



Hungerhill School



2021 Awarding Your
Level 2 Grades



Dear Parent/Carer,

As you are aware, examinations were cancelled for your child this summer. Schools were asked by the Education Secretary to collect evidence of your child's current performance. This booklet contains the specific evidence that teachers have used to help submit Level 2 qualification grades in individual subjects. Further information including our Teacher Assessed Grades policy and JCQ Appeals documentation can be found on the school website in the section under Parents and Exams and Revision section.

<https://www.hungerhillsschool.com/page/?title=Exams+%26amp%3B+Revision&pid=91>

Yours sincerely,
Mrs L. Pond

The Approach to Awarding Grades in 2021

The qualifications your child has studied fall into two categories for the awarding of grades:

- The **first category** is those subjects, where in normal years, assessment is purely exam based. This category consists of most of the GCSE subjects.
- The **second category** is subjects with an element of coursework (e.g. BTEC Health and Social Care, iMedia, Performing Arts, Sports Science), non-examination assessment (e.g. GCSE Art, Food Technology, Design Technology, PE, Music).

Awarding grades for category one subjects:

We ran an assessment window for these subjects during March-May 2021. We have used two key pieces of academic evidence to arrive at grades.

- The two key pieces of academic evidence were:
 - i. **The assessments from March – May 2021 assessment window**
 - ii. **The mock exams from November 2020 mock exam window**

Awarding grades for category two subjects:

We have used key pieces of ongoing academic evidence (such as coursework, practical assessment, or portfolio work) as well as any November 2020 mock examinations as appropriate to the subject and any assessments from the March – May 2021 assessment window. The number of key pieces of academic evidence will vary from subject to subject and full details of exactly what evidence has been used per individual subject is included later in this booklet.

- Coursework/portfolio work has been marked and moderated.
- Where appropriate, practical assessments have taken place.
- We have used this information, along with moderation of work across a subject area.

Working with us during this process

It is really important that you and your family understand that this process has been difficult and that no one teacher has determined any student's grade in isolation. We have put procedures in place to ensure consistency across all subject areas and for all students. Our teachers have felt the weight of this responsibility and have, as always, acted professionally and with our students' best interests at heart.

GCSE Subject Information

Subject Information – English Language

The English Language GCSE is category one subject. We have used two key pieces of academic evidence to arrive at each student's grade in English Language.

These 2 Key pieces of academic evidence were:

1. The assessments from the March-May assessment window.
Students have completed Paper 1 in full (1 hour 45 minutes) for English Language alongside Q5 of Paper 2.
2. The mock exam from November 2020 mock exam window.
Students sat two English Language papers to form their full mock exam. Students were tested on all aspects of the English Language course in this mock exam series, using unseen papers from the exam board.

Teachers have also submitted speaking endorsement grades to the exam board.

Subject Information - English Literature

The English Literature GCSE is category one subject. We have used two key pieces of academic evidence to arrive at each student's grade in English Literature.

These 2 key pieces of academic evidence were:

1. The assessments from the March-May assessment window.
Students have completed Paper 1 in full (1 hour 45 minutes) alongside the Macbeth Essay from Paper 2.
2. The mock exam from November 2020 mock exam window.
Students sat English Literature Paper 2. This paper tested all the skills required to succeed in English Literature on two of the set topics (Macbeth and Unseen Poetry).

Subject Information - Mathematics

The Mathematics GCSE is a category one subject. We have used two key pieces of academic evidence to arrive at each student's grade in Mathematics.

These 2 key pieces of academic evidence were:

1. The assessments from the March-May assessment window.
Students sat three Mathematics papers in the March-May assessment window, lasting 90 minutes each. Two allowed for a calculator and one was a non-calculator paper. There were two tiers and students sat the tier they had been studying since Christmas.
2. The mock exam from November 2020 mock exam window.
Students sat Papers 1, 2 and 3 for GCSE Mathematics. This was an exact representation of the final exam series in the summer. The papers were not adapted in any way and were written by the exam board. Each paper is equally weighted and worth 80 marks. Paper 1 is non-calculator whereas Papers 2 and 3 are calculator.

Subject Information - Combined Science

The Science GCSEs are a category one subject. We have used two key pieces of academic evidence to arrive at each student's grades in Science.

These 2 key pieces of academic evidence were:

1. The assessments from the March-May assessment window.
Students sat three full science papers in the March-May assessment window. This included a full paper for Biology, Physics and Chemistry lasting 1 hour and 15 minutes each.
2. The mock exam from November 2020 mock exam window.
Students sat Paper 1 for Biology, Chemistry and Physics from the GCSE Combined Science examination.

Subject Information - Triple Science (Biology, Chemistry & Physics)

The Triple Science GCSE is category one subject. We have used two key pieces of academic evidence to arrive at each student's grades in Triple Science.

