**How will my Vocational and Technical Grade be derived this summer (2021)?**

**Introduction**

Following the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic, the UK government has decided that the summer 2021 grades for vocational and technical qualifications that lead to further or higher education cannot be generated in the traditional way (e.g. BTECs, OCR Cambridge Technicals and Core Maths (those that do not form an occupational competence). Instead, teachers will determine your grades, based upon evidence verified by your college (BMET). These grades will be referred to as Qualification Teacher Assessed Grades (Q-TAGs).

Please note:

* for *Functional Skill and ESOL Skills for Life* qualifications assessments should continue to go ahead. If you cannot safely access an assessment your result can be based on teacher judgement.
* For qualifications which assess *occupational skills or proficiency* (e.g. plumbing, construction and electrical) assessments may continue as normal, be adapted or delayed. Your teacher will advise you of the process.

**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. Your teachers will make a holistic judgement, based on the **available evidence**. This means that your teachers will make judgements on the basis of completed (banked) assessment/unit evidence, as well as alternative evidence (where applicable), where exams do not take place and/or when you have not been able to complete all internal assessment.

**What is a Q-TAG?**

It is important to recognise that the Q-TAG is **NOT** a ‘prediction’ of your potential, it is instead a reflection of the grade that you are actually performing at and will be based upon the content that has been taught.

**What will my Q-TAG be based on?**

Your Q-TAG is a holistic judgement based on **two** elements:

**Qualification-level Teacher Assessed Grade (Q-TAG)**

**Alternative Sources of Evidence**

**Alternative evidence drawn from content taught which reflects students’ performance, knowledge, understanding and skills.**

**Established Sources**

**of Evidence**

**External and Internal Assessments which are complete.**

*For Example: Units that you have fully completed and received a Unit grade for.*

**Alternative sources of evidence include:**

* + Partially completed internal assessments.
  + Classwork or homework assignments or assessments.
  + Mock examinations (based on past papers, or centre-devised tests).
  + Informal assessments evidence from specialist Teachers and other educational professionals such as special education needs coordinators (SENCos) who have worked with the Learner where appropriate.
  + Project work.
  + Recordings (e.g. of practical performance).
  + Evidence from work experience (where relevant to the qualification).
  + Evidence of achievement and progress from Promonitor.
  + Witness testimonies or teacher observation records when used in conjunction with other forms of evidence.

**Your Current Performance at BMET**

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 exceptional personal circumstances. 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 Q-TAG they have submitted to the exam board.

**Determining Grades at BMET**

Once all the evidence is selected and units/assessments are complete, teachers will decide on a holistic overall grade. They will do this objectively based on all of the evidence outlined above. The BMET BTEC Grade Calculator will be used to assist with deriving your grade based on your completed units/assessments and other forms of evidence that will indicated your level of performance in units that have not been fully completed. Your teachers will take into account nay reasonable adjustments, special considerations when deciding your Q-TAG to ensure that it is fair and made without bias.

**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 a Level 3 student you will receive your results on Tuesday 10 August 2021.
* As a Level 2 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. At present, it appears that there are two stages to the appeals process (appeal process for BTECs still to be fully finalised):

**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.

**Stage 2: Appeal to the Awarding Organisation**

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 awarding organisation 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 awarding organisation 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.

**The deadline for submitting an appeal for a student for most awarding organisations which are JCQ compliant are:**

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).

**Further Information**

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

<https://qualifications.pearson.com/en/campaigns/vq-assessment-hub/assessment-and-grading-in-2021.html>

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>