

External Awarding Bodies Headline Position on Assessment and Exams Protocols during COVID19 Crisis					
Current Update: 17/4/20					
All updates in purple, with any new hyperlinks in blue					
External Awarding Bodies	AL/GCSEs	Vocational	ESOL/LLDD/FS	Apprenticeships	External Verification/External Moderation/External Quality Assurance
DfE/Gov.uk/ Ofqual	<p>No exams this summer.</p> <p><b>6/4/20 (Update)</b> This information is relevant to all students and exam centres in England using the following qualifications regulated by Ofqual and offered by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- AQA,</li> <li>- OCR,</li> <li>- Pearson,</li> <li>- WJEC Eduqas,</li> <li>- ASDAN,</li> <li>- City &amp; Guilds.</li> </ul> <p>For:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•GCSEs</li> <li>•AS and A levels</li> <li>•Extended Project Qualifications (EPQ)</li> <li>•Advanced Extension Awards (AEA) in maths</li> </ul> <p><i>This does not apply to vocational qualifications</i></p> <p><b>System:</b> <b>How will centre assessment grades work?</b> We are asking schools and colleges to use their professional experience to make a fair and objective judgement of the grade they believe a student would have achieved had they sat their exams this year. It is important that schools and colleges take into account the full range of available evidence when they grade students - including non-exam assessment; the results of any homework assignments or mock exams; and any other records of student performance over the course of study. We are also asking schools and colleges to provide a rank order of students within each grade. This is because the statistical standardisation process will need</p>	<p>17/4/20 FE News stated on 9/4/20, 'Ofqual to announce teachers will 'calculate' BTEC and other qual results but delay detail.'</p> <p>NB No confirmation from Ofqual as of 17/4/20. However, refer to Person section below.</p> <p><b>25/3/20- Remains TBC</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Teacher calculated grade, or other form of estimation based on assessment that has already taken place. For other qualifications, it might be more appropriate to adapt the assessment or delivery arrangements.</li> <li>2. Qualifications [with] occupational competence...might need to be delayed in order to ensure public safety and meet the needs of employers.</li> </ol>	<p>17/4/20 FE News stated on 9/4/20, 'Results for this summer's cancelled functional skills exams will be based on teacher calculated grades, Ofqual is set to announce.'</p> <p>NB No confirmation from Ofqual as of 17/4/20.</p>	<p><b>23/3/20- Remains TBC w/emerging direction</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• the modification and rescheduling of end-point assessment arrangements, including remote assessments wherever possible</li> <li>• can initiate a break in learning where the interruption to learning due to COVID-19 is greater than four weeks</li> <li>• where apprentices are made redundant, it is our ambition to find them alternative employment and continue their apprenticeship as quickly as possible and within 12 weeks</li> </ul>	NA

	<p>more granular information than the grade alone.                  We have provided clear guidance to schools and colleges on the grading and rank ordering process to help staff in different schools and colleges take a common approach to assessing their students.</p> <p><b><i>When and how will centre assessment grades be submitted to exam boards?</i></b>                  Exam boards will provide detailed instructions to schools and colleges on when and how to submit centre assessment grades after Easter. The deadline will not be earlier than 29 May 2020 and centres will have a window of at least two weeks in which to submit the data. In the meantime, we are advising schools and colleges on the next steps they need to take to give them the maximum possible time to prepare.</p> <p><b><i>Should schools and colleges be setting students new work to inform the grade they submit?</i></b>                  There is no requirement to set additional mock exams or homework tasks for the purposes of determining a centre assessment grade, and no student should be disadvantaged if they are unable to complete any work set after schools were closed. Where additional work has been completed after schools and colleges were closed on 20 March, Heads of Centre should exercise caution where that evidence suggests a change in performance. In many cases this is likely to reflect the circumstances and context in which the work is done.</p> <p><b><i>What does this mean for non-exam assessment?</i></b>                  In some subjects students will have completed, or nearly completed, non-exam assessment. This will be helpful to schools and colleges in deciding each student's grade and rank order. Where there are several subject teachers within a school or college, this work might also be</p>				
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	<p>helpful in standardising teachers' approach to determining the rank order and awarding grades. Schools and colleges do not need to ask students to complete any unfinished non-exam assessment work for the purposes of grading.</p> <p><b>Do schools and colleges need to submit the evidence they have used for grading?</b></p> <p>No, schools and colleges do not need to submit any supporting evidence, such as student work, to exam boards, but they should retain records of this in case exam boards have any queries about the data. The Head of Centre will need to confirm that the centre assessment grades and the rank order of students are a true representation of student performance.</p> <p>For full guidance, refer to:  <a href="https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/877842/Summer_2020_grades_for_GCSE_AS_A_level_EPQ_AEA_in_maths_-_guidance_for_teachers_students_parents.pdf">https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/877842/Summer_2020_grades_for_GCSE_AS_A_level_EPQ_AEA_in_maths_-_guidance_for_teachers_students_parents.pdf</a></p>				
AAT	<b>Suspended</b>	<b>Suspended</b> All AAT assessments suspended as of 22 March AAT continues to be fully operational in all other respects,	NA	<b>Continuing</b> Includes the portfolio reflective element of apprenticeship End Point Assessments for those in the UK, which will be conducted remotely.	NA
Ascentis	NA	NA	<b>Delaying/reschedule exams only?</b> For all externally set assessments (ESOL, Short Online Qualifications, English & Maths), these are flexible, on demand assessments therefore can be rescheduled to a later date by the centre. We are not in the position to estimate results as this is not possible for our qualifications.	NA	<b>Suspended</b> All external verification visits after this week have been suspended. Centres will be offered <b>remote verifications</b> where possible and EQAs will guide centres on how to arrange this.

