

Centre Policy in the event of disruption to exams - 2022

EALING INDEPENDENT COLLEGE

This document describes the Ealing Independent College contingency plan in the case of exam cancellation in 2022 (for example due to Covid-19 restrictions).

Please be aware that this document may be amended if required so by government bodies (e.g. DfE) or awarding bodies (e.g. JCQ, AQA, Pearson Edexcel, OCR etc).

Brief summary of our 2022 exam contingency policy

In the case that exams will be canceled this Summer due to Covid-19 restriction, we will implement this contingency policy. The success of last year's contingency policy forms the basis of this 2022 contingency plan.

Please be aware that we are expecting exams to go on as 'normal'; in the same fashion as exams in the Summer of 2019 and before. This document can be disregarded, if the exams will go on as normal. However, our exam centre needs to be prepared for the possibility that the exams will be canceled this year (for example like last year due to Covid-19 restrictions).

If the exams are cancelled by DfE/JCQ/awarding bodies, Ealing Independent College is planning on hosting two sets of exam series in April and June 2022. External candidates will be required to sit all exams in both exam series. The exam series will be similar to the normal (pre 2020) exam series. The exams will be created and marked by our teaching staff according to the standards set out below. Grades will be awarded in a similar fashion to the normal exams, with a similar weighing between individual papers. We will use the 2019 grade boundaries as the basis for the grade, since this is the most recent grade boundaries from a normal exam series.

Where possible we want to award students the highest grade out of the two exams series. In the case of a large discrepancy between the respective results, the college will investigate the discrepancy in more detail. This system was almost universally praised by the candidates who partook in it.

Please be aware that we cannot take into account evidence provided by teachers or tutors who are not part of our organisation.

Statement of intent

This section outlines the purpose of this document in relation to our centre.

Statement of Intent

The purpose of this policy is:

- *To ensure that, in the event of exams not taking place, teacher assessed grades, which were used in 2021, and will be utilised in 2022 in such an event of exam cancellation, are determined fairly, consistently, free from bias and effectively within and across departments.*
- *To ensure the operation of effective processes with clear guidelines and support for staff.*
- *To ensure that all staff involved in the processes clearly understand their roles and responsibilities.*
- *To support teachers to take evidence-based decisions in line with Joint Council for Qualifications guidance.*
- *To ensure the consideration of historical centre data in the process, and the appropriate decision making in respect of, teacher assessed grades.*
- *To support a high standard of internal quality assurance in the allocation of teacher assessed grades.*
- *To support our centre in meeting its obligations in relation to equality legislation.*
- *To ensure our centre meets all requirements set out by the Department of Education, Ofqual, the Joint Council for Qualifications and awarding organisations for Summer 2022 qualifications.*
- *To ensure the process for communicating to candidates and their parents/carers how they will be assessed is clear, in order to give confidence.*

Roles and responsibilities

This section of our Centre Policy outlines the personnel in our centre who have specific roles and responsibilities in the process of determining teacher assessed grades this year, in the event of exam cancellation.

Roles and Responsibilities

Head of Centre

- *Our Head of Centre, Allan Cairns, will be responsible for approving our policy for determining teacher assessed grades.*
- *Our Head of Centre has overall responsibility for the College as an examinations centre and will ensure that clear roles and responsibilities of all staff are defined.*
- *Our Head of Centre will confirm that teacher assessed grade decisions represent the academic judgement made by teachers and that the checks in place ensure these align with the guidance on standards provided by awarding organisations.*
- *Our Head of Centre will ensure a robust internal quality assurance process has been produced and signed-off in advance of results being submitted.*

Senior Leadership Team and Heads of Department

Our Senior Leadership Team and Heads of Departments will:

