



Pearson

# BTEC Summer 2021 Assessment Arrangements

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Stakeholder Engagement)**



# Context

- Cancellation of summer exams for BTEC and A Levels etc by DfE, due to the pandemic.
- In line with DfE policy, individual schools/colleges had to make the difficult decision whether to run Jan BTEC exams during the lockdown.
- Those students completing in summer 2021 are greater impacted by the pandemic than last year's cohort.
- Measures put in place to date included: reviewing work placement requirements (where appropriate), adapting assessments in line with public health guidance.
- DfE and Ofqual ran a **joint consultation** into alternative assessment arrangements for VTQs (e.g. BTEC), where exams/assessments could not take place.
- Ofqual ran a **second consultation** on the regulatory conditions associated with the alternative assessment arrangements.

# Outcomes of DfE & Ofqual consultation

- Teaching and learning to continue for as long as possible, to aid progression.
- Non-examined assessment (e.g. internal assessment) to continue, where possible, recognising that it may not be possible to complete all unit assessments.
- The preference that students studying Applied General qualifications are issued a **Qualification-level** Teacher Assessed Grade (Q-TAG), like for A Levels.
- The Q-TAG is to be based on assessment on 'common' sources of evidence, and the **standard at which students are currently performing at**.
- 'Common' sources of evidence include banked units, mock assessments, informal assessments etc.
- The approach is different to last summer, where Centre Assessment Grades were based on **predictions** of student performance in the event assessments had taken place.

# Principles underpinning the BTEC approach

- Ensuring equity between those that did and didn't sit Jan BTEC exams.
- Minimising the burden on students and teachers, so the focus is on teaching and learning.
- Ensuring no student is disadvantaged.

## Ensuring comparability with A Levels

As detailed in the DfE/Ofqual consultation, for A Levels:

- students can only be assessed on content they have been taught
- the Q-TAG should be based on the standard that students are performing at
- there is no minimum requirement for content to be assessed.

# Focusing on the Q-TAG

- This summer, in line with Ofqual's preference that Q-TAGs are issued, for Applied General type qualifications, **we will not be issuing unit level grades.**

Rationale:

- Parity with A Levels (in terms of the assessment burden on students).
- It will not be possible for some students to complete all the unit assessments (due to disruption), particularly the cancelled exams and practical units.
- Requiring unit grades (and their assessment of) would have a disproportionate impact on those from a widening participation background (faced with digital poverty and less access to support during studies).
- This is to help mitigate against the differential learning loss, as a result of the pandemic.

We are keen to work with universities to ensure students are not disadvantaged and to support their progression to HE.

# Ensuring confidence in the Q-TAGs

We are implementing a range of activities this year to help ensure you can have confidence in the Q-TAGs issued, including:

- recommending schools/colleges prioritise delivery of key units needed for progression
- requiring schools/colleges to sign a declaration that students are ready for progression, having covered the key units
- asking schools/colleges to review their judgements in light of historical performance/data.

Quality assurance processes we will be conducting:

- a support check-in for all schools/colleges.
- a review of sample student work at all schools/colleges.
- an additional review of qualification teacher assessed grades submitted, and discussing any discrepancies with affected schools/colleges.

# Ensuring results are issued on time

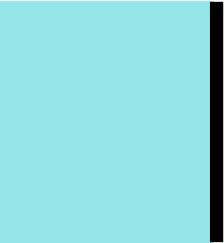
Student results day:

- 10 August 2021 – BTEC Level 3 Nationals
- 12 August 2021 – BTEC Level 2 and below

In line with General Qualifications this year.

Ensuring results are issued on time:

- simplified data that needs to be submitted to us (e.g. no rank order).
- increased support/tracking of schools/colleges, supported by our external verification process.
- releasing results a few days earlier to schools/colleges **under embargo**, to allow more time for checking.



# Appeals process

- Like for A Levels, there will be an appeals process, which will open on student results day.
- Students will be able to request an appeal to us via their school/college, who will supply the evidence for their original decision.
- Schools/colleges can also report any errors they may have made via the appeals process.
- Student permission must be obtained for appeals, as grades can either go up/down as a result of the review.
- We will prioritise appeals for UCAS applicants, and endeavour to process as many as possible before the UCAS advisory deadline.



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