AQA	As per Ofqual above	NA	NA	NA	NA
ASDAN	NA	NA	1.4.20 Only impacts on LLDD: <i>ASDAN Personal Progress &amp; Employability</i> . All moderation visits for this academic year are cancelled and moderation will be by post.	NA	<b>Continuing remotely</b> where final checks to candidate work have been made, but it has not been possible to make any minor adjustments
C&G ILM			Online only  6/4/20  <b>Evolve tests –</b> In the next couple of weeks, Evolve tests for Functional Skills and our end point assessments (EPA) can be taken at home. C&G will be issuing guidance on how this will work within the next week. <b>ESOL –</b> C&G are allowing assessment of speaking and listening to be conducted remotely for our ESOL provision.  Finally, for C&G Technical Awards, Technical Certificates and Tech Levels across both one-year and two-year programmes of study, C&G are working with Ofqual and other key stakeholders on a	6/4/20 Furloughed apprentices can still undertake 20% off the job training and other learning associated with their apprenticeship. In addition, learners studying via Adult Education Budgets or loans are still able to study if they do not provide services to or generate revenue for the employer's organisation. Read more about the Government announcement here.  C&G will write to us again this week but in the meantime guidance and frequently asked questions are regularly updated on the covid-19 pages of C&G website.  <b>Digital Apprenticeship EPA -</b> project-based assessments that needed to be undertaken in a controlled environment can now be undertaken at home.	<b>Continuing remotely</b> <b>Website has no detail and requests for sampling still being made.</b> - C&G are working develop an approach which for the wide range of vocational and technical qualifications (VTQs) used for progression and taken in schools, colleges and training providers, and are considering how similar arrangements to those set out for GCSEs, AS and A levels could be applied. Some form of teacher calculated grade, or other form of estimation based on assessment that has already taken place, will be possible in many cases. - For other qualifications, it might be more appropriate to adapt the assessment or delivery arrangements so that everyone can have confidence in the outcome. - For some qualifications that signify occupational competence or award a licence to practise in safety-critical

			proposal to estimate assessment grades combined with quality assurance validation. Further guidance will be issued when this approach is finalised.		industries, assessment might need to be delayed in order to ensure public safety and meet the needs of employers. C&G are working with the Department for Education, awarding organisations, other regulators and the wider sector to develop and publish a clear approach for the different categories of .
EAL		<b>Continuing</b> The majority of EAL EAL would advise that learners and centres should continue to prepare for external assessments in the usual way	Awaiting update	At this time, EAL has no plans to cancel End-Point Assessments.	<b>Continuing remotely</b>
ESB			23/3/20 ESB are currently reviewing their assessments scheduled for next term and will place updated messages for centres on our website ( <a href="https://esbuk.org/web/">https://esbuk.org/web/</a> ) and contact our wider ESB team directly. Central to our ethos is connection – do please continue to email customer@esbuk.org with questions; Let ESB know if you would like resources or support for your learners and continue to check back in to their website this week for our update.		
Gateway					<b>Continuing remotely</b>
IMI		Accreditation – with immediate effect IMI have implemented a 6 month extension window for certain groups. IMI advise anyone who has any questions to get in touch with their EQA			<b>Continuing remotely</b> EPAO – working within government guidelines and so if there are candidates at centres that are unaffected, IMI will commit to carry out the EPAO activity.