- *provide training and support to our other staff.*
- *support the Head of Centre in the quality assurance of the final teacher assessed grades.*
- *ensure an effective approach within and across departments and authenticating the preliminary outcome from single teacher subjects.*
- *be responsible for ensuring staff have a clear understanding of the internal and external quality assurance processes and their role within it.*
- *ensure that all teachers within their department make consistent judgements about student evidence in deriving a grade.*
- *ensure all staff conduct assessments under the appropriate levels of control with reference to guidance provided by the Joint Council for Qualifications.*
- *ensure teachers have the information required to make accurate and fair judgments.*
- *ensure that a Head of Department Checklist is completed for each qualification that they are submitting.*

Teachers/ Specialist Teachers / SENCo

Our teachers, specialist teachers and SENCo will:

- *ensure they conduct assessments under our centre's appropriate levels of control and have sufficient evidence, in line with this Centre Policy and guidance from the Joint Council for Qualifications, to provide teacher assessed grades for each student they have entered for a qualification.*
- *ensure that the teacher assessed grade they assign to each student is a fair, valid and reliable reflection of the assessed evidence available for each student.*
- *make judgements based on what each student has been taught and what they have been assessed on, as outlined in the section on grading in the main JCQ guidance.*

- *produce an Assessment Record for each student within each subject cohort, that includes the nature of the assessment evidence being used:*
 - Pre-April Assessment Data (Internal students only)
 - April Assessment Data
 - June Assessment Data
 - Mitigating circumstances
- *The level of control for assessments considered, and any other evidence that explains the determination of the final teacher assessed grades. Any necessary variations for individual students will also be recorded.*
- *securely store and be able to retrieve sufficient evidence to justify their decisions.*

Examinations Officer

Our Examinations Officer will:

- *be responsible for the administration of our final teacher assessed grades and for managing the post-results services.*

Training, support and guidance

This section of our Centre Policy outlines the training, support and guidance that our centre will provide to those determining teacher assessed grades this year, in the event of exam cancellation in 2022.

Training
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>Teachers involved in determining grades in our centre will attend centre-based training to help achieve consistency and fairness to all students. This will be carried out between the April and June assessments.</i>• <i>Teachers will adhere to the College policy, consulting all training and support that has been provided by the Joint Council for Qualifications and the awarding organisations.</i>

Support for Newly Qualified Teachers and teachers less familiar with assessment
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>We will provide mentoring from experienced teachers to NQTs and teachers less familiar with assessment.</i>• <i>We will put in place additional internal reviews of teacher assessed grades for NQTs and other teachers as appropriate.</i>

Use of appropriate evidence

This section of our Centre Policy outlines the approach our centre will take to awarding teacher assessed grades, in the event of exam cancellation in 2022.

A. Use of evidence

- *Teachers making judgements will have regard to the Ofqual Head of Centre guidance on recommended evidence, and further guidance provided by awarding organisations.*
- *All candidate evidence used to determine teacher assessed grades, and associated documentation, will be retained and made available for the purposes of external quality assurance and appeals.*
- *We will be using student work produced in response to assessment materials provided in part by our awarding organisation(s), including past papers or similar materials created by staff at the College to form the basis of two assessments, in April and June. Teacher Assessed Grades will be determined, having consulted all aspects of the data provided by both April and June Assessments, and, where necessary, pre-April Assessment work.*
- *We will use non-exam assessment work (often referred to as coursework), even if this has not been fully completed. This will form the recommended percentage of the overall grade. (1e 20% in A Level History based on the NEA)*
- *We will use student work produced in centre-devised Assessments that reflect the specification, that follow the same format as awarding organisation materials, and have been marked in a way that reflects awarding organisation mark schemes.*
- *We may use mock exams and previous work undertaken over the course of study, where the two assessments do not identify a clearly established grade to help determine the awarding of a grade.*

We provide further detail in the following areas:

Additional Assessment Materials

- *We may use additional assessment materials as part of our process of creating April and June assessments to give students the opportunity to show what they know, understand or can do in an area of content that has been taught.*
- *We will use additional assessment materials to support consistency of judgement between teachers or classes by giving all students the same assessments to complete in April and June. These assessments will be based on the complete specification of the course.*

Our centre will ensure the appropriateness of evidence and balance of evidence in arriving at grades in the following ways:

- *We will run the April and June assessments as exams would have been run – adhering as closely to JCQ standards as possible, with full invigilation and to the rules determined by JCQ. This will enable the highest degree of fairness possible. These will be marked in accordance with mark schemes, again to the standards of all exam boards used.*

Determining teacher assessed grades

This section of our Centre Policy outlines the approach our centre will take to awarding teacher assessed grades, in the event of exam cancellation in 2022.

