

## Gordano School - Results and Appeals 2021

### Frequently Asked Questions

#### How were my / my child's grades arrived at this year?

Grades this summer were based on Teacher Assessed Grades (TAGs). TAGs were submitted to the exam boards by us as a holistic assessment of students' performance in a subject, following a rigorous process of in-school assessment, moderation and quality assurance.

These grades were then approved by the relevant exam board, following external quality assurance checks.

In some cases, the TAGs we have submitted may have been reviewed by the exam board, who may have asked us to submit an alternative grade. However, any changes to the grades we submitted were done by professional teachers or reviewers based on the quality of evidence of the work completed. This year no grades have been changed as a result of an algorithm or 'statistical' method.

#### What do I do if I'm not happy with my / my child's grade?

All students have the opportunity to appeal their grade if they meet the eligibility criteria (see below). It is important to note that an appeal may result in a grade being lowered, staying the same, or going up. So if a student puts in an appeal and their grade is lowered, they will receive the lower grade.

There is also the option to resit GCSEs, and A levels in the autumn, which may be preferable to some students.

The design, content and assessment of these papers will be the same as in a normal year.

#### What are the grounds for appeal?

There are four main grounds for appeal, as dictated by the Joint Council for Qualifications (JCQ). They are:

- You think we have made an **administrative error**: an example of this would be putting the wrong information into a spreadsheet.
- You think we have made a **procedural error**: this means we haven't properly followed our own process, as approved by the exam board. An example of this would be where you've been told you should have received extra time for assessments but this wasn't given in a certain subject.
- You think the **academic judgement on the selection of evidence was unreasonable**: you think the evidence used to grade you was not reasonable.
- You think the **academic judgement on the grade you were given was unreasonable**.

### **What does 'unreasonable' mean?**

'Unreasonable' is a technical term in this context and means that no educational professional acting reasonably could have selected the same evidence or come up with the same grade.

This means that just because other forms of evidence may have been equally valid to use, the selection of evidence is not unreasonable. Because of the flexibility of the approach this year, every school and college will have used different forms of evidence.

It also means that the independent reviewers will **not** re-mark or grade students' evidence. Instead, they will look to see whether any teacher acting reasonably could have arrived at the same grade.

### **What will be the outcome of an appeal?**

At either stage of the appeals process (see 'What are the two stages of an appeal?' below), a student's grade may go up, stay the same, or go down. When placing an appeal the student will have to sign a declaration saying that they accept the fact their grade may go down and they may get a lower grade than their original TAG.

### **What's a priority appeal?**

Priority appeals will be handled more quickly than other appeals, where possible before UCAS's advisory deadline of 8<sup>th</sup> September.

Priority appeals are only open to **A level students starting university this autumn, who have missed out on the conditions of their firm or insurance offer.**

If you decided not to confirm a firm conditional offer and to go through clearing instead, JCQ cannot offer you a priority appeal.

JCQ cannot offer priority appeals for GCSE students, unfortunately.

When making a priority appeal, students will have to include their UCAS number so it can be confirmed that it is a genuine priority appeal.

### **What should I do if I don't get into my first choice of university?**

First, don't panic. Speak to Mrs Fairs or Mrs Ramsay about your options. You may wish to go through clearing, or sit the autumn exams or summer exams next year to try to improve your grade.

If you are going to appeal your grade, you must let your university know you are appealing. They will then let you know whether they will hold a place for you pending the outcome of an appeal (note that universities are not obliged to hold a place for you; this is at their discretion).

### **What should I do before appealing?**

Students must read the JCQ Student and Parent guide before appealing, which will be available on our website and the JCQ website by results days.

## **What are the two stages of an appeal?**

All appeals, on any of the grounds above, must first go through a **centre review**. At this stage, we will check for any administrative errors, and check that our policies and procedures were followed correctly. Our policy has already been approved by the exam boards, so we are only ensuring that we followed this properly.

The outcome of the centre review will be communicated to students when made.

At the centre review stage, if we find that a grade should go up or down, we will ask the exam board to change it. They will then consider this request.

Following the outcome of a centre review, students may still choose to pursue an **awarding organisation appeal**. They must fill in the form below, which we will then send on their behalf to the exam boards.

Students and parents can not send appeals directly to the exam board themselves - it must come from us.

The outcome of the awarding organisation appeal will be communicated to students when made.

## **How do I make an appeal?**

Following results days, students should fill in Part A of the JCQ form here:

[https://www.jcq.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/JCQ\\_Appeals-Guidance\\_Summer-2021\\_Appendix-B.pdf](https://www.jcq.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/JCQ_Appeals-Guidance_Summer-2021_Appendix-B.pdf)

... and send it to [exams@gordanoschool.org.uk](mailto:exams@gordanoschool.org.uk)

## **What are the deadlines for priority appeals?**

The deadline for requesting a priority appeal is 12pm on Monday 16<sup>th</sup> August 2021 (students cannot appeal before results day on 10<sup>th</sup> August).

We will attempt to complete the centre review by Friday 20<sup>th</sup> August 2021. If students wish to progress this to an awarding organisation appeal, they must send the completed form to us by 12pm on Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> August 2021 for priority appeals.

At both stages of the appeals process, there may be the need for specialist, expert knowledge (e.g. subject teachers, SEND knowledge). This may not be possible in August. In such cases, we may have to wait until the start of term, but priority appeals will still be treated as a priority.

## **What are the deadlines for non-priority appeals?**

Non-priority appeals are any A levels, GCSEs or vocational qualifications, where a firm or insurance university place is not pending.

The deadline for submitting a centre review is 12pm on Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> September 2021, and the deadline for submitting an awarding organisation appeal is 12pm on Friday 17<sup>th</sup> September 2021.

### **What do I need to do if I am considering sitting exams in the Autumn series**

There will be a chance to sit an Exam series in Autumn 2021 if you wish. You are able to apply to sit an exam for any subject that you received a Teacher Assessed Grade for. A Levels will take place between 4<sup>th</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> October 2021. GCSEs will take place between 1<sup>st</sup> November and 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2021.

Please email [exams@gordanoschool.org.uk](mailto:exams@gordanoschool.org.uk) to express an interest in sitting exams in the Autumn series. The deadline for A Level entries is Monday 6<sup>th</sup> September 2021 and the deadline for GCSE entries is Friday 1<sup>st</sup> October 2021.