		or the Centre Admin team.			Decision to switch to digital certificates for qualifications and IMI products.
NCFE/Cache	<p>26/3 <b>Suspended</b> Following government guidelines, all NCFE and CACHE external assessments after 20 March 2020 will be cancelled or rescheduled until further notice.</p> <p>Do we still need to book learners onto external assessments that are currently cancelled or rescheduled? Yes. We still need to ensure learners are registered onto the qualifications and booked onto the external assessment opportunity, even if this date is currently cancelled or rescheduled.</p>	<p>Unclear 1/4/20 The College has asked NCFE to confirm the following re CACHE: To confirm my understanding of the situation for this year:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- I have told her that all external assessments, including on-line assessments, have been cancelled.</li> <li>- teachers need not ask students to complete the work they would have submitted for external scrutiny as the external assessments have been cancelled and not postponed.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Suspended Functional Skills</b> 1. The paper based external assessments will no longer take place for the foreseeable future. We are not however turning off our online assessment system 2. We are unable to approve Entry Level Reading &amp; Writing Functional Skills assessments being carried out remotely</p>	As above Ofqual advice	<p><b>Continuing remotely</b> EQAs will be completing remote visits wherever possible so there should be no impact on certification claims where learner evidence can be sampled.</p>
NOCN		<p>NOCN will be providing digital on-line support to you, this may include the ability to offer WebEx interviews, develop online invigilated exams in place of physical papers, and certain digital content support.</p>	<p><b>Continuing remotely</b> At this time NOCN has no plans to make any changes to the services and support provided for Functional Skills Qualifications, and we are monitoring the situation on a daily basis. NOCN advises centres and students to prepare for external assessments as is their usual practice</p>		<p><b>Remote EV?</b></p>
OCR	<p>With the other exam boards and Ofqual, and together with teachers' representatives, we're going to agree a consistent approach to how grades are calculated. OCR will ask teachers to tell them the grades students would have got if they had sat exams.</p>	<p>Vocational qualifications, including Cambridge Nationals and Cambridge Technicals We'll be working with other boards and with Ofqual, to agree an approach to ensure no</p>			<p><b>Continuing remotely?</b></p>

	<p>Teachers can take into account evidence such as mock exams and non-exam assessment. OCR will then use data, such as prior attainment, to decide on a final calculated grade.</p>	<p>students are disadvantaged. OCR will use the best available evidence, which could include assessments that students have completed, to confirm final calculated grades.</p>			
<p>OCN</p>		<p>Trying to arrange Access Online Completion of assignments Looking into ways to assess practical elements and controlled assessments</p>			<p><b>Remote completion of ERAC, final moderation and Award Board</b> 6/4/20 <i>NB Ken O'Connell will be speaking to OCN London later today, so may be able to provide an update to what OCN London have stated below tomorrow:</i></p> <p>QAA has confirmed that learners with a planned completion date of or before 31 July 2020 will be awarded a graded Diploma based on the assessment they have already completed, with calculated grades for all remaining assessments that have submission dates after 20 March 2020.</p> <p>The full communication from QAA is here: <a href="https://www.qaa.ac.uk/en/access-to-he/covid-19-support-and-information-Access/access-to-he-providers">https://www.qaa.ac.uk/en/access-to-he/covid-19-support-and-information-Access/access-to-he-providers</a> .</p> <p>A communication to share with your learners is here: <a href="https://www.accesstohe.ac.uk/en/news-events/support-and-information-covid-19/access-to-he-students">https://www.accesstohe.ac.uk/en/news-events/support-and-information-covid-19/access-to-he-students</a></p> <p>Many of you that you are continuing delivery online to support your learners in completing their studies. Please do continue with this – it will be essential for learners to receive as much tuition and learning as possible to prepare for the transition to HE next year.</p>