Awarding teacher assessed grades based on evidence

We give details here of our centre's approach to awarding teacher assessed grades.

- *Our teachers will determine grades based on evidence which is commensurate with the standard at which a student is performing, i.e. their demonstrated knowledge, understanding and skills across the content of the course they have been taught, principally by using the April and June assessments as evidence.*
- *Our teachers will record how the evidence was used to arrive at a fair and objective grade, which is free from bias. This will centre on the April and June Assessments, which will be sat as exams would have been.*
- *Our teachers will produce an Assessment Record for each subject cohort and this will be discussed, moderated and standardised.*
- *All grades will be awarded based on the boundaries set by exam boards in 2019, the closest possible precedent for grade awarding.*

Internal quality assurance

This section of our Centre Policy outlines the approach our centre will take to ensure internal standardisation of teacher assessed grades, to ensure consistency, fairness and objectivity of decisions, in the event of exam cancellation of 2022.

Head of Centre Internal Quality Assurance and Declaration

Internal quality assurance

- *We will ensure that all teachers involved in deriving teacher assessed grades read and understand this Centre Policy document.*
- *In subjects where there is more than one teacher and/or class in the department, we will ensure that our centre carries out an internal standardisation process.*
- *We will ensure that all teachers are provided with training and support to ensure they take a consistent approach to:*
 - *Arriving at teacher assessed grades*
 - *Marking of evidence*
 - *Reaching a holistic grading decision*
 - *Applying the use of grading support and documentation*
- *We will conduct internal standardisation across all grades.*
- *We will ensure that the Assessment Record will form the basis of internal standardisation and discussions across teachers to agree the awarding of teacher assessed grades.*
- *Where necessary, we will review and reflect on individual grading decisions to ensure alignment with the standards as outlined by our awarding organisation(s).*
- *Where appropriate, we will amend individual grade decisions to ensure alignment with the standards as outlined by our awarding organisation(s).*
- *Where there is only one teacher involved in marking assessments and determining grades, then the output of this activity will be reviewed by an appropriate member of staff within the centre.*
 - *This will be Allan Cairns, the Head of Centre.*
- *In respect of equality legislation, we will consider the range of evidence for students of different protected characteristics that are included in our internal standardisation. Access Arrangements have been measured and applied as they would in any normal exam year.*

Comparison of teacher assessed grades to results for previous cohorts

This section of our Centre Policy outlines the approach we will take to compare our teacher assessed grades in 2022 with results from previous cohorts, in the event of exam cancellation in 2022.

Comparison of Teacher Assessed Grades to results for previous cohorts

This section gives details of our internal process to ensure a comparison of teacher assessed grades at qualification level to results for previous cohorts in our centre taking the same qualification.

- *We will compile information on the grades awarded to our students in past June series in which exams took place (e.g. 2017 - 2019).*
- *We will consider the size of our cohort from year to year.*
- *We will consider the stability of our centre's overall grade outcomes from year to year.*
- *We will consider both subject and centre level variation in our outcomes during the internal quality assurance process.*
- *We will prepare a succinct narrative on the outcomes of the review against historic data which, in the event of significant divergence from the qualifications-levels profiles attained in previous examined years, which address the reasons for this divergence. This commentary will be available for subsequent review during the QA process.*

This section gives details of the approach our centre will follow if our initial teacher assessed grades for a qualification are viewed as overly lenient or harsh compared to results in previous years.

