



2020 Exam Results Review Procedure

PURPOSE

Due to the Covid-19 Pandemic and schools being closed from 14 March, no exams could take place. The following Procedure explains the process we had to undertake to provide final predicted grades for exam boards and explains what parents can do should they wish to have final results reviewed.

Exam Boards:

Wingate School uses two UK based exam boards; Cambridge International (CIE) and Edexcel Pearson. CIE is an independent exam board and so creates its own processes and procedures, Edexcel is governed by Ofqual which is the UK's main body to review and direct a number of different exam boards both in the UK and Internationally. I have used extracts from both CIE and Ofqual in the following document and referenced those allowed at the end. The quotes are in italics.

Exam Board Instructions:

"For this summer's awards, schools and colleges are being asked to provide centre assessment grades for their students. We are asking schools and colleges to use their professional experience to make fair and carefully considered judgements of the grades schools and colleges believe their students would have been most likely to achieve if they had sat their exams, and should take into account the full range of available evidence.

Centre assessment grades for every student in each of their subjects: that is, the grade they would be most likely to have achieved if they had sat their exams and completed any non-exam assessment. Judgements should balance different sources of evidence such as:

- *classwork*
- *bookwork*
- *any participation in performances in subjects such as PE*
- *any non-exam assessment – whether or not complete*
- *the results of any assignments or mock exams*
- *previous examination results – for example, for any re-sitting students or those with relevant AS qualifications*
- *any other records of student performance over the course of study*

To make sure that grades are as fair as possible across schools and colleges, exam boards will put all centre assessment grades through a process of standardisation using a model developed with Ofqual. It will look at evidence such as the expected national outcomes for this year's students, the prior attainment of students at each school and college (at cohort, not individual level), and the results of the school or college in recent years. The process will also recognise the past performance of schools and colleges. However, if grading judgements in some schools and colleges appear to be more severe or generous than others, exam boards will adjust the grades of some or all of those students upwards or downwards accordingly".

Edexcel have produced an explanatory video on Youtube which might also help:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=u5LVyoG9WN0&feature=youtu.be>

Further advice can also be found at: quals.pearson.com/2020students

Exam Boards instructions on Appeals on Final Results:

Edexcel advice: *"Having considered all the options available to us in the circumstances of awarding grades in summer 2020 we have decided not to provide for appeals in respect of the operation or outcome of the statistical standardisation model.*

Our guidance makes clear that in relation to calculated results it would not be appropriate to allow appeals relating to the professional judgements of teachers and centres, so long as those judgements have been arrived at in line with the procedure agreed with the awarding organisation.

This is because, in normal circumstances, the basis for such appeals is whether or not a result is reasonable, set by the exam board from the evidence produced in an assessment. However, calculated results will not be based on assessments that are marked in line with set criteria and there is therefore no common benchmark. Consequently:

- *Schools must allow appeals on the basis that the school did not apply procedures consistently or that procedures were not followed properly and fairly, in line with the General Conditions set out by Exam Boards*
- *Exam Boards will not be expected to consider appeals submitted by individual learners or their representatives unless that is the only way to secure an effective appeal"*

CIE Exam Board Review advice:

CIE do have a Review process with very similar criteria to the above where the Centre process is reviewed or their standardisation process is reviewed. Not individual appeals. They must be applied for through the Centre and the cost met by parents. Further details are available on request.

Wingate School's process of presenting predicted grades to the exam boards:

The three most senior academic leaders of Wingate School formed the assessment panel: Mr Colin Macrae (Head); Mr Peter Fazackerley (Deputy Head); and Mrs Colette Tolfrey (Head of the Senior School). They instructed all teachers to submit their predicted grades onto a spreadsheet. The predicted grades had to be based on the evidence criteria set out by exam boards (above) and their professional judgment. The spreadsheet detailed when students' work had been assessed and the marks obtained for that work. Where necessary, individual subject teachers or department heads were consulted.

The data collected was closely scrutinised, assessed fairly and objectively by the panel and the students listed in grade, rank order. As directed by the exam boards, this final data is strictly confidential and will not be shared with staff, students or parents.

Prior to the predicted grades being sent to the exam boards, the panel again closely discriminated the data and students' final predicted grades.

Parents requesting a Review or Appeal against Exam Board final grades:

Final results will be released to students in August.

As explained by the exam boards above, parents do not have the usual recourse of Appeal or Review of a students' final grade. Instead, you can request a review of the process carried out by Wingate School in providing the predicted grades. However, we are very confident that we have followed the exam board's instructions closely and carried out the process fairly and objectively without any undue prejudice.

Students can resit IGCSE exams in the October series for CIE and Edexcel, IAL & A Level Edexcel in November. Students can also resit some subjects or take exams in the Edexcel January series or wait until the June 2021 series. For all October & November exams, students must request and complete the Exam Entries form before 29 August for the October series.

It should be noted by students and parents that Colleges and Universities have been instructed to be sympathetic and flexible to students applying for courses. If a student is disappointed with their final grades, my advice will be to contact the institution they have applied to directly.



Mr Colin Macrae
Head of Wingate School

References:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/how-gcses-as-a-levels-will-be-awarded-in-summer-2020?>
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/awarding-qualifications-in-summer-2020>