					We look forward to supporting you through this process. QAA will be issuing further information in the coming days and weeks to explain how it will work. Please be assured that we will work with you to ensure that you have the opportunity to deliver fair and appropriate outcomes for your learners.
Pearson		<p>*17.4.20 Ofqual released a <a href="#">statement on 9 April</a>, outlining how the following vocational and technical qualifications will be awarded this year:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• BTEC Nationals, Firsts, Tech Awards and Technicals</li> <li>• Higher Nationals</li> <li>• Functional Skills</li> <li>• Apprenticeships Licence to Practise and competency based qualifications</li> </ul> <p>What Pearson has said, <b>'BTEC Nationals, Firsts, Tech Awards and Technicals</b></p> <p>Ofqual recognises that BTEC qualifications offer learners similar progression opportunities as level 2 and 3 General Qualifications (GCSEs and A levels) and therefore, the approach that will be taken with these qualifications is similar to the one being used for General Qualifications. We are waiting for a confirmed list of qualifications</p>	<p>17.4.20 Pearson are now able to confirm that learners due to complete their Functional Skills assessment(s) between March and July 2020, will not be expected to undertake their assessment(s). Instead, we will issue a calculated grade based on a range of evidence and data, which will involve centre and teacher input. We will be in touch with you shortly to advise you on the process for this and for claiming certification for impacted learners. In the meantime, please refer to today's published advice from <a href="#">Ofqual</a> for more information.</p> <p>6.4.20 Online FS skills only Paper-based FS: Functional Skills paper-based and onscreen testing remains available to centres. Pearson are continuing to send out Functional Skills papers for tests previously booked by centres Action: - Cancel any paper-based already booked and no longer needed;</p>	<p>17.4.20 <b>Apprenticeships, Licence to Practise and competency based qualifications</b> We are working closely with Ofqual and the iFATE on how apprenticeships and other vocational and technical qualifications will be assessed and awarded, including arrangements for the adaptation of assessments where appropriate. We will update you when we have more information and guidance from Ofqual. In the meantime, please refer to our <a href="#">detailed operational guidance</a> on how to continue to deliver apprenticeships following the recent update from the iFATE.</p> <p>6.4.20 Pearson are looking to move all verification visits to remote. This means that we do not expect visits to take place and instead verification will be conducted through e-portfolio systems, electronic evidence submission, or postal sampling.</p> <p>Please be advised for learners due to complete their BTEC qualification this summer, please upload all completed units on EOL</p>	<b>Suspended</b>



		<p>included within this category but in the meantime we are able to advise that we anticipate calculating results for BTEC Nationals, Firsts, Tech Awards and Technicals.</p> <p>We expect the approach will involve input from teachers and tutors, at qualification and unit level, to contribute to a calculated result and we will follow up with teachers and tutors to capture this information when we have more information and guidance from Ofqual.'</p> <p>23/3 RQF: Enter all BTEC Candidate entries for external assessment by 3rd April. Completed BTEC units- Please be advised for learners due to complete their BTEC qualification this summer, please upload all completed units on EOL</p>	<p>- For April/May tests: Pearson urgently need to know whether you intend to continue with paper-based. Contact Exams asap to let them know whether you will be continuing with these tests. Exams will then inform Pearson</p> <p>2/4/20 BTEC SV activities are now paused but this does not cover Skills. Functional Skills and ESOL</p> <p>Previously, Pearson said that SV processes would continue for Skills qualifications which was the right decision and we asked SVs to contact centres as soon as possible to obtain samples. However since then, we have moved into a different situation with the whole country now in lockdown. We are now working internally to get clarification on the correct position for Skills as soon as possible.</p> <p>As things stand, we are not expecting any sampling to be taking place right now if centres are unable to provide any work. We are hoping to have some inter-board clarity on this later.</p> <p>The key thing is your Skills SV will continue to</p>		
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			<p>work with you but will not be pressuring centres right now if you are unable to provide any work.</p> <p>Clarification to be provided</p> <p>6/4/20 Right-click on the relevant 'hyperlink' in blue below for carrying out S&amp;L assessments remotely:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <a href="#">Level 1 and 2 Functional Skills</a></li> <li>- <a href="#">Entry Level Functional Skills</a></li> <li>- <a href="#">ESOL</a></li> </ul>		
Pearson HE		<p><i>17.4.20</i> <b>Higher Nationals: Refer to * above, which also applies to HE.</b> We recognise that some providers around the UK are continuing their Higher National delivery online and are continuing to teach and assess where they can. As such, in some situations it will be possible for certification to continue through remote sampling by our External Examiners. Where there are units or learning outcomes that are unsuitable for online delivery, advice and guidance will be provided regarding ways to adjust assessments or how to select suitable alternative units. If it is not possible for assessment to continue using the above approaches, we will ask tutors to</p>			<p><b>EE Continuing remotely if wished</b></p>