These 2 key pieces of academic evidence were:

1. The assessments from the March-May assessment window.
Students sat a full Paper for each science specialism in the March-May assessment window. This included a full paper for Biology, Physics and Chemistry lasting 1 hour and 45 minutes each.
2. The mock exam from November 2020 mock exam window.
Students sat Paper 1 for Biology, Chemistry and Physics from the GCSE Biology, Chemistry and Physics examinations.

Subject Information - Geography

The Geography GCSE is a category one subject. We have used two key pieces of academic evidence to arrive at each student's grade in Geography.

These 2 key pieces of academic evidence were:

1. The assessments from the March-May assessment window.
Students sat two Geography papers in the March-May assessment window. Paper 1 assessed Unit 1- Challenges in the Physical Environment and Paper 2 assessed Unit 2- Challenges in the Human Environment.
2. The mock exam from November 2020 mock exam window.
Students sat 3 out of 4 questions for Paper 1 and a full Paper 2 from the GCSE Geography examinations.

Subject Information – History

The History GCSE is a category one subject. We have used two key pieces of academic evidence to arrive at each student's grade in History.

These 2 key pieces of academic evidence were:

1. The assessments from the March-May assessment window.
Students sat two History papers in the March-May assessment window on Paper 1, Medicine in Britain (75 minutes) and Paper 3, Weimar and Nazi Germany (55 minutes).
2. The mock exam from November 2020 mock exam window.
Students sat both Paper 1, Medicine in Britain and Paper 3, Weimar and Nazi Germany from the GCSE History examination.

Subject Information - French

The French GCSE is a category one subject. We have used two key pieces of academic evidence to arrive at each student's grade in French.

These 2 key pieces of academic evidence were:

1. The assessments from March-May assessment window.
Students sat three French papers in the March-May assessment window, which included a formal Listening, Reading, and Writing assessment (either the Foundation or Higher tier). These were created using exemplar materials from the AQA exam board to ensure the questions only covered the content that had been taught.
2. The mock exam from November 2020 mock exam window.
Students sat 3 papers from the French GCSE examinations including, Paper 1 Listening, Paper 3 Reading, and Paper 4 Writing. Paper 2 Speaking was removed from the French GCSE this year.

Teachers have also submitted speaking endorsement grades to the exam board.

Subject Information - Spanish

The Spanish GCSE is a category one subject. We have used two key pieces of academic evidence to arrive at each student's grade in Spanish.

These 2 key pieces of academic evidence were:

1. The assessments from the March-May assessment window.
Students sat three Spanish papers in the March-May assessment window, which included a formal Listening, Reading, and Writing assessment (either the Foundation or Higher tier). These were created using exemplar materials from the AQA exam board to ensure the questions only covered the content that had been taught.
2. The mock exam from November 2020 mock exam window.
Students sat 3 papers from the Spanish GCSE examination including, Paper 1 Listening, Paper 3 Reading, and Paper 4 Writing. Paper 2 Speaking was removed from the Spanish GCSE this year.

Teachers have also submitted speaking endorsement grades to the exam board.

Subject Information - Art, Craft and Design

The Art GCSE is a category two subject. We have used one key piece of academic evidence to arrive at each student's grade in Art.

This key piece of academic evidence was:

1. 100% Portfolio work - this was based on a portfolio of coursework that students had been working on throughout Year 10 and Year 11. This included 1 main project and a satellite project.

Subject Information - Design Technology

The Design Technology GCSE is a category two subject. We have used three key pieces of academic evidence to arrive at each student's grade in Design Technology.

These 3 key pieces of academic evidence were:

1. Design Portfolio (Non-examined assessment).
2. The assessments from the March-May assessment window.
3. The mock exam from November 2020 mock exam window.
Students sat Paper 1 of the GCSE Design Technology examination.

Subject Information - Computer Science

The Computer Science GCSE is a category one subject. We have used two key pieces of academic evidence to arrive at each student's grade in Computer Science.

These 2 key pieces of academic evidence were:

1. The assessments from March-May assessment window.
Students sat Paper 1 and Paper 2 of the GCSE Computer Science examination.
2. The mock exam from November 2020 mock exam window.
Students sat Paper 1 and Paper 2.

Subject Information - Food and Nutrition

The Food and Nutrition GCSE is a category two subject. We have used two key pieces of academic evidence to arrive at each student's grade in Food and Nutrition.

These 2 pieces of academic evidence were:

1. The assessments from the March-May assessment window.
Students completed a Final Written examination (full exam paper from AQA) and a Practical Non-examined Assessment (Science investigation and Food Preparation task).

Subject Information – Music

The Music GCSE (Eduqas) is a category two subject. We have used three key pieces of academic evidence to arrive at each student's grade in Music.

