



GCSE Grading 2021

Information for Year 11 Students, Parents and Carers

On the 8th March, we shared an important assembly with students, parents and carers regarding how GCSE grades will be awarded in 2021. This summer's grades will be based ***on evidence of the standard at which students are performing and only on material they have been taught***. Our priority since our students returned, has been to support their well-being, balancing quality first teaching with a carefully planned series of internal assessments in each subject. Learning and revisiting key content will help them prepare for any assessments that will form part of the evidence used to award their grade.

At the end of March, OFQUAL and the Joint Council for Qualifications released comprehensive guidance to schools on how GCSE grades will be derived. JCQ have summarised the most important information on this document and I encourage all students and parents to read this.

[JCQ-Guidance-for-Students-and-Parents-on-Summer-2021.pdf](#)

We have reviewed the full guidance carefully to ensure that effective planning and procedures are in place which meet the requirements set out by OFQUAL, JCQ and awarding organisations for Summer 2021. Our Centre Policy outlines the processes that we will follow as a centre for determining grades in an appropriate, consistent and fair way.

What evidence will be used?

Teachers will use "a range of evidence" in line with OFQUAL, JCQ and exam board's guidance. This evidence will vary, depending on each subject's specification, and may include any of the following for example; *assessment materials provided by exam boards, including groups of questions or past papers, NEA (coursework), internal assessments in class, December PPE exams, records of performances in practical subjects.*

Year 11 Summer Internal Assessments

As exams are cancelled this year, students will not be sitting full-length mock exam papers in the Sports Hall. Instead, they will sit a series of shorter, in-class assessments in each subject between the end of April and May Half Term. These assessments may form part of their ongoing NEA in certain subjects. However, many subjects will use the assessment materials provided by the exam boards which feature shorter question papers that will provide students with the opportunity to show what they know, understand or can do in an area of content that has been taught but not yet assessed. They will also support consistency of judgement between teachers, classes and cohorts, and across schools nationally. Teachers will remove any questions that focus on content not taught.

The evidence from these assessments will play a key role in determining students' final grades so **full attendance is crucial both for the assessments and the lessons that lead up to them**. Dates and times for each route, class and subject have already been issued to students on the Yr11 summer internal Assessment Timetable in their exam preparation assemblies.



Absence during an assessment

It is vital that all Year 11s attend every lesson and do not miss any of their subject assessments. The results from these assessments will form a significant part of the evidence used to derive their grade. If your child cannot attend an assessment due to illness, bereavement or other personal reasons please contact the school as soon as possible so we are aware.

Eid Ul Fitr

We anticipate that this will fall either on 12th or 13th May and once confirmed, we will email students with changes to any assessment dates that fall on that particular day.

Families may claim 1 day only for religious observance. Please contact school on the day of absence. Students taking additional days beyond this, will miss vital assessments, the evidence of which we cannot make adjustments for.

How will grades be awarded?

Curriculum Leaders will ensure there is a broad range of evidence gathered across the taught content of each subject. Evidence will be marked and moderated in school by a team of teachers using the standards and grade descriptors provided by exam boards. We will have strict processes in place to ensure all marking and grading judgements are fair. Exam boards will check our systems and marking to ensure that grading is accurate and fair. Whilst it may vary from subject to subject, the school's policy will be to use the optional exam board assessment materials with greater emphasis being placed on the evidence collected in April and May 2021.

Teachers will inform students of the evidence they intend to use to decide students' final grades. Dates for any assessments have already been shared with them. Students have the opportunity to raise any valid or genuine concerns if a particular piece of evidence was affected by COVID related illness, Access Arrangements not being put in place or special circumstances, such as illness or bereavement. Teachers will make the final judgement about what evidence is to be included - this is not a negotiation.

Final grades must be submitted to the exam boards by the 18th June. After this point, the exam boards will check the grades submitted through a process of external quality assurance. Teachers are not allowed to disclose the final grade they submit so please do not ask them. This will be regarded as malpractice and reported to exam boards.

When will students receive their results?

GCSE results will be issued to students on Thursday 12th August. Further information and details will be sent out closer to the time.

What happens with appeals?

Everyone is working hard to ensure students are issued with the correct grades on Results Day. As with all centres, the exam boards will check our grades and evidence. However, if you believe that an error has been made in determining a specific grade, you will have the right to appeal. Further information about the appeals process and dates is summarised on pages 6 & 7 of the JCQ Guidance for Students and Parents.



The Radclyffe School

“Working Together for Excellence”

We are clear that none of our students should face any disadvantage and would like to reassure you that we will be doing everything in our power to ensure they are awarded the qualifications they deserve.

We will continue to update you over the weeks to come, but in the interim, if you have any questions please email us at admin@theradclyffeschool.co.uk and someone will get in touch as soon as possible.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs A Taylor (Assistant Headteacher)

- **JCQ Guidance for Students and Parents**

[JCQ-Guidance-for-Students-and-Parents-on-Summer-2021.pdf](#)

- **JCQ Full guidance to schools**

<https://www.jcq.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/03/JCQ-Guidance-on-the-Determination-of-Grades-for-A-AS-Levels-and-GCSEs-Summer-2021.pdf>