

August 2020 Centre Assessed/Awarding Body Calculated Grades

On 3rd April 2020, Ofqual instructed schools and Colleges to begin the process of preparing centre-assessed grades (CAGs) for every student, for each subject in which they were entered for the cancelled summer 2020 examinations.¹

Each centre-assessed grade was a judgement submitted to the awarding body on the basis of available and permissible evidence. These grades were subject to internal moderation within the College due to (a) Ofqual's statement that *"if...judgements in a subject are more generous than would be expected, then the final grades for some or all of your students will be adjusted down"* and (b) repeated Government statements that "grade inflation" would be prevented by Ofqual's statistical moderation.

The Government and Ofqual jointly announced that students would receive their centre-assessed (teacher) grades, following the controversy surrounding the grades published by awarding bodies on Thursday 13/8/20.²

Alongside the centre-assessed grade, the College was asked to provide a rank order of students within each grade for each subject. This was to aid the statistical standardisation exercise carried out by Ofqual in the production of calculated grades, released to College last week. This statistical model (the much maligned "algorithm") has subsequently been abandoned in light of yesterday's announcement.

Evidence used to produce the CAG

As defined by Ofqual, the CAG *"should be a holistic professional judgement, balancing the different sources of evidence"*. The sources of evidence used by teachers at Heathfield, as defined by Ofqual (where applicable for specific subjects) included:

- *"records of each student's performance over the course of study in each subject, including for example progress review data, classwork, bookwork, and/or participation in performances in subjects such as music, drama and PE"*
- *performance on any non-exam assessment (NEA), even if this has not been fully completed.*
- *performance on any class or homework assessments and mock exams taken over the course of study"*

As detailed in Ofqual's guidance, schools were instructed that centre-assessed grades were **not**:

- *"Target grades (often set a little higher than likely to be achieved, to motivate students)*
- *Predicted grades provided to UCAS in support of university applications"*

Ensuring objectivity of centre-assessed grades- Heathfield moderation

Every centre-assessed grade was agreed by two or more members of staff, using the range of evidence described above. In addition, CAGs were subject to moderation conversations within each curriculum department. A-Level CAGs were compared with previous years' grades to ensure that they were broadly in-line with expectations.

BTEC Qualifications (where applicable)

The A-Level algorithm was not used in the calculation of BTEC grades, which were based on the prior attainment of BTEC units already completed by students. No centre-assessed grade was required to be submitted for BTEC qualifications.

1

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/887018/Summer_2020_Awarding_GCSEs_A_levels_-_Info_for_Heads_of_Centre_22MAY2020.pdf

² <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/gcse-and-a-level-students-to-receive-centre-assessment-grades>