



Arrangements for summer 2020 exam series

Executive summary



June 2020

Arrangements for summer 2020 - executive summary

This is a summary of the [decisions](#) we have taken following our consultation. These decisions relate to:

- introducing aims which will underpin the statistical standardisation model for the issuing of grades for the summer 2020 exam series; and
- introducing a specific appeals process for the summer 2020 exam series.

Taking account of the 4,057 consultation responses, we have decided to implement most of the proposals we set out in the consultation document. However, there are a few areas where we have decided to amend our original proposals. These are summarised below:

Proposal 1 – Introduce aims which will underpin the statistical standardisation model for the issuing of grades for the summer 2020 exam series	
Original Proposal	Decision
Aim 1: Learners for whom a qualification-level centre assessment grade and rank order are submitted will receive a grade.	We have decided to adopt aim 1 as proposed in the consultation. We have decided that an exceptional method should be applied to those private candidates who are not able to be provided with centre assessment data (that is a centre assessment grade and place within a centre’s rank order of learners), and meet the criteria as set out in our policy statement on private candidates, with a view to as many of those candidates receiving a grade as possible. We will publish a policy statement relating to private candidates alongside this decisions report.
Aim 2: National outcomes for summer 2020 will be broadly similar to those in previous years to reduce the risk of unfairness for learners over time.	We have decided to amend aim 2 to include reference to the need to maintain public confidence in qualifications and the qualification system

	<p>Therefore, this aim now reads: <i>National outcomes will be broadly similar to those in previous years to reduce the risk of unfairness for learners over time and maintain public confidence.</i></p>
<p>Aim 3: The final grades issued to learners will be the result of a fair and robust process using the information provided to WJEC by centres, and the statistical standardisation model developed by WJEC and agreed with Qualifications Wales. The processes applied will be transparent and deliverable this summer.</p>	<p>We have decided to merge aims 3 and 5 into one comprehensive aim which describes how the model will use a range of evidence to calculate the likely grades that learners would have achieved this summer. This will now become our fourth and final aim.</p>
<p>Aim 4: As far as possible, the process for awarding grades in summer 2020 will not disadvantage groups of learners, including those with protected characteristics, relative to previous years.</p>	<p>We have decided to amend the wording of this Aim to provide greater clarity that the process for awarding grades should not systematically disadvantage or advantage any learners, including those with characteristics that are protected by equalities legislation.</p> <p>This Aim now reads: <i>As far as possible, the process for awarding grades will not systematically advantage or disadvantage learners, including those with characteristics protected by equalities legislation.</i></p>
<p>Aim 5: Agreed processes for each qualification type will enable the maximum number of learners to receive grades based on a common approach. The processes will use results from qualifications and units already completed and awarded to learners, where available.</p>	<p>We have decided to merge aims 3 and 5 into one comprehensive aim which describes how the model will use a range of evidence to calculate the likely grades that learners would have achieved this summer. This will now become our fourth and final aim.</p>

Proposal 2 – Introduce a specific appeals process for the summer 2020 exam series

Original Proposal	Decision
<p>Learners who are dissatisfied with their results this summer will not be able to appeal against the professional judgement made by their centre, or the procedure used by their centre to arrive at this judgement.</p>	<p>We have decided to adopt our proposal that we should not provide an opportunity for learners to challenge their centre assessment grade or their position in the centre’s rank order through an appeal to WJEC.</p> <p>However, a learner will be able to ask their centre to check whether they made an error when submitting centre assessment data for them.</p>
<p>Centres will be able to appeal to WJEC on the grounds that they used the wrong data when calculating a grade, the calculated grades generated by the statistical standardisation model were incorrectly allocated or communicated and/or there was some other procedural failing on the part of WJEC.</p>	<p>We have decided that we should adopt our proposal that a centre should be able to appeal to WJEC on the grounds that they used the wrong data when calculating grades, and/or incorrectly allocated or communicated the grades calculated.</p> <p>We will require WJEC to publish information on their appeal arrangements.</p> <p>We will require WJEC to provide to a centre, upon request, the information used to calculate a result issued to a learner. This information must be sufficient and allow a reasonable time for centres to consider whether to request an appeal.</p>
<p>For results issued this summer, we should require WJEC to only consider appeals submitted by centres, and not those submitted by individual learners.</p>	<p>We have decided to adopt our proposal that WJEC should only consider appeals submitted by centres, and not those submitted by individual learners directly.</p>

	<p>We have decided that the regulatory requirements for summer 2020 will require WJEC to make sure that centres provide an opportunity for learners to appeal within the centre:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) against a centre’s decision not to seek from WJEC any information it holds that would be needed for an appeal; and/or (ii) not to appeal to WJEC.
<p>If an appeals process identifies an error that would result in a lower grade for learners other than those cited in the appeal, then WJEC should not lower these grades.</p>	<p>We have decided to adopt our proposal that where an appeal is brought on behalf of one or more (but not all) learners in a centre’s cohort, the regulatory requirements for 2020 should prevent the grades of learners other than those named in an appeal from going down where errors are discovered through the appeals process.</p>
<p>WJEC should be permitted to run a simplified appeals process whereby the decision-maker considers a report by the member of staff conducting the administrative review and any representations made by the centre in light of that report.</p>	<p>We have decided to adopt our proposal that WJEC should be permitted to undertake an expedited process where it agrees that an error has been made and can quickly correct any such error.</p>
<p>WJEC should be required to take all reasonable steps to ensure that all appeal decisions are taken by people who were not involved in the process leading to the issue of those results.</p>	<p>We have decided to amend our proposal, and require WJEC to take all reasonable steps to ensure that the final decision in respect of the outcome of an appeal is taken by persons who were not previously involved in the process leading to the issuing of results in respect of a learner to which the appeal relates.</p>

The only functions of the Exam Procedures Review Service (EPRS) this summer will be to review: 1. the extent to which WJEC was compliant with our requirements and with their own policies and procedures, or 2. if any error was identified in the data used to generate the calculated grade(s) and/or in the grade(s) issued, whether that error was properly corrected.

We have decided to adopt our proposal that the EPRS, operated by Qualifications Wales, should be available to review the extent to which WJEC was compliant with our requirements and with their own policies and procedures, and whether any error identified in the data used to generate the calculated grade(s) and/or in the grade(s) issued, was properly corrected.