

FAQs Centre Assessment Grades

How will my A Level grade be calculated?

The College has written a policy which has been submitted to the exam boards on how this will happen, and the exam board have checked that the policy meets published requirements. Teachers will initially determine your grades, which will then be reviewed and assured by designated College leads, in accordance with the following principles:

1. The professional judgement of teachers will only be based on what you have been taught and your teachers will use a range of evidence from across the course of study to make their decision.
2. In most cases, the range of evidence that your teachers use to inform your grade will be consistent across your class or cohort for each qualification. However, we may decide that a different range of evidence may be more appropriate to fairly inform your grade, if, for example, you have missed significantly more teaching than others in your class due to mitigating circumstances.
3. Your teachers do not need to assess you on every aspect of each subject. They just need a range of evidence that shows your performance on the aspects of the course that you have been taught.
4. The grade your teacher determines will then go through a standardisation process to ensure that there is robust evidence to show that the grade awarded is fair and in line with the College policy on awarding teacher assessed grades. Initially that will be done by the college, and later the exam board may check that the grades were fairly awarded by checking the evidence held by the exam board.

How will my BTEC results be calculated?

The Department for Education has confirmed that BTECs cannot be awarded in the normal way, as not all unit assessment may have been completed, due to cancellation of exams and the impact of the pandemic on the continuation of internal unit assessment.

1. Therefore, to determine final grades teachers will make a holistic judgement based on the evidence they have of your performance in your BTEC programme. The evidence used to inform this judgement can be drawn from different sources of different types and can come from across the course of study, as set out below.
2. If you were due to sit an exam for your BTEC in summer 2021 that has been replaced by a teacher assessed grade for the qualification based on your internal assessment (assignment) grades and the evidence your teacher has of your ability in your exam unit(s). In some cases students may not have been able to complete all aspects of each unit.
3. There is no set hierarchy of evidence and teachers will weight the evidence they believe to be the most representative of your achievements. The professional judgement of teachers will only be based on what you have been taught and your teachers will use a range of evidence from across the course of study to make their decision. A range of evidence may be used to ascertain your BTEC grade including:

- ‘Banked’ marks and/or grades for completed assessments in Units/ Components to date. This includes external assessments (already marked or moderated by Pearson) and internal assessments (quality assured by Pearson)
- Common sources of alternative evidence including:
 - Partially completed internal assessments
 - Classwork or homework assignments or assessments
 - Mock examinations (based on past papers, or centre-devised tests)
 - Informal assessments evidence from specialist Teachers and other educational professionals such as learning support staff who may have worked with you where appropriate.
 - Project work
 - Recordings (e.g. of practical performance)
 - Evidence from work experience (where relevant to the qualification)
 - Tracker of achievement and attainment over the course (this cannot be used in isolation, as by itself it would not be sufficient evidence)
- 4. Witness testimonies or teacher observation records when used in conjunction with other forms of evidence
- 5. In most cases, the range of evidence that your teachers use to inform your grade will be consistent across your class or cohort for each qualification. However, we may decide that a different range of evidence may be more appropriate to fairly inform your grade, if, for example, you have missed significantly more teaching than others in your class due to mitigating circumstances.
- 6. Your teachers do not need to assess you on every aspect of each subject. They just need a range of evidence that shows your performance on the aspects of the course that you have been taught.
- 7. The grade your teacher determines will then go through a standardisation process to ensure that there is robust evidence to show that the grade awarded is fair and in line with the College policy on awarding teacher assessed grades. Initially that will be done by the College, and later the exam board may check that the grades were fairly awarded by checking the evidence held by the exam board.

What will happen if I have been granted Access Arrangements for exams?

If you have been assessed and granted Access Arrangements in line with the Joint Council for Qualifications’ (JCQ) regulations, e.g. extra time, reader, scribe, coloured paper etc. where applicable, these will be put into place for your assessments. If, for any reason, assessment is undertaken without Access Arrangements being in place, teachers will consider this when marking the assessments and reflect this in your grade.

I didn’t finish my non-exam assessment (NEA), i.e. coursework, does this matter?

The guidance states that the NEA should be taken into account when deciding your grade wherever possible. This is because this is a very good indicator of the standard you have achieved in the subject, you have worked hard to produce your coursework and this should be acknowledged. If you have been unable to complete your NEA due to extenuating circumstances, your teacher can consider the standard of the work you have completed and use this as evidence towards your grade.

Will the College tell me my teacher assessed grade?

Whilst we are able to tell you which work is being used as evidence the guidance specifically says that you should not be told your teacher assessed grade. Please don't ask your teachers to tell you as they are not allowed to discuss this with you.

Do I have to complete any more work for College and will this improve my grade?

Yes! Classes will continue as normal up to the summer half term (28th May 2021). There will be 2 more assessment points during this time which will go towards the evidence collected for your teacher assessed grades. It is important you complete this to the best of your ability and inform us if your personal circumstances mean that it has not been possible so this can be taken into account when determining your grade.

Do I need to keep coming to classes?

Absolutely! You need to engage fully with your teachers when term starts (12th April) up until the start of half term (28th May). You will continue to develop your study skills and exam techniques which will help prepare you for the final assessments which will determine your grades, whilst continuing to provide you with skills and aptitude needed to progress to higher level study or employment.

When will I know my final grade?

The government have said that A Level and Level 3 BTEC results will be released on August 10th (slightly earlier than the previously stated date).

If I'm not happy with this grade what can I do?

Although everyone will be working hard to make sure you are issued with the correct grades on results day, there will also be an **appeals** system as a safety net to correct any genuine errors or anomalies that were not identified earlier on. If you believe the College has made an error in determining your grade, you will have a right to appeal. There are two stages to the appeals process:

Stage 1: centre review If you don't think you have been issued with the correct grade, you can appeal to the College so that we can review whether we:

- made an administrative error, e.g. they submitted an incorrect grade; or they used an incorrect assessment mark when determining your grade.
- did not apply a procedure correctly, e.g. we did not follow Centre Policy, did not undertake internal quality assurance, did not take account of access arrangements or mitigating circumstances, such as illness.

To help you decide whether to appeal, you can request that the College shares with you the following information on results day (if not before):

- the Centre Policy;
- the sources of evidence used to determine your grade along with any grades/marks associated with them;
- details of any special circumstances that have been taken into account in determining your grade, e.g. access arrangements, mitigating circumstances such as illness.

Stage 2: appeal to the exam board If you still don't think you have the correct grade after the College's centre review is complete, you can ask the College to appeal to the exam board, who will review whether:

- the College made an unreasonable exercise of academic judgement in the choice of evidence from which they determined your grade and/or in the determination of your grade from that evidence
- the College did not apply a procedure correctly, e.g. it did not follow its Centre Policy, did not undertake internal quality assurance, did not take account of access arrangements or mitigating circumstances, such as illness.
- the exam board made an administrative error, e.g. they changed your grade during the processing of grades.

At both stages of the process you will need to submit your appeal to the College and give your written consent for the College to conduct the appeal or submit it to the exam board on your behalf. **It's important to remember that your grade can go down, up or stay the same through either stage of this process.**

Appeals will not be accepted prior to publication of results and should be made in writing to enquiries@kgv.ac.uk.

I was due to take a GCSE resit, do the same rules apply?

Yes, exactly the same rules apply for GCSE grades as set out above for A level teacher assessed grades.

Please note: These FAQs are correct at the time of writing (15/4/21) and will be updated when we receive further guidance from the exam boards.