		<p>calculate grades using their professional judgment and supporting evidence. We will make guidance available to centres on the process to follow in terms of grade calculation.</p> <p>6/4/20 (Tip: Right-click on hyperlink in blue) <b>HN Online</b> - We are committed to helping our centres continue qualification delivery during current situation. You may have already seen our <a href="#">top tips for online delivery</a> video, which gives some great ideas around supporting distance learning.</p> <p>For BTEC Higher Nationals in Business, we have developed <a href="#">HN Online</a> - a solution which allows you to implement many of those suggestions without having to develop the content yourself.</p> <p>To further support centres, we are currently offering HN Online at a discounted rate of £30 per unit, per learner.</p> <p>We're providing support to centres that adopt HN Online to help with onboarding, as well as providing schemes of work and blended learning guides. We have also been offering <a href="#">free webinars</a> around blended learning, inviting experts to share best practice and ideas.</p>			
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		<p>Several colleges are already using HN Online to deliver BTEC Higher Nationals in Business. Find out what staff and students at Sunderland College have to say about the platform in <a href="#">this video</a>.</p> <p>Contact <a href="mailto:steve.smith@pearson.com">steve.smith@pearson.com</a> to find out more and schedule a demo. Alternatively, you can register for one of our <a href="#">upcoming webinars</a>.</p> <p>6/4/20 HN EE remote sampling suspended but can continue if wished + <b>apply for distance learning!</b></p>			
UAL		<p>17.4.20 Update on Summer 2020 results process</p> <p>UAL Awarding Body has been working urgently with the qualifications regulators to agree a way forward for students and centres affected by closures. Our primary aim is to safeguard the interests of students and centres. We want to recognise achievement, support learners to progress to their next steps in study or employment, and to ensure a fair and consistent approach. UAL Awarding Body recently announced that this year we could not</p>			???

		<p>fairly determine grades based on final major project units completed, or partially completed, during school and college closures. Since then we have been working urgently with the qualifications regulators to agree a way forward for students and centres affected by closures. The Secretary of State for Education has now issued an instruction, confirming that Ofqual and Awarding Organisations should work on grade estimation as an alternative approach for awarding vocational qualifications, especially those like ours which support progression. <a href="#">This direction has been welcomed by qualification regulators Ofqual.</a> We are now working with them on the details of this model. Our approach is designed to help us meet our primary aim – safeguarding the interests of students. We want to recognise achievement and support learners to progress to their next steps in study or</p>			
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		<p>employment. In order to do that, we must maintain a fair and nationally consistent standard across many thousands of students. We know that while there is relief that an alternative approach is forthcoming, for students and staff at our centres this is also a very disappointing and challenging situation. This year, however, the variety of circumstances in which students are working, their varying levels of access to facilities, and the authentication challenges posed by closures mean we have had to act decisively to ensure that Universities, employers and the wider public can be confident in our awards for 2020. The process is also being designed to be timely for those students who want to progress to further study, University or employment. Once again our heartfelt thanks to all the inspiring school and college staff we work with and are hearing from in this unprecedented crisis. We will contact all centres directly as soon as possible with specific</p>			
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		<p>guidance for each qualification once the exceptional process for this year has been agreed.</p> <p>6.4.20 Suspended No Final Major Project. UAL are developing a grade estimation model based on previously completed work</p>			
VTCT				<p><b>End-point Assessment services</b> All EPA bookings for March, April and May will now be <b>postponed until at least June 2020</b>. VTCT will be accepting bookings for the month of June, however, please be aware that that depending on circumstances and government guidelines these may be subject to change</p>	<p><b>Continuing remotely</b></p>
WJEC	<p>WJEC:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- is currently working closely with the regulators, the Department for Education, and other awarding organisations to consider how we collectively manage the particular risks which may impact the smooth running of exams and assessments should there be a widespread outbreak of coronavirus. <i>At this stage, learners, teachers and centres should continue to prepare for the summer exams and assessments as usual. Should the need arise, centres will be notified of any changes to arrangements for the summer.</i></li> <li>- is receiving a high numbers of enquiries regarding visiting moderators and examiners.</li> </ul>				

	<p>Their teams are working through these enquiries as a matter of urgency. To support our centres further, each subject team is preparing a list of FAQs which should answer any queries that you have relating to the submission of work which would usually be assessed by a visiting moderator or examiner. Please navigate to the individual subject at: <a href="https://www.wjec.co.uk/en/qualifications/">https://www.wjec.co.uk/en/qualifications/</a></p>				
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