The 3 key pieces of academic evidence were:

1. The assessments from the March-May assessment window which were:
 - A Listening exam paper.
 - 1 completed solo performance
 - 1 completed composition

Subject Information - Physical Education

The Physical Education GCSE is a category two subject. We have used two key pieces of academic evidence to arrive at each student's grade in PE.

These 2 key pieces of academic evidence were:

1. The assessments from the March-May assessment window which were:
 - Practical lessons were also used to conduct internal moderation.
 - A Written Non-examined Assessment.
 - Students sat Paper 1 and Paper 2 from GCSE PE examination board materials.
2. The mock exam from the November 2020 mock exam window which was Paper 1 and Paper 2.

Subject Information – Psychology

The Psychology GCSE is a category one subject. We have used two key pieces of academic evidence to arrive at each student's grade in Psychology.

These 2 key pieces of academic evidence were:

1. The assessments from the March-May assessment window.
Students sat a full Unit 1 OCR Psychology Paper from the Psychology GCSE examination under exam conditions.
2. The mock exam from November 2020 mock exam window which was a full Paper 2.

Subject Information – Statistics

The Statistics GCSE is a category one subject. We have used one key piece of academic evidence to arrive at each student's grade in Statistics.

This key piece of academic evidence was:

1. The assessments from the March-May assessment window.
Students sat one Statistics paper in full during the March-May assessment window which assessed them on all topics they had been taught in lesson and also within their Maths lessons. Further to this, they completed part of a second Statistics paper during this assessment window to act as further evidence towards their overall GCSE Statistics grade.

BTEC Subject Information

Subject Information - Graphic Design and Media

The Graphic Design and Media course is a category two subject. We have used one key piece of academic evidence to arrive at each student's grade in Graphic Design and Media.

This key piece of academic evidence was:

1. Students completed two full units of coursework which formed a portfolio of evidence that was submitted to the exam board for external moderation.

Subject Information - Health and Social Care

The Health and Social Care course is a category two subject. We have used two key pieces of academic evidence to arrive at each student's grade in Health and Social Care.

These two key pieces of academic evidence were:

1. Students completed two full units of internally assessed coursework including, Component 1 and Component 2 of the BTEC Health and Social Care qualification.
2. The mock exam from November 2020 mock exam window.
Students sat a Component 3 mock exam alongside several mini tests made up of Component 3 exam questions.

Subject Information - OCR Cambridge National in iMedia

The iMedia course is a category two subject. We have used two key pieces of academic evidence to arrive at each student's grade in iMedia.

These 2 key pieces of academic evidence were:

1. The assessments from the March-May assessment window which was:
 - The mandatory unit RO81 exam paper
2. Coursework that had been submitted from the remaining three units that comprise the course.

Subject Information - Performing Arts (RSL)

The Performing Arts course is a category two subject. We have used two key pieces of academic evidence to arrive at each student's grade in Performing Arts.

These two key pieces are academic evidence were:

1. The assessments from the March-May assessment window.
2. Students sat one full RSL Performing Arts exam paper during the March-May assessment window. Students have completed 1 full unit of internally assessed coursework.

Subject Information - OCR Cambridge National in Sport Science

The OCR Sport Science course is a category two subject. We have used one key piece of academic evidence to arrive at each student's grade in Sport Science.

This key piece of academic evidence was:

1. Students completed three full units of coursework which formed a portfolio of evidence that was internally moderated using OCR exam board guidance and criteria. Students also completed one full externally assessed exam unit.

Information for Parents and Students on Appeals - Summer 2021

How were my / my child's grades arrived at this year?

Grades this summer were based on Teacher Assessed Grades (TAGs). TAGs were submitted to the exam boards by us as a holistic assessment of students' performance in a subject, following a rigorous process of assessment, moderation and quality assurance.

These grades were then checked by the relevant exam board, following external quality assurance checks.

In some cases, the TAGs we submitted may have been reviewed by the exam board, who may have asked us to submit an alternative grade. However, any changes to the grades we submitted were done by professional teachers or reviewers.

What do I do if I'm not happy with my / my child's grade?

All students have the opportunity to appeal their grade if they meet the eligibility criteria (see below). It is important to note that an appeal may result in a grade being lowered, staying the same, or going up. So, **if a student puts in an appeal and their grade is lowered, they will receive the lowermark.**

There is also the option to re-sit GCSEs which may be preferable to some students. The design, content and assessment of these papers will be the same as in a normal year. The school would urge you to carefully consider whether it is in the best interests of your child to resit an exam, whilst currently studying for their post 16 courses and pathways. As a school, we recognise that the workload involved for your child to resit exams and embrace new post 16 studies would be very challenging. We also recognise that studying for resits could compromise their post 16 learning. We feel this year group has already been disadvantaged due to Covid-19, so we would urge you to carefully consider whether it is in the best interests of your child to resit an exam.

