



## Frequently Asked Questions

### WHEN IS RESULTS DAY?

#### Sixth Form Students - Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> August 2021

We request that only students enter the school site to collect results between 9-11am, access via the Performing Arts Centre Foyer, however, if Government Guidance changes, we will be in touch. Students who are not available on Results Day can email Mr Meakings [smeakings@swr.school](mailto:smeakings@swr.school) from their **school email address account** to request an electronic copy. Results will not be given to parents/carers/relatives or friends under any circumstance.

#### Year 11 Students - Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> August 2021

We request that only students enter the school site to collect results between 9-11am, access via the Performing Arts Centre Foyer, however, if Government Guidance changes, we will be in touch. Students who are not available on Results Day can email Mr Meakings [smeakings@swr.school](mailto:smeakings@swr.school) from their **school email address account** to request an electronic copy. Results will not be given to parents/carers/relatives or friends under any circumstance.

### What Do I Do If I Am Not Happy With My/My Child's Grade?

All students have the opportunity to appeal their grade if they meet the eligibility criteria (please 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 lower mark.**

There is also the option to resit GCSEs or A-Levels in the autumn, which may be preferable to some students. The design, content and assessment of these papers will be the same as in a normal year.

### 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 have not properly followed our own process, as approved by the exam board. An example of this would be where you have been told you should have received extra time for assessments but this was not given in a certain subject.
- **You think the academic judgement on the selection of evidence was unreasonable:** you think that 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 that their grade may go down and they may get a lower grade than their original TAG.

## What Is A Priority Appeal?

Priority Appeals will be handled more quickly than other appeals, where possible before UCAS's advisory deadline of the 8<sup>th</sup> September 2021.

**Priority Appeals are only open to A-Level students starting university this autumn, who have missed out on the conditions of their firm or insurance offer.**

If you decided not to confirm a 'firm conditional offer' and to go through clearing instead, JCQ cannot offer you a Priority Appeal. When making a Priority Appeal, students will have to include their UCAS number so it can be confirmed that it is a genuine Priority Appeal.

Unfortunately, JCQ cannot offer Priority Appeals for GCSE Students.

## What Should I do If I Do Not Get Into My First Choice Of University?

Firstly, don't panic. Speak to Miss Sanmartin about your options. You may wish to go through clearing or sit the autumn exams or summer exams next year to try to improve your grade.

If you are going to appeal your grade, you must let your university know you are appealing. They will then let you know whether they will hold a place for you pending the outcome of an appeal (please note that universities are not obliged to hold a place for you; this is at their discretion).

## What Should I Do Before Appealing?

Students must read the [JCQ Student and Parent Guide](#) before appealing - this is the version that was published back in March 2021, please check for updates before Results Days.

We may not be able to offer as much advice and guidance on the likely success of an appeal this summer as we would in normal years, as we have already moderated and quality assured all the grades ourselves.

## 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 have 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 form below, which we will then send, on their behalf, to the exam boards. Students and Parents/Carers 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 Days, students should fill in the first section of the JCQ interactive form, please [click here](#) and send it to Mr Meakings, Exams Officer, on [smeakings@swr.school](mailto:smeakings@swr.school).

## What Are The Deadlines For Priority Appeals?

The suggested deadline for requesting a Priority Appeal is the 16<sup>th</sup> August 2021 (students cannot appeal before results day on the 10<sup>th</sup> August 2021).

We will attempt to complete the centre review by 20 August 2021\*. If students wish to progress this to an Awarding Organisation Appeal, they must send the completed form to us by 23<sup>rd</sup> August 2021 for Priority Appeals.

\*At both stages of the appeals process, there may be the need for specialist, expert knowledge (e.g. subject teachers, SEND knowledge). This may not be possible in August 2021. In such cases, we may have to wait until the start of term, but Priority Appeals will still be treated as a priority.

## What Are The Deadlines For Non-Priority Appeals?

Non-Priority Appeals are any A-Levels, GCSEs or Vocational Qualifications, where a 'firm' or 'insurance' university place is not pending.

The deadline for submitting a Centre Review is the 3<sup>rd</sup> September 2021; the deadline for submitting an Awarding Organisation Appeal is the 10<sup>th</sup> September 2021.

Appeals received after these dates may still be considered.

## You Know My/My Child's Grades. Why Can't You Tell Us? What If You Know We Have Not Met Our University Conditional Offer?

We are forbidden from disclosing the Teacher Assessed Grades to any third party, including students and parents/carers, until Results Days. Any teacher or member of staff who does this is committing exam malpractice.

Although students may have been given marks or grades on single pieces of evidence, we cannot disclose the final submitted TAG.

During the external 'national quality assurance' process taking place in June and July, our submitted TAGs may be moved up or down (although this will always be done through human agency, not by an algorithm).

We only know what a student's conditional offer is if they have chosen to share that information with us. It has not formed part of our objective grading of students. Where we do know this information, we must not let students know their submitted TAGs, even if they have not met the conditions of their offer.

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