

Exam information – what we know at the moment.

1. Assessments to be done 'late May/early June'.

Ofqual wants pupils to “engage fully” in their education for the remainder of the year. So, the regulator is proposing teachers making final assessments of their students’ performance during late May and early June.

2. Grades based on current performance – not what students would’ve achieved.

Last year, teachers were asked to come up with a grade they thought a student would have achieved had they had set their exams.

But, under the new plan, Ofqual wants the grade to be based on teachers’ assessments of the “evidence of the standard at which their students are performing; it should indicate their demonstrated knowledge, understanding and skills”.

3. Exam boards providing papers for teachers to mark.

Ofqual is proposing that exam boards could provide papers which would be marked by teachers to help inform their assessments.

The exam boards could then sample teachers’ marking for quality assurance and “seek to ensure this was comparable across different types of school and college”.

The regulator is proposing teachers take into account the standard of a student’s non-exam assessment in their final grade.

4. Teachers can use their own papers.

Regardless of whether a teacher decides to use the exam board papers for assessment, teachers should use other ways to assess students – which boards could provide guidance on. Ofqual says other evidence could include formal tests, mocks and “substantial candidate work”.

5. Exams boards to provide support on grading.

It is proposed that exam boards should provide support materials and training to help teachers assess their students, including exemplars, information on other performance evidence that could be taken into account and best practice on avoiding bias and discrimination.

6. School leaders to sign off on grades.

Schools would be asked to put in place internal standardisation arrangements and a process for heads of department and school leaders to agree and sign off on grades submitted by teachers.

7. Exam boards to sample evidence.

Exam boards would then quality assure the approach taken by each school, working together to ensure their approaches are consistent and don’t impose “unnecessary burden” on schools.

8. We would look to hold a set of mocks after Easter – we need to wait to hear when Year 11 students are back in.

9. All students will be entitled to their access arrangements just like they were in the mocks in November.

10. At the moment no more students will be removed from subjects unless this was agreed before January 2021.