

Summer 2020 exam result changes: what you need to know

Teacher predicted grades will now be used for GCSEs, AS-levels and A-levels in England, following a government U-turn.

What's changing?

- › Originally, your teachers put together a set of predicted grades that were given to the exam regulator, Ofqual
 - › Ofqual put these through an algorithm to create moderated grades. Often the grades created by the algorithm were lower than the ones predicted by your teachers. These are the results AS-levels and A-levels students were given on Thursday 13th August
 - › Now, you will get the original grades predicted by your teachers – unless the moderated grades are higher
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When will we get our results?

- › Exam boards will get the new grades to you as soon as possible, but we don't have a firm date yet. We'll update you as soon as we know
 - › **For AS and A-level students**, you can speak to us or the exam board to find out your new grades if you don't know them already. You will also receive an updated statement of results in the post.
 - › **For GCSE pupils**, we will tell you your teacher predicted grades on Thursday 20th August. You will receive these via your school email address and a copy will be put in the post. This is likely to be your official result, but we won't know for sure until the following week
 - › **For GCSE pupils**, you will get your **official** result the following week (as there may be rare cases where the Ofqual grade is higher than your teacher predicted grade)
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What happens if my Ofqual grade was higher?

- › You will keep whichever grade is higher
 - › **Your results can't go down as a result of this change, they can only go up**
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What about university places?

- › If your first choice university rejected you based on the results you received on Thursday 13th August, and your new results mean that you'd now meet the offer, you should go back to the university and discuss this with them. Contact your Head of Year if you want a member of staff to call the university with you or on your behalf

- › The government has told universities to be flexible, and has removed the cap for the number of students universities can accept. However, we can't guarantee that every one of you will get your first choice – some of you may still be disappointed
 - › If you've accepted an offer but now want to change it based on your new results, you should be able to "release yourself" from the offer you've accepted
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Can we still appeal?

- › You should still be able to appeal as you would for any normal results, for example if an error has been made during the process please speak to the relevant Head of Department or the Exams Officer.
 - › The school will make appeals on your behalf – individual pupils or parents can't make appeals themselves
 - › You won't be able to appeal based on your mock grade (this was part of the "triple lock" system which was announced before this change – this is no longer in place)
 - › There should be more information to come on appeals. We don't yet know if you'll be able to appeal your teacher predicted grades. We'll update you as soon as we know more
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What about autumn exams?

- › As far as we know, you'll still have the opportunity to sit exams in autumn 2020 if we enter you for them please speak to the relevant head of department or the Exams Officer.
 - › We'll update you as soon as we know more
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Why has this happened now and not last week?

- › Gavin Williamson (the Education Secretary) said that the scale of these issues only became "absolutely apparent" over the weekend, which led to this change of plan
 - › Both he and Ofqual have apologised for the distress and uncertainty the situation has created
 - › We know this has been extremely difficult for our pupils and their families, and we're doing everything we can to support you during this stressful time
 - › If you have a question that this factsheet hasn't answered, please contact the exams officer and we'll do all we can to help
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What about vocational and technical qualifications?

- › Most grades for BTECs and other vocational and technical qualifications (VTQs) **won't** be affected by the government's announcement
- › This is because most of these grades weren't calculated using the kind of algorithm used for GCSEs and A-levels
- › For those that were, Ofqual has asked awarding organisations to review their approach, which it says may lead to a "small proportion" of results being reissued – we'll update you as soon as we know more about this

Sources

This factsheet was produced by The Key for School Leaders, based on statements given by Gavin Williamson and Ofqual, and reports in the media. All information is correct as of 10am Tuesday 18 August.

- > [GCSE and A level students to receive centre assessment grades](#), GOV.UK – DfE
- > [Statement from Roger Taylor, Chair, Ofqual](#), GOV.UK – Ofqual
- > [What do the U-turns on exam results mean for the UK's students?](#), The Guardian
- > [Results fiasco U-turn: your questions answered](#), Schools Week
- > [Grading of vocational and technical qualifications](#), GOV.UK – Ofqual