

[Exam appeals: The Rt Hon Nick Gibb MP writes to all headteachers and college principals](#)

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[Appeals based on mock exams](#)

News story

Ofqual sets out the criteria for what will determine a 'valid' mock for appeals of GCSE, AS and A levels in England, summer 2020.



The arrangements in place this summer are the fairest possible in the absence of exams, however any process for calculating grades will inevitably produce some results which need to be queried. We and the exam boards share the government's desire to do all we can to give schools and colleges every opportunity to appeal

On Tuesday (11 August) the Secretary of State asked us to consider how a valid mock exam result could be considered as part of an appeal. As many

across education have confirmed, the approach taken towards mock assessments varies considerably between schools and colleges. Therefore any appeal based on mock assessment evidence must include further safeguards to ensure the process is fair.

We are setting out today, Saturday 15 August, the criteria determining what is a valid mock assessment. Exam boards have confirmed they will be ready to process these appeals from Monday – they will provide further information to their centres and contact details are below. Students seeking advice should first speak to their school or college.

This route of appeal is open to any student whose mock grade is higher than their calculated grade. We want to make sure this opportunity is available to a wide range of students, including those who had not taken a written mock exam before schools and colleges closed. We will therefore allow a non-exam assessment mark to be used too. Successful appeals on this ground will allow the student to receive the mock grade. Mock exams and non-exam assessments do not normally cover the full range of content. Centre assessment grades took into account the student's performance across the whole course. In circumstances where the centre assessment grade was lower than the mock grade, the student will receive the centre assessment grade.

Because of the grade protection in place for students this summer no grades will go down as a result of an appeal.

This applies to GCSE, AS, A level, Extended Project Qualification and Advanced Extension Award in maths.

Criteria

Criteria	Requirement
1. Assessment conditions	<p>Supervised, unseen and undertaken in conditions that were intended to secure that work was the student's own. These include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">– appropriate invigilation– no access to materials or resources that would not be permitted in exams– no possibility of corrections or revisions <p>Non examination assessment, where applicable, must have been undertaken in the conditions required by the exam board.</p> <p>For private candidates only, mocks undertaken with a private tutor may be used where they were validated by the relevant centre as part of the student's centre assessment grade submission.</p>
2. Form of assessment	<p>Either past assessment(s) produced by the relevant exam board OR assessments developed by teachers to align to exam past assessments e.g. in the curriculum sampled and style of questions.</p> <p>Marked non examination assessment can be used instead or in addition to mock examination results.</p>

Criteria	Requirement
3. Specification coverage	Substantial coverage of the content normally assessed, for example assessment equivalent to one paper or one non examination assessment task.
4. Duration of assessment	Taken under timed conditions that align to those in the normal assessment (with suitable adjustments for those students eligible for extra time).
5. Assessment window	Completed within the programme of study, by 20 March 2020 (when schools and colleges were mainly closed). For private candidates only, mocks undertaken later than this date to provide evidence for the centre assessment grade may be used.
6. Marking	Marked using a mark scheme provided by the relevant exam board, or aligned with the exam board's mark schemes. Marked no later than the date of centre assessment grade submission.
7. Final grade	Was graded in line with the exam board's examination standard – for example, where a single past paper has been used applying exam board grade boundaries.
8. Evidence	The following evidence is available for the whole subject cohort if required for inspection: – evidence of the mark given and that marking was carried out by the deadline – the paper and the mark scheme Student scripts do not need to have been retained.

Centres will need to complete and send to the exam board a simple form to confirm each of the criteria has been met, provide the mock exam grade and a signed declaration from the head of centre.

Exam board contact details

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Reassurance for schools and students on result appeals

The Government has confirmed that all appeals of A and AS level and GCSE results will be free for schools and colleges following the implementation of the triple lock process that will ensure confidence and fairness in the results system this year, (Saturday 15 August).

Despite the unprecedented circumstances, A level results on Thursday showed that grades have remained broadly stable with a 2.5 percentage point rise in A and A* grades. However, the Government's triple lock process means that

those unhappy with their calculated grades can appeal on the basis of a valid mock result.