- *We will compile historical data giving appropriate regard to potential mixtures of A*-G and 9-1 grades in GCSEs. Where required, we will use the Ofqual guidance to convert legacy grades into the new 9 to 1 scale.*
- *We will include grades from international GCSEs (for example, in the sciences) because we have previously offered these.*
- *We will consult historical College results data in order to help quality assure the grades we intend to award in 2022.*

This section gives details of changes in our cohorts that need to be reflected in our comparisons.

- *We will omit subjects that we no longer offer from the historical data.*

Access Arrangements and Special Considerations

This section of our Centre Policy outlines the approach our centre will take to provide students with appropriate access arrangements and take into account mitigating circumstances in particular instances, in the event of exam cancellation in 2022.

Reasonable adjustments and mitigating circumstances (special consideration)

This section gives details of our approach to access arrangements and mitigating circumstances (special consideration).

- *Where students have agreed access arrangements or reasonable adjustments (for example a reader or scribe) we will make every effort to ensure that these arrangements are in place when assessments are being taken. This will be easy to ensure during the April and June Assessments.*
- *Where an assessment has taken place without an agreed reasonable adjustment or access arrangement, we will remove that assessment from the basket of evidence and alternative evidence obtained – though this will not happen.*
- *Where illness or other personal circumstances might have affected performance in assessments used in determining a student's standard of performance, we will take account of this when making judgements.*
- *We will record, as part of the Assessment Record, how we have incorporated any necessary variations to take account of the impact of illness or personal circumstances on the performance of individual students in assessments.*
- *To ensure consistency in the application of Special Consideration, we will ensure all teachers have read and understood the document: [JCQ – A guide to the special consideration process, with effect from 1 September 2020](#)*

Addressing disruption/differential lost learning (DLL)

B. Addressing Disruption/Differentiated Lost Learning (DLL)

This section gives details of our approach to address disruption or differentiated lost teaching.

- Teacher assessed grades will be determined based on evidence of the content that has been taught and assessed for each student.
- As all courses have been covered as far as possible, only minimal mitigations of content will need to be made – and these will only occur in the April Assessment session. All content will have been covered by the June Assessment session.

Objectivity

This section of our Centre Policy outlines the arrangements in place to ensure objectivity of decisions, in the event of exam cancellation in 2022.

Objectivity

This section gives a summary of the arrangements in place within our centre in relation to objectivity.

Staff will fulfil their duties and responsibilities in relation to relevant equality and disability legislation.

Senior Leaders, Heads of Department and Centre will consider:

- *sources of unfairness and bias (situations/contexts, difficulty, presentation and format, language, conditions for assessment, marker preconceptions);*
- *how to minimise bias in questions and marking and hidden forms of bias); and*
- *bias in teacher assessed grades.*

To ensure objectivity, all staff involved in determining teacher assessed grades will be made aware that:

- *unconscious bias can skew judgements;*
- *the evidence presented should be valued for its own merit as an indication of performance and attainment;*
- *teacher assessed grades should not be influenced by candidates' positive or challenging personal circumstances, character, behaviour, appearance, socio-economic background, or protected characteristics;*
- *unconscious bias is more likely to occur when quick opinions are formed; and*

Our internal standardisation process will help to ensure that there are different perspectives to the quality assurance process.

Recording decisions and retention of evidence and data

This section of our Centre Policy outlines our arrangements to recording decisions and to retaining evidence and data, in the event of exam cancellation in 2022.

C. Recording Decisions and Retention of Evidence and Data

This section outlines our approach to recording decisions and retaining evidence and data.

- *We will ensure that teachers and Heads of Departments maintain records that show how the teacher assessed grades process operated, including the rationale for decisions in relation to individual marks/grades.*
- *We will ensure that evidence is maintained across a variety of tasks to develop a holistic view of each student's demonstrated knowledge, understanding and skills in the areas of content taught.*
- *We will put in place recording requirements for the various stages of the process to ensure the accurate and secure retention of the evidence used to make decisions.*
- *We will comply with our obligations regarding data protection legislation.*
- *We will ensure that the grades accurately reflect the evidence submitted.*
- *We will ensure that evidence is retained electronically or on paper in a secure centre-based system that can be readily shared with our awarding organisation(s).*

Authenticating evidence

D. Authenticating evidence

This section of our Centre Policy details the mechanisms in place to ensure that teachers are confident in the authenticity of evidence, and the process for dealing with cases where evidence is not thought to be authentic.

