

Teacher Assessed Grades Student and Parent Summary

Overview & background:

In summer 2021 and in line with Ofqual guidance, awarding bodies will ask Centres like ESCG to generate a Teacher Assessed Grade (TAG) for GCSE's and A'Level, and in some vocational courses qualifications. We have been asked to create a comprehensive Centre policy to provide clarity of our approach. A summary is provided below (The full policy can be accessed via our website).

Key Principles:

1. TAG grades will be based on a 'basket of evidence' (key assessments) completed over the duration of the course which demonstrates the student's performance over time on the subject content they have learnt.
2. In arriving at these grades, we (as a Centre) will seek to make it no easier or harder for a student to achieve a particular grade this year compared to previous years whilst also considering the disruption to learning this year, and that not all content planned may have been able to be taught.
3. We will ensure that any final grade submitted to awarding bodies is objective, reflects a fair, reasonable, and carefully considered judgement of the student's individual performance across a range of evidence, and is based only on the curriculum content delivered.
4. To ensure that your son/daughter/young person has the broadest possible evidence base for their 'basket of evidence' **it is imperative that all students continue to complete work and assignments by deadlines set by their teacher**. It will also be key for staff to continue with internal quality assurance to moderate grades and complete standard IQA processes, and we need student's work submitted on time to help achieve this.
5. Unlike Calculated Grades last academic year, Teacher Assessed Grades will be based on **evidence of performance** across the qualification and the level that students are performing at (rather than what teachers estimated they could have achieved).
6. Assessment grades either from Mock Exams or completed internal assignments, will continue to be available for students to see on Markbook (Tracker), and will form part of the student's 'basket of evidence'.
7. When deciding on the grade, teachers will take account of the standard of any coursework undertaken by students in their overall judgement, including partially completed non-exam assessments where disrupted learning stopped them from completing it. Where this is the case, students should not be penalised.
8. **Final TAG grades at Qualification Level will not be shared until results day** to allow for internal moderation to be completed and to allow for awarding bodies/exam boards to complete their relevant external quality assurance. Students will however be able to know the grades contributing to the teachers final TAG where relevant in their 'basket of evidence'.
9. Teachers will follow guidance and undertake support offered by the exam boards and the college quality team to ensure guidelines are followed, grades are fair and consistent and to minimise the risk of bias and malpractice. These are all publicly available on the awarding body/exam board websites.
10. As far as possible, teachers will use the same types of evidence to form a judgment. When assessing different students in their cohort for a subject, formal reasonable adjustments will be made for students with learning difficulties / disabilities and/or where special considerations may apply. If evidence is produced from assessments taken earlier in the course where formal reasonable adjustments were not in place, we will be able to take that into account in the teacher's judgement.
11. All TAGs will be subject to internal quality assurance and moderation as well as final sign off by the Head of Centre. Further details on this and staff and management roles & responsibilities are available in the full policy document.

Process for Teacher Assessed Grades & Evidence:

Given the range of qualifications that TAGs may cover, 3 key groups have been identified and process outlined accordingly:

- A Levels & GCSE
- Vocational Qualifications with a similar progression route to A Levels/GCSE's
- Qualifications that will continue with normal assessment (either adapted or delayed) but may have exams that cannot take place where TAGs can be implemented instead.

Tables related to these 3 key groups, including evidence that will be used and any variations to the process outlined below, can be found here: [Click here](#).

If you are unsure if a TAG applies to your young person's course, please contact their tutor or see the Ofqual explainer tool [Summer 2021 Qualification Explainer Tool \(ofqual.gov.uk\)](https://www.ofqual.gov.uk/summer-2021-qualification-explainer-tool/)

Process that applies to all TAGs:

The TAG results are required by awarding bodies/ exam boards by the 18th of June, but before this they are required to go through a process as identified below, including internal quality assurance procedures, before being uploaded.

This means that we will have all TAGs completed internally by 28th May 2021 and we will no longer be assessing work past this date.

Key steps in the process and internal deadlines are detailed here:

1. Teachers will consider and define the curriculum taught.
2. Teachers will collect, review, and evaluate the evidence available for each individual student.
3. Teachers will assign a Professional Judgement Grade for individual students in their group(s), taking into account special considerations where they apply. NB: Stages 1-3 will take place from now until the [21st of May 2021](#).
4. Where there is more than one teaching group a team discussion (teachers / Head of Curriculum) will combine groups and students and agree the grades to be put forward to the designated Assistant Principal. This stage will also include agreement of special considerations where they apply. This part of the process will start as soon as the TAG grades have been assigned and will be completed by the [28th of May 2021](#).
5. Moderation of grades; this step is undertaken by Assistant Principals, in conjunction with the Heads of Curriculum who check each grade submitted and the evidence that constitutes the TAG. This stage takes place between the [28th of May and the 7th of June](#).

NB The following will **not** be considered as evidence to inform TAGs:

- Learner performance on other, unrelated qualifications.
- Planned delivery set out in e.g., schemes of work /Guided learning hours completed.
- Content delivered without evidence of assessment (whether formative or summative).
- Attendance.

Retention of Evidence, Confidentiality, Conflict of Interest and Malpractice

- 1) Evidence used for TAGs will be retained for 6 months after certification to ensure appeals received can be reviewed accurately.
- 2) As previously detailed whilst a student's 'basket of evidence' will be shared, the actual TAG will remain confidential.
- 3) The College will maintain records that show how the TAG process operated, including the rationale for decisions in relation to individual marks/grades.
- 4) We will continue to comply with our obligations regarding data protection legislation.
- 5) We will review centre policies regarding malpractice, maladministration, and conflicts of interest to ensure they address the specific challenges of delivery in Summer 2021.
- 6) We will ensure all staff involved in the determination of grades declare any conflict of interest, such as relationships to students, to our Head of Centre for further consideration.

Quality assurance (Internal & External)

As per the process above internal quality assurance and moderation will take place in line with awarding body requirements. The TAG sign off /moderation of grades will take place at Team, Head of Curriculum, and Head of Centre level. All staff will receive and have access to training to ensure objectivity and fairness of grades. As required by the DfE, Ofqual and JCQ Internal moderation of TAGs will include reference and review in conjunction with performance data from previous years cohorts to ensure each course is consistent with performance over previous years. Awarding bodies / exam boards will also assess our quality assurance processes before and after we submit grades. Please see list of individual awarding body links found here: [Awarding Body Links](#)

Results Day: Results will be issued at each College Campus on the days below.

- 10th August 2021: A Levels, T. Levels, L3 Vocational qualifications.
- 12th August 2021: GCSE's, L2 Vocational qualifications.

Internal Appeals and Appeals following Certification: As a college we appreciate that students may have queries regarding the process, or the evidence used to determine their grade. If your young person has a concern regarding grades within their 'basket of evidence' this should be raised in the usual way using the College's internal appeals

process (<https://www.escg.ac.uk/docs/policies/appeals-policy-and-procedure/>). For concerns in relation to their TAG post results day, the College is aiming to release a detailed process on the website by the beginning of May.