The Government has confirmed today that state funded schools and colleges will also be able to claim back unsuccessful appeal costs at the same time as claiming back fees for autumn exams, which the Government announced would also be reimbursed earlier this week. Successful appeals claims will remain free for schools and colleges.

The Education Secretary has also ordered a 'Gold Command' taskforce to be set up by the Department, chaired by Schools Minister Nick Gibb and including Ofqual and the exam boards. The group will meet daily during between now and 7 September to ensure appeals are being processed quickly and young people can move on to university, college or the world of work.

Education Secretary Gavin Williamson said:

Hundreds of thousands of students received results this week that will take them onto the next stage of their lives, with a record number of 18-year-olds securing places at their first-choice university.

I know that alongside the success of so many young people, there have been some difficult cases. I have said repeatedly that my absolute priority is fairness for students, and I do not want anything holding them back from achieving the grades they deserve.

So all result appeals for state funded schools and colleges will be free, helping to make sure every single student has the best possible chance of securing the grades they need in order to take their next step."

The news comes after 300,000 students collected exam results on Thursday, with a higher proportion of disadvantaged 18-year-olds going to university than on A level results day last year.

Using mock exams as a basis for appeals is part of the Government's triple lock system for students, meaning they can progress with their calculated grade, appeal on the basis of a valid mock or sit an exam in the autumn, giving students extra security and helping them move on in life.

As set out by Ofqual last week, schools and colleges will also be able to appeal if they believe their historic data does not reflect the ability of their current students – that may be because they have experienced a recent change in leadership or because they have one or a number of exceptional students.

PM Letter to veterans of the Far East campaign: 15 August 2020

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World leaders pay tribute as nation falls silent to mark the 75th anniversary of the end of the Second World War

- World leaders come together in a poignant video message giving thanks to all those who served
- The Red Arrows will conduct flypasts over Edinburgh, Belfast and Cardiff and will conclude their UK tour over London's Royal Hospital Chelsea
- Images of veterans will be projected on video screens across the nation
- UK will fall silent at [11am](#) and Union flags will fly at full mast

As the nation falls silent to remember the end of the Second World War, world leaders will give thanks to all those who served as part of a poignant video message commissioned by the Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport.

The Friendship of Nations will see world leaders including the Prime Minister, Boris Johnson, Australian Prime Minister, Scott Morrison, Canadian Prime Minister, Justin Trudeau, Malawian President, Lazarus Chakwera, Nigerian President, Muhammadu Buhari, and US President, Donald Trump thanking veterans.

As well as world leaders, members of the Royal Family and the Prime Minister will pay tribute at a series of events to mark the anniversary. His Royal Highness The Prince of Wales will lead a national moment of remembrance at the National Memorial Arboretum in Staffordshire. As part of the UK's

commemoration event, organised by The Royal British Legion, the Prime Minister will read the Exhortation ahead of a national two minute silence.

His Royal Highness The Duke of Cambridge will feature in a special programme broadcast on BBC One, and pay tribute to all those who sacrificed so much during the Second World War.

His Royal Highness The Duke of Edinburgh will feature, alongside other veterans, on a number of large screens across the UK including the Piccadilly Curve and National Rail stations in a photomontage showing veterans during their time in service and as they are now.

In the first such flight since the 2012 London Olympic and Paralympic Games, The Red Arrows will conduct a specially designed UK wide flypast tribute over Edinburgh, Belfast, Cardiff and London with its path including The Royal Hospital Chelsea, home to three Burma Star recipients.

Prime Minister Boris Johnson said:

On this 75th anniversary of the end of the Second World War, we pay tribute to the heroes deployed thousands of miles away in the mountains, islands and rainforests of Asia.

Unable to celebrate the victory in Europe, and among the last to return home, today we recognise the bravery and ingenuity of those who, in the face of adversity, restored peace and prosperity to the world.

Their immeasurable sacrifice changed the course of history and at today's commemorations, we take the opportunity to say what should be said every day – thank you.

Culture Secretary Oliver Dowden said:

Today we remember all those who served in the Second World War as we mark the 75th anniversary of the peace they secured.

