

## Summer 2021: Teacher Assessed Grades, Results, Appeals and Resits FAQ's

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### 1. Results 2021 and Support

#### When is results day and how will I receive my results?

Results will be issued on **Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> August**. **Newman RC College will be issuing all results electronically to candidates via their school email addresses by 13:00pm.** Results will also be posted to all students on the day. **It is therefore vital that Year 11 students check that they can log in to their Newman email accounts.** Any requests to re-set usernames and passwords should be sent to: [ithelp@newmanrc.oldham.sch.uk](mailto:ithelp@newmanrc.oldham.sch.uk)

#### How will I receive my exam certificates?

Information regarding how exam certificates will be issued will be provided in due course once we receive certificates from the Awarding Bodies.

#### Will my GCSE results be valid?

Yes, results issued this summer look exactly the same as in previous years, and have equal status with universities, colleges and employers. Candidate result sheets and certificates with final grades will be reported in the same way as previous years.

#### What should I do if I require support regarding further education, employment or next steps?

If you are concerned about securing a conditional place with a further education provider or employer **we recommend contacting them in the first instance.** Further information and careers support including from Positive Steps can be found on the Newman website through Grading 2021.

Should you require support from the careers advisor or Positive Steps the contact information is also here: [joannawhitehead@positive-steps.org.uk](mailto:joannawhitehead@positive-steps.org.uk) or [oldhamcareers@positive-steps.org.uk](mailto:oldhamcareers@positive-steps.org.uk)

#### Can I raise a special considerations/mitigating circumstance after receiving my results?

No. All students were given the opportunity to fill in an online form to make a request for special considerations, mitigating circumstances, access arrangements etc that affected you completing an assessment, so unfortunately, the deadline for that has now passed. You can request a centre review or appeal if you can provide evidence that the centre did not follow procedure and make adjustments for a piece of evidence that it confirmed with you it would.

#### How do I contact the College if I need support or have a query?

The results day email will contain a link to an 'online results query form' in order for you to contact the college. **Please do not phone the college or email members of staff.** By completing the online form, all contact is reordered centrally and any queries can be dealt with by the most appropriate member of staff. **The deadline for submitting the results online query form is Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> September 12:00pm.** A member of Newman staff will contact you with an acknowledgement of your query within 7 days.





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## 2. Teacher Assessed Grades (TAGs)

Below is a link to the most current JCQ student and parent/carer guide for results Summer 2021:

[JCQ-Guidance-for-Students-and-Parents-on-Summer-2021.pdf](#)

### What is a Teacher Assessed Grade (TAG)?

- Grades this summer were based on Teacher Assessed Grades which were submitted to the exam boards by the College as a holistic assessment of a student's performance in a subject.
- TAGs followed a rigorous process of assessment, moderation and quality assurance.
- The evidence that was used to determine a TAG in each subject was shared and published on the Newman website (subject Annex B) in order for students to request special considerations etc.
- These grades were then approved by the relevant exam board following external quality assurance checks which involved a sampling process.
- In some cases, the TAGs we submitted may have been reviewed by the exam board, who may have asked us to submit an alternative grade. A sample of GCSE and BTEC was requested by the board.
- All TAGs submitted were done by professional teachers or reviewers; this year no grades have been changed as a result of an algorithm.

### What a Teacher Assessed Grade (TAG) is **NOT**:

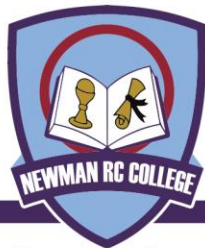
- NOT a single teacher prediction. Teacher Assessed Grades were determined 'blind' without knowledge of student name by the subject team, not by individual teachers. All TAGs were signed off by two members of the subject department, including the Subject Leader.
- NOT a single mock exam result, a target grade, a working grade or a estimated/predicted grade. TAGs were determined holistically based on the Annex B evidence shared with students.

### How has a student's Teacher Assessed Grade (TAG) been verified and quality assured by the centre?

Teacher Assessed Grades have gone through a very rigours and extensive internal and external quality assurance process. The details of which are outlined below.

1. Our Centre Policy outlining all arrangements for determining TAGs was approved by the Awarding Organisation.
2. The Head of Centre, senior staff and teaching staff received the necessary training and guidance, including training from the Examinations Officer. All staff signed a declaration to acknowledge receipt.
3. Subject Leaders submitted the evidence (Annex B) and the approach they would use to determine a subjects TAGs and this was verified by the Senior Leadership Team.
4. Subject Leaders ensured moderation and standardisation took place for the marking of each assessment piece.
5. Final TAGs were determined 'blind' meaning only candidate number was used to ensure objectivity and no bias. This included the final May Mock Exam papers which were also marked 'blind'. TAGs were also not determined by a single teacher, but the subject department as a whole.
6. Final TAGs went through at least two rounds of verification and were signed off by the Subject Leaders and one other member of staff.
7. Quality assurance meetings were held by the Deputy and Assistant Headteacher with every Subject Leader to check the department had followed its procedures and check a sample of grades.
8. Grades were cross-checked on entry by the data team and exams officer before submitting.
9. Subject Leaders performed a final third check of the grades before submitting.





