

4th June 2020

Dear Students, Parents and Employers,

Since the closure of School and College buildings in March the government and the awarding bodies have been working out how different qualifications can be assessed, given the restrictions of the lockdown. For GCSE and A Levels these decisions were made quite quickly but the process for agreeing how to assess vocational and technical qualifications has taken much longer. This is because there are a wide variety of these qualifications and many are assessed in very specific ways.

This letter explains the exceptional arrangements for the assessment of vocational and technical qualifications which awarding bodies have published this week and informs students of the assessment approach agreed for the qualification they have been studying.

Ofqual, the Government's regulator of qualifications carried out detailed consultation with providers and awarding bodies to review and adjust the ways in which qualifications are assessed for those due to complete qualifications between 20th March 2020 and 31st July 2020. They had to take into account the purpose of the qualifications and the risks associated with those using qualifications to enter employment areas that require high levels of technical competence.

Ofqual and the awarding bodies have now agreed on the following approaches to be used for different types of assessment:

1. **Calculated** outcomes – the grades for some assessments will be calculated based on results which were already achieved before the 20th March and teacher estimates, using evidence drawn from a range of course work and assignments, for assessments which were due to be completed between 20th March and 31st July.
2. **Adapted** Assessment – for some assessments, adjustments will be made to how work is assessed. For example, using simulation software instead of using workshop tools; or completing an assignment in place of an exam; or completing less exams where those taken cover a broad range of knowledge or competence elements; or reducing the number of hours for work placements.
3. **Delayed** outcomes – for some assessments, where Ofqual and the awarding body are unable to find a suitable assessment method, the assessments will be postponed until it is safe to complete them.
4. **No change** – for some assessments, where a qualification can be completed using remote teaching, learning and assessment methods, the assessments will not be changed.



College staff are continuing to internally verify and moderate both calculated and adapted internal assessments before they are submitted to awarding bodies, ensuring that assessment approaches are carried out fairly and accurately. Awarding bodies will use a range of statistics to further moderate, standardise and adjust assessment outcomes and will determine final grades or overall pass/fail outcomes.

Staff will be unable provide students with summative grades for work achieved since 20th March, they will however, continue to give formative feedback to recognise strengths in assessed work and identify where improvements could be made.

If you would like further information, Ofqual have provided a tool where you can see the revised approach to assessment by qualification title:

https://analytics.ofqual.gov.uk/apps/AllQualifications/summer2020tool_Link1/

It is, of course, vitally important that students continue to attend online lessons and complete assignments and coursework as usual. Where adapted assessments are required or where outcomes are delayed the course leader will contact students to confirm arrangements when they are finalised.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J Heggs', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Jackie Heggs
Teaching and Quality Manager.