- *All assessments, in April and June, will be invigilated to JCQ standards, therefore we are confident there will be no questionable evidence put forth.*
- *Robust mechanisms, which will include invigilation, security of exam papers and the use of a blend of past questions and centre made parts of the assessment, will be in place to ensure that teachers are confident that work used as evidence is the students' own and that no inappropriate levels of support have been given to students to complete it, either within the centre or with external tutors. No weight will be given to work done with external tutors.*
- *It is understood that awarding organisations will investigate instances where it appears evidence is not authentic. We will follow all guidance provided by awarding organisations Edexcel, AQA and OCR to support these determinations of authenticity.*

Confidentiality, malpractice and conflicts of interest

Confidentiality

This section of our Centre Policy outlines the measures in place to ensure the confidentiality of the grades our centre determines, and to make students aware of the range of evidence on which those grades will be based, in the event of exam cancellation in 2022.

A. Confidentiality

This section details the measures in place in our centre to maintain the confidentiality of grades, while sharing information regarding the range of evidence on which the grades will be based.

- *All staff involved have been made aware of the need to maintain the confidentiality of teacher assessed grades.*
- *All teaching staff have been briefed on the requirement to share details of the range of evidence on which students' grades will be based, while ensuring that details of the final grades remain confidential.*
- *Relevant details from this Policy, including requirements around sharing details of evidence and the confidentiality requirements, have been shared with parents/guardians.*

Malpractice

This section of our Centre Policy outlines the measures in place to prevent malpractice and other breaches of exam regulations, and to deal with such cases if they occur, in the event of exam cancellation in 2022.

B. Malpractice

This section details the measures in place in our centre to prevent malpractice and, where that proves impossible, to handle cases in accordance with awarding organisation requirements.

- *Our general centre policies regarding malpractice, maladministration and conflicts of interest have been reviewed to ensure they address the specific challenges of delivery in Summer 2022.*
- *All staff involved have been made aware of these policies, and have received training in them as necessary.*
- *All staff involved have been made aware of the specific types of malpractice which may affect the Summer 2022 series including:*
 - *breaches of internal security;*
 - *deception;*
 - *improper assistance to students;*
 - *failure to appropriately authenticate a student's work;*
 - *over direction of students in preparation for common assessments;*

- o allegations that centres submit grades not supported by evidence that they know to be inaccurate;*
 - o centres enter students who were not originally intending to certificate a grade in the Summer 2022 series;*
 - o failure to engage as requested with awarding organisations during the External Quality Assurance and appeal stages; and*
 - o failure to keep appropriate records of decisions made and teacher assessed grades.*
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- The consequences of malpractice or maladministration as published in the JCQ guidance: [JCQ Suspected Malpractice: Policies and Procedures](#) and including the risk of a delay to students receiving their grades, up to, and including, removal of centre status have been outlined to all relevant staff.*

Conflicts of Interest

This section of our Centre Policy outlines the measures in place to address potential conflicts of interest, in the event of exam cancellation in 2022.

C. Conflicts of Interest

This section details our approach to addressing conflicts of interest, and how we will respond to such allegations.

- To protect the integrity of assessments, all staff involved in the determination of grades must declare any conflict of interest such as relationships with students to our Head of Centre for further consideration.*
- Our Head of Centre will take appropriate action to manage any conflicts of interest arising with centre staff in accordance with the JCQ documents - [General Regulations for Approved Centres, 1 September 2022 to 31 August 2022](#).*
- We will also carefully consider the need if to separate duties and personnel to ensure fairness in later process reviews and appeals.*

Private candidates

This section of our Centre Policy outlines our approach to working with Private Candidates to arrive at appropriate grades, in the event of exam cancellation in 2022.