### 3. Centre Review and Appeals Process FAQs

Below is a link to the most current JCQ student and parent/carer guide for results Summer 2021:

[JCQ-Guidance-for-Students-and-Parents-on-Summer-2021.pdf](#)

#### Can I appeal a result that I have been awarded?

Yes, all students have the opportunity to appeal their grade if they meet the eligibility criteria. **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.

#### What are the grounds for appeal?

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

- You think the centre have made an **administrative error**: an example of this would be the centre submitted an incorrect grade or used an incorrect assessment mark when determining your grade.
- You think the centre have made a **procedural error**: an example of this would be the centre did not follow its Centre Policy or did not undertake internal quality assurance.
- 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** remark or grade students' evidence. Instead, they will look to see whether any teacher acting reasonably could have arrived at the same grade.

#### What is a priority appeal?

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.** JCQ cannot offer priority appeals for GCSE students, unfortunately.

#### What should I do before appealing?

Students must read the JCQ Student and Parent guide before appealing, which will be available on the JCQ website by results days and the link is at the top of this page. The Awarding Bodies may not be able to offer as much advice and guidance on the likely success of an appeal this summer as we would in normal years, as they have already moderated and quality assured all the grades themselves.

#### What options are available to me should I not achieve a grade or have a question about a result?

Once you have received your results you may have questions regards a result, resitting a qualification or obtaining your conditional offer place with a further education provider or employer.

If you have any queries once you receive your results, please follow the steps below:



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I want to request to re-sit a qualification in the November exam series.

If you want to re-sit an English Language or Maths qualification because you achieved below a grade 4 you must contact your higher education provider.

If you want to re-sit any other GCSE qualification please fill in the results online query form by Wednesday 1st September 12.00pm.

I have a question about my results or I believe there has been an error with my exam results.

Fill in the results online query form by Wednesday 1st September 12.00pm stating the subject and reason.

A member of Newman staff will contact you within 7 days.

Depending on the query you might decide to proceed with a Stage One Centre Review. We will talk you through this process.

I have not achieved the grades needed to secure my further education conditional place offer.

Contact your further education provider or employer directly.

Contact J. Whitehead the careers advisor or Postive Steps.

If directed by further education provider or employer please fill in the results online query form by Wednesday 1st September 12.00pm.



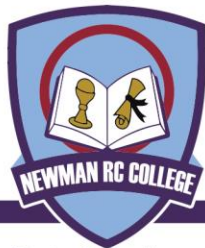
### How do I appeal a result that I have been awarded?

The results day email will contain a link to an 'online results query form' in order for you to contact the college. We ask that students themselves complete this. **Please do not phone the college or email members of staff.** By completing the online form, all contact is reordered centrally and any queries can be dealt with by the most appropriate member of staff. **The deadline for submitting the results online query form is Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> September 12:00pm.** A member of Newman staff will contact you with an acknowledgement of your query within 7 days.

There are then two stages to the appeals process:

- **Stage One:** You must first request a Centre Review:
  - You believe that an **administrative error** was made with one of your grades, an example of this would be the centre submitted an incorrect grade or used an incorrect assessment mark when determining your grade.
  - You believe there has been a **procedural error** made with one of your grades, an example of this would be the centre did not follow its Centre Policy or did not undertake internal quality assurance. **Our policy has already been approved by the exam boards, so we are only ensuring that we followed this properly.**
- To submit a Centre Review you must download the Centre Review Student Request form from the Student Portal of the Newman website under Grading 2021 and Centre Review and Appeals.
- Fill in your full candidate details, the qualification, grade issued and your grounds for review (whether an admin error or a procedural error by the centre).
- You **must** provide an explanation of what you believe the error is and why and refer to evidence.
- **You need to be aware that in the outcome of the review, if an error is found it could result in the grade being lowered, staying the same, or being raised. Also, if an error is found which affects another student's grade, your review could also result in their grade changing.**
- You the student must sign and date the form and return via email to: [centreview2021@newmanrc.oldham.sch.uk](mailto:centreview2021@newmanrc.oldham.sch.uk)
- **All Centre Review Student Request forms must submitted no later than Wed 1<sup>st</sup> Sept 12:00pm.**
- At this Centre Review stage, if we find a grade should go up or down, we will ask they exam board to change it. They will then consider this request.
- You must wait for the outcome of the Centre Review, which will be returned by email no later than the 10<sup>th</sup> September, before you can request for a Stage Two appeal to the Awarding Organisation.





