

GCSE/Non-GCSE CAG Grades 2021 FAQs

Why am I hearing the term TAG in the media?

Some exam boards are unhelpfully calling the grades TAGs (Teacher Assessed Grades) despite Ofqual being very clear that grades should be Centre Assessed Grades (CAGs) by ensuring internal and external moderation.

What if I am worried that my child wasn't liked by a certain teacher?

All grades are decided by several members of staff when reviewing all evidence available and not just by your child's teacher. The Headteacher is required by Ofqual and the exam boards to verify that these robust internal moderation procedures have taken place.

Some aspects of assessment, new and existing will be marked anonymously using candidate numbers instead of names and/or the swapping of assessments to mark amongst teachers within a subject. These are recommended ways to ensure the removal of any unconscious bias.

What if my child hasn't completed a particular piece of evidence we have chosen to use?

Each student will be looked at on an individual basis. Any circumstances relating to an individual not completing a piece of work or not completing it very well will be used as a basis for grade decisions. For some students it may be relevant to go back to their Year 10 or Year 9 work for this purpose. Ofqual guidance is clear that no student should be disadvantaged by Covid 19. We will also look at ways to provide students with additional assessment opportunities to provide us with any missing evidence.

What evidence will you be using for my child?

We will be publishing a list of existing evidence that will be used in each subject and then we will republish this list with new evidence to be collected once the exam board material has been released at the end of March with. Ofqual require that all parents and students are aware of this in advance of the decisions about their final grades.

For any new assessments we will be retaining the physical evidence in case of external moderation of a subject in accordance with Ofqual guidelines.

What if my child struggled to engage with work during either of the two lockdown periods?

We are being asked to only assess students on what they have been taught so if there is content covered only during lockdown, then this can be used to uplift their grades if they engaged well with this, but not lower their grades if they didn't.