



27 May 2021

Dear Head of Centre

Agreement of cross jurisdiction quality assurance arrangements between regulators

I am writing to confirm the external quality assurance arrangements for summer 2021 that have been agreed between regulators for Ofqual-accredited 9-1 GCSEs and AS and A level qualifications. These are taken by some schools and colleges in Wales where there is not a Wales WJEC QW-approved qualification available, and by some independent centres. The arrangements will differ depending on whether the school or college only offers Ofqual-accredited qualifications or - a mix of Ofqual-accredited and Wales WJEC QW-approved qualifications.

Schools and colleges in Wales who only offer Ofqual-accredited qualifications

Schools and colleges in Wales who only offer Ofqual-accredited qualifications will be required to implement all stages of the JCQ-operated quality assurance process. Details of that process can be found: <https://www.jcq.org.uk/summer-2021-arrangements/>

Schools and colleges in Wales that offer both Wales WJEC QW-approved qualifications and Ofqual-accredited qualifications

For schools and colleges in Wales that offer both Wales WJEC QW-approved qualifications and Ofqual-accredited qualifications, the Wales WJEC quality assurance arrangements will be accepted for Ofqual accredited qualifications. This reduces the burden on centres in Wales who would otherwise have to follow two different quality assurance processes with different evidence requirements. Schools and colleges will only be required to complete Sections 28/29 of the JCQ England Centre Policy Summary form and will not be required to participate in subsequent stages of the JCQ England quality assurance process.

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Key timeline and appeals process differences between arrangements in Wales and England

There are some key differences in the timeline and appeals processes put in place in Wales and England. Schools and colleges in Wales need to follow the relevant jurisdictions' requirements in relation to these, namely:

1. **The submission date for grades in England (known as Teacher Assessed Grades – TAGs) is 18 June;** this is earlier than the submission date for grades in Wales (known as Centre Determined Grades – CDGs), which is by 2 July.
2. **TAGs must not be shared with learners before results days in August.** This is different to Wales-only qualifications where provisional CDGs are to be shared with learners by 30 June to enable the Centre Review stage in the appeals process to take place.
3. **The appeals process in England does not commence until results day when grades are released to learners.** Schools and colleges should acquaint themselves with the different appeals processes and be prepared to support appeals as necessary.

Quality assurance arrangements for other qualifications awarded using TAGs/CDGs

WJEC will also apply the Wales quality assurance arrangements to its other vocational qualifications taken by centres in Wales. Arrangements for other awarding bodies offering vocational qualifications that will be using TAGs, such as Pearson BTEC, OCR nationals, Agored Cymru and City & Guilds, will vary. Check with the individual awarding body to confirm the quality assurance arrangements you will need to follow.

Yours sincerely,



Philip Blaker

Chief Executive