We must not forget the millions of men, women and children who were drawn into this terrible conflict. I want to call on everyone, wherever you are, to join us in giving thanks to the veterans who came home with the burdens of war on their shoulders, and to those who paid the ultimate sacrifice.

Our commemorations today are with our nation's deepest gratitude for the freedoms they won us.

Defence Secretary Ben Wallace said:

VJ Day is sometimes seen as the forgotten victory, but this year, on its 75th anniversary, our celebrations are rightly focused on paying special tribute to the Greatest Generation and their service and sacrifice in the Far East.

These commemorations have been specially designed to include our veterans and pay tribute to the wartime generation as much as possible despite these challenging times.

The number of veterans still able to share these moments with us may become fewer each year, but our gratitude to them remains undiminished.

As the Second World War recedes from living memory, our responsibility to educate future generations about the conflict is more important than ever. Today, I will be thinking of the unique hardships faced by those who served, and thanking them for all they did for us.

Plans for the day include:

- The day will begin with a piper playing “Battle’s Over” at the Imperial War Museum’s HMS Belfast in London at sunrise as part of a tribute entitled ‘Waking Up to Peace’.
- Military pipers will also be playing at dawn in India, Australia, New Zealand and Nepal.
- The Royal British Legion’s national service of remembrance at the National Memorial Arboretum in Staffordshire attended by veterans, descendants, the Prime Minister and Their Royal Highnesses The Prince of Wales and The Duchess of Cornwall.
- At 10:15 AM, the Friendship of Nations will be broadcast on BBC One and online featuring 10 world leaders paying tribute to all who served, including the UK Prime Minister.
- His Royal Highness The Prince of Wales, accompanied by Her Royal Highness The Duchess of Cornwall, and the Prime Minister will lead a national moment of silence from the National Memorial Arboretum. The ceremony will involve Armed Forces musicians and a flypast by the Battle of Britain Memorial Flight.
- His Royal Highness The Duke of Edinburgh will appear in a photo montage series alongside other Second World War veterans. Each veteran is pictured with an image of themselves from their time in service in a touching tribute broadcast on large screens across the country marking the 75th anniversary of the end of the war.
- The Red Arrows will conduct flypasts over Edinburgh, Belfast and Cardiff and will conclude their tour of the UK over London.
- VJ Day 75: The Nation’s Tribute will be broadcast on BBC One between 2030 – 2200 with a tribute from His Royal Highness The Duke of Cambridge.

VJ Day 75: The Nation’s Tribute will be broadcast on BBC One between 2030 and 2200 on Saturday 15 August. Filmed at Horse Guards Parade, alongside veteran

testimony His Royal Highness The Duke of Cambridge will give an address which pays tribute to the veterans and the wartime generation, as the Nation honours, thanks and remembers all those who sacrificed so much during the Second World War. The pre-recorded programme, developed with the Ministry of Defence and involving members of Armed Forces personnel, will highlight the scope and diversity of the British military in 1945. It will include a host of famous faces reading tributes, military bands and dramatic visual projection.

ENDS

Notes to Editors:

The Then and Now video featuring The Duke of Edinburgh will be provided by DCMS Press Office on Friday 14 August. Please email Faye Jackson to request a copy on faye.jackson@dcms.gov.uk.

The timings of the Red Arrows are as follows, please contact sarah.east105@mod.co.uk for further information.

- Edinburgh: 1130
- Belfast: 1400
- Cardiff: 1445
- London: 1730

Friendship of Nations is available for broadcast at 10:15 BST on 15 August 2020 on a pooled basis. The full package will be provided by BBC Studios on Friday 14 August.

A full list of those taking part is below:

- Australia – Prime Minister, Scott Morrison
- Canada – Prime Minister, Justin Trudeau
- Ghana – President, Nana Akufo-Addo
- Fiji – Prime Minister, Josaia Bainimarama
- Malawi – President, Lazarus Chakwera
- Nigeria – President, Muhammadu Buhari
- Sierra Leone – President, Julius Maada Bio
- Tonga – Prime Minister, Pohiva Tu'i'onetoa
- United Kingdom – Prime Minister, Boris Johnson
- United States of America – President, Donald Trump

Visit the [VE-VJ Day 75 website](#) to find out more about the commemorations.