of your grade from that evidence.
* the college did not apply a procedure correctly, e.g. they did not follow their Centre Policy, did not undertake internal quality assurance, did not take account of access arrangements or mitigating circumstances, such as illness.
* the exam board made an administrative error, e.g. they changed your grade during the processing of grades. At both stages of the process you will need to submit your appeal to your school or college and give them your written consent to conduct the appeal or submit it to the exam board on your behalf. It’s important to remember that your grade can go down, up or stay the same through either stage of the process.

The exam board will consider if the grade needs correcting. They may do this if they believe the grade is not a reasonable judgement or they find a mistake in the procedure which affected the grade. A corrected grade could be higher or lower than the grade you were given on results day.

**Stage 3: Ofqual’s Exam Procedure Review Service (EPRS)**

If the exam board decides that the grade you were awarded is reasonable, and BMet correctly followed its procedure, but you are still concerned that there may have been an error in the procedure used by the exam board to conduct the appeal. The EPRS can consider whether the exam board has followed its rules and procedures. It will not consider whether you got the right grade based on the evidence of your work. The exam board’s final decision on your grade

will stand unless the EPRS finds that the exam board made an error in its review procedure. Even if an error is found, your grade may stay the same.

**Important Information**

* teachers will share with you, which pieces of work they will base their judgements on before they submit your grades to the exam board
* BMet will carry out multiple checks on your grades. Exam boards will our approach and will be checking a sample of grades across the system
* the appeal questions whether the original decision was a reasonable one, and not whether other reasonable decisions could have been made
* a grade will only be changed if there was an error when determining or submitting the grade, or if the grade given could not have reasonably been reached based on the evidence presented
* the appeals arrangements will provide an important safety net if there is clear evidence something went wrong when a grade was determined
* BMet is expected to submit an appeal on your behalf if you ask for one. If you’re concerned we won’t submit an appeal on your behalf, you should contact your exam board
* when your appeal is submitted, you will need to explain why you think your result was incorrect and should be changed
* if you appeal, your grade can go up, down or stay the same
* if you are concerned there may have been wrongdoing when developing your teacher assessed grade you should first discuss this with your teacher
* if you have evidence of malpractice or maladministration, you can contact your exam board directly

**Autumn Exam Series**

Exam boards will be offering exams in October for AS and A levels, and in November and

December for GCSEs. Exams will be available for all GCSE and A level subjects, and for AS

in biology, chemistry, physics, maths and further maths. Exam boards may offer AS exams

in other subjects. please check with the relevant exam board directly whether they will

provide exams for any other subjects at AS.

The exams will be in a standard format and no adaptations will be made other than

reasonable adjustments for eligible students.

All subjects will be assessed by exam except art & design which will be assessed by a task

set and marked by the exam board. Your grade will be determined by your performance on

this task.

The exams will assess you in the same way as had been planned for exams in summer

2021, including assessing you on a reduced number of topics for GCSE English literature,

history and ancient history.

You can take exams in the autumn if you received a teacher-assessed grade in summer

2021 in the same subject or your exam board believes that you would have taken exams this

summer had they not been cancelled.

If you get a higher grade in your autumn exam than you get this summer, then you can ask

the exam board to provide a new certificate showing your higher grade.

**Further Information**

Further information and guidance can be found by visiting the below JCQ website:

<https://www.jcq.org.uk/summer-2021-arrangements/>

Gov.UK website:

<https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/986351/21-6780_Student_guide_to_awarding_in_summer_2021_-_accessible.pdf>