- **Stage Two:** Only following the outcome of a Centre Review can a student request an awarding organisation appeal, which must be submitted to the Awarding Body by the centre/school.
- Students and parents/carers cannot send appeals directly to the exam board themselves, it must come from the centre/school.
- You need to be aware that in the outcome of the review, if an error is found it could result in the grade being lowered, staying the same, or being raised. Also, if an error is found which affects another student's grade, your review could also result in their grade changing.
- Fill in the Awarding Organisation Appeals Form and return via email to [appeals2021@newmanrc.oldham.sch.uk](mailto:appeals2021@newmanrc.oldham.sch.uk) no later than Monday 13<sup>th</sup> September 12:00pm. Appeals received after this cannot guarantee being accepted or delayed.
- The outcome of the Awarding Organisation appeal will be communicated to students by the centre/school when the decision has been made by the exam board. The awarding bodies have 42 calendar days to conduct the review and have stated they cannot always guarantee completion within this deadline.

Page 6 has a flow diagram outlining the centre review and awarding organisation appeals process.

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

At either stage of the appeals process a student's grade may go up, stay the same, or go down. When placing a centre review or appeal request the student will have to sign a declaration saying that they accept the fact their grade may go down and that they may get a lower grade than their original TAG.



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## Newman Centre Review and Awarding Organisation Appeal Process

I have a question about my results or I believe there has been an error with my results.



Read the appeals information and guidance contained in this document and the JCQ student and parent guide.



If you feel that you have grounds for an appeal based on evidence please **fill in the 'results online query form'** **no later than Wednesday 1st September 12:00pm** (link in the results email). **Please do not phone the college or email members of staff.**



This is so that all contact is reordered centrally and any queries can be dealt with by the most appropriate member of staff. A member of Newman staff will contact you with an acknowledgement of your query within 7 days.



If after speaking to a member of staff you wish to proceed with a request for a Stage One Centre Review then please **complete the Appendix B Centre Review Student Request Form** and return via email to [centrereview2021@newmanrc.oldham.sch.uk](mailto:centrereview2021@newmanrc.oldham.sch.uk) **no later than Wed 1st September.**



The outcome of your Centre Review request will be returned no later than Friday 10th September to your Newman student email address.



Following the outcome of a Centre Review you can request an awarding organisation appeal. **Complete Appendix B Appeal to Awarding Organisation Student Request Form** and return via email to [appeals2021@newmanrc.oldham.sch.uk](mailto:appeals2021@newmanrc.oldham.sch.uk) **no later than Monday 13th September 12:00pm.**



School will return the outcome of the Awarding Organisation Appeal to you via your Newman student email address. The Awarding Organisation have at least 42 calendar days in which to process and have warned there could be delays.



There are no further opportunities to appeal to the Awarding Organisation if the outcome is unsuccessful. The next step would be you **may** be able to contact the regulator Ofqual directly or request to re-sit the qualification.





## 4. Exam Re-sits FAQs

### Can I request to re-sit an examination?

Yes, all students have the opportunity to re-sit a GCSE qualification.

The information regarding re-sits is yet to be released from the awarding bodies, therefore for now we will have to assume the re-sit process is the same as last year.

**What we do know is that the design, content and assessment of these papers will be the same as in a normal year, so you would have to sit the full suite of papers.**

### Which examinations can I request to re-sit?

- Candidates have the opportunity to re-sit all GCSE examinations.
- Candidates cannot request to re-sit an examination in a vocational subject, e.g. BTEC and cannot re-sit GCSE Art and Design or photography either.
- **Re-sits for Grades 1-3 GCSE English Language and Mathematics are to be sat at your college or further education provider. You must speak with your further education provider to arrange a re-sit.** The deadline for requesting to re-sit is not yet known.
- All other GCSE subjects re-sit requests can be done here at Newman.

### Can I re-submit coursework/controlled assessment?

No, the autumn series will be by examination only. It is not possible to re-submit none-exam assessed components, including Art and Design qualifications.

### When is the GCSE re-sit examination window?

The GCSE re-sit exam window is **November 1<sup>st</sup> – 2<sup>nd</sup> December**. The exam boards will post the timetables on their websites and contact centres about entries.

### When is the deadline for requesting to re-sit an examination?

The deadline for requesting to re-sit is not yet known, this includes not knowing the deadline for re-sitting English Language or Maths with a further education provider.

### How do I request to re-sit a GCSE qualification at Newman?

Complete the online results query form no later than Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> September 12:00pm and select to enquire regards re-sitting a qualification. List the subject/qualification.