What are the grounds for appeal?

There are five main grounds for appeal, as dictated by the Joint Council for Qualifications (JCQ). They are:

- You think we have made an **administrative error**: an example of this would be putting the wrong information into a spreadsheet.
- You think we have made a **procedural error**: this means we haven't properly followed our own process, as approved by the exam board.
- You think the **academic judgement on the selection of evidence was unreasonable**: you

think the evidence used to grade you was not reasonable.

- You think the **academic judgement on the grade you were given was unreasonable**.

What does 'unreasonable' mean?

'Unreasonable' is a technical term in this context and means that no educational professional acting reasonably could have selected the same evidence or come up with the same grade. This means that just because other forms of evidence may have been equally valid to use, the selection of evidence is not unreasonable. Because of the flexibility of the approach this year, every school and college will have used different forms of evidence.

It also means that the independent reviewers will **not** remark or grade students' evidence. Instead, they will look to see whether any teacher acting reasonably could have arrived at the same grade.

What will be the outcome of an appeal?

At either stage of the appeals process (see 'What are the two stages of an appeal?' below), a student's grade may go up, stay the same, or go down. When placing an appeal, the student will have to sign a declaration saying that they accept the fact their grade may go down and they may get a lower grade than their original TAG.

What's a priority appeal?

JCQ cannot offer priority appeals for GCSE students, unfortunately.

What are the two stages of an appeal?

All appeals, on any of the grounds above, must first go through a **centre review**. At this stage, we will check for any administrative errors, and check that our policies and procedures were followed correctly. Our policy has already been approved by the exam boards, so we are only ensuring that we followed this properly.

The outcome of the centre review will be communicated to students when made.

At the centre review stage, if we find that a grade should go up or down, we will ask the exam board to change it. They will then consider this request.

Following the outcome of a centre review, students may still choose to pursue an **awarding organisation appeal**. They must fill in the second section of the JCQ Appeals form which we will then send on their behalf to the exam boards. Students and parents cannot send appeals directly to the exam board themselves – it must come from us.

The outcome of the awarding organisation appeal will be communicated to students when made.

How do I make an appeal?

Following results day, students should fill in the first section of the JCQ form (centre review) which will be on the school website from Thursday 12th August. Please use the following link and send it to the following email address:

<https://www.hungerhillschool.com/page/?title=Exams+%26amp%3B+Revision&pid=91>

appeals@hungerhillschool.com

What are the deadlines for appeals?

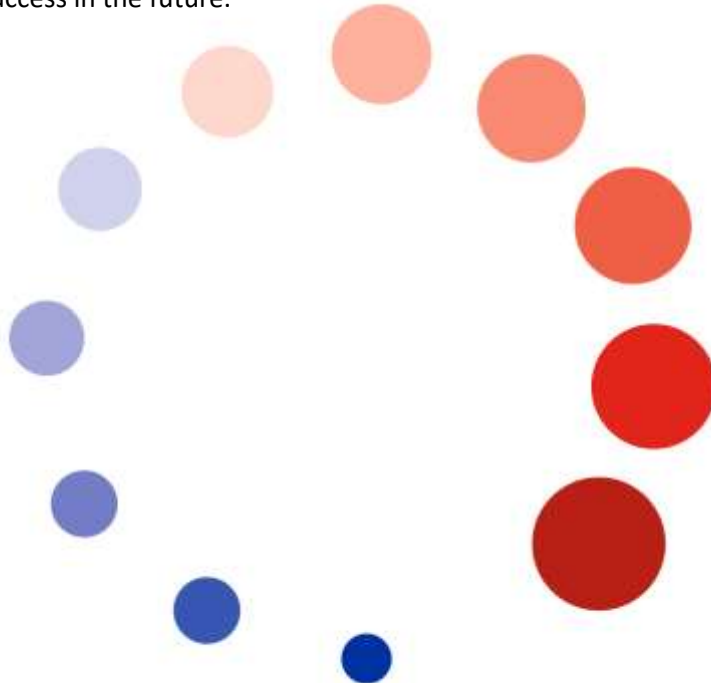
Appeals will not be looked at by the school until after term begins on 1st September.

The deadline for submitting a centre review is Friday 3 September; and the deadline for submitting an awarding organisation appeal is 10 September.

Appeals received after these dates may still be considered.

We believe that the most important thing for you is that you are now on the right post 16 pathway for you in order to succeed. If we can offer any assistance regarding your next choices, please do not hesitate to get in touch with our careers' advisor, Mrs. Monk, on monk.j@hungerhillschool.com.

We wish you every success in the future.



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