A. Private Candidates

This section details our approach to providing and quality assuring grades to Private Candidates.

- *Our arrangements for assessing Private Candidates to arrive at appropriate grades are identical to the approaches utilised for internal candidates.*
- *In undertaking the review of cohort grades in conjunction with our centre results profiles from previous examined years, the grades determined by our centre for Private Candidates have been excluded from our analysis.*

External Quality Assurance

This section of our Centre Policy outlines the arrangements in place to comply with awarding organisation arrangements for External Quality Assurance of teacher assessed grades in a timely and effective way, in the event of exam cancellation in 2022.

A. External Quality Assurance

This section outlines the arrangements we have in place to ensure the relevant documentation and assessment evidence can be provided in a timely manner for the purposes of External Quality Assurance sampling, and that staff can be made available to respond to enquiries.

- *All staff involved have been made aware of the awarding organisation requirements for External Quality Assurance as set out in the **JCQ Guidance**.*
- *All necessary records of decision-making in relation to determining grades have been properly kept and can be made available for review as required.*
- *All student evidence on which decisions regarding the determination of grades has been retained and can be made available for review as required.*
- *Instances where student evidence used to decide teacher assessed grades is not available, for example where the material has previously been returned to students and cannot now be retrieved, will be clearly recorded on the appropriate documentation.*
- *All staff involved have been briefed on the possibility of interaction with awarding organisations during the different stages of the External Quality Assurance process and can respond promptly and fully to enquiries, including attendance at Virtual Visits should this prove necessary.*

- *Arrangements are in place to respond fully and promptly to any additional requirements/reviews that may be identified as a result of the External Quality Assurance process.*
- *Staff have been made aware that a failure to respond fully and effectively to such additional requirements may result in further action by the awarding organisations, including the withholding of results.*

Results

This section of our Centre Policy outlines our approach to the receipt and issue of results to students and the provision of necessary advice and guidance, in the event of exam cancellation in 2022.

A. Results

This section details our approach to the issue of results to students and the provision of advice and guidance.

- *All staff involved have been made aware of the specific arrangements for the issue of results in Summer 2022, including the issuing of A/AS and GCSE results in the same week.*
- *Arrangements will be made to ensure the necessary staffing, including exams office and support staff, to enable the efficient receipt and release of results to our students.*
- *Arrangements will be in place for the provision of all necessary advice, guidance and support, including pastoral support, to students on receipt of their results.*
- *Such guidance will include advice on the appeals process in place in 2022 (see below).*
- *Appropriate staff will be available to respond promptly to any requests for information from awarding organisations, for example regarding missing or incomplete results, to enable such issues to be swiftly resolved.*
- *Parents/guardians have been made aware of arrangements for results days.*

Appeals

This section of our Centre Policy outlines our approach to Appeals, to ensure that they are handled swiftly and effectively, and in line with JCQ requirements, in the event of exam cancellation in 2022.

A. Appeals

This section details our approach to managing appeals, including Centre Reviews, and subsequent appeals to awarding organisations.

- *All staff involved have been made aware of the arrangements for, and the requirements of, appeals in Summer 2022, as set out in the **JCQ Guidance**.*
- *Internal arrangements will be in place for the swift and effective handling of Centre Reviews in compliance with the requirements.*
- *All necessary staff have been briefed on the process for, and timing of, such reviews, and will be available to ensure their prompt and efficient handling.*
- *Leaners have been appropriately guided as to the necessary stages of appeal, which will be made clear via the website and through staff on results days.*
- *Arrangements will be in place for the timely submission of appeals to awarding organisations, including any priority appeals, for example those on which university places depend.*
- *Arrangements will be in place to obtain the written consent of students to the initiation of appeals, and to record their awareness that grades may go down as well as up on appeal.*
- *Appropriate information on the appeals process will be provided to parents/carers.*