

INFORMATION FOR STUDENTS AND PARENTS ABOUT APPEALS.

How were the grades arrived at this year?

Grades this summer are based on Teacher Assessed Grades (TAGs). TAGs have been submitted to the exam boards by us as a holistic assessment of students' performance in a subject, following a rigorous process of assessment, moderation and quality assurance. These grades were then approved by the relevant exam board, following external quality assurance checks.

What do we do if we are not happy with a grade?

All students have the opportunity to appeal their grade if they meet the eligibility criteria (see below). **It is important to note that an appeal may result in a grade being lowered, staying the same, or going up.** If a student puts in an appeal and their grade is lowered, they will receive the **lower grade**.

It should also be noted that there is also the option to resit GCSEs, A levels and some AS levels in the autumn, which may be preferable to some students. The design, content and assessment of these papers will be the same as in a normal year.

What are the grounds for appeal – eligibility criteria

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

- You think we have made an **administrative error**: an example of this would be putting the wrong information into a spreadsheet.
- You think we have made a **procedural error**: this means we have not properly followed our own Centre Policy (which has been approved by JCQ). An example of this would be where you have been told you should have received extra time for assessments but this was not given in a certain subject.
- 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 will be the outcome of an appeal?

At either stage of the appeal process (see 'What are the two stages of an appeal?' below), a student's grade may go up, stay the stay, or **go down**. When placing an appeal the student will have to sign a declaration saying that they accept the fact **their grade may go down** and they may get a lower grade than their original TAG.

What is a priority appeal?

Priority appeals will be handled more quickly than other appeals, where possible before UCAS's advisory deadline of 8 September.

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.**

If you decide not to confirm a conditional offer and to go through clearing instead, JCQ cannot offer you a priority appeal. JCQ cannot offer priority appeals for GCSE students either.

When making a priority appeal, students will have to include their UCAS number so it can be confirmed that it is a genuine priority appeal.

What should be done if grades are not good enough for first choice of university places?

First, don't panic. Speak to Mr Bremner about your options. You may wish to go through clearing before making an appeal. The outcome of an appeal is likely to be known **AFTER** all of the clearing places have been allocated. You could also sit the autumn/summer exams to try to improve your grade. If you are going to appeal your grade, you must let your university know you are appealing. They will then let you know whether they will hold a place for you pending the outcome of an appeal (note that universities are **NOT** obliged to hold a place for you and that this is at their discretion). You must realise that an appeal could leave you with the same grade and no university place.

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. As a school, we 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 we have already moderated and quality assured all the grades ourselves.

What are the two stages of an appeal?

All appeals, on any of the grounds above, must first go through a **centre review** (first stage of an appeal). At this stage, we will check for any administrative errors, and check that our policies and procedures were followed correctly. Our policy has already been approved by the exam boards, so we are only ensuring that we followed this properly. The outcome of the centre review will be communicated to students when made. At the centre review stage, if we find that a grade should go up or down, we will ask the exam board to change it. They will then consider this request. Following the outcome of a centre review, students may still choose to pursue an **awarding organisation appeal** (second stage of an appeal). Students and parents cannot send appeals directly to the exam board themselves – it must come from us as a centre.

How do I make a priority appeal and what are the deadlines?

Following results days, if students wish to appeal they need to complete the first section (stage one) of the JCQ form (see end document – actual form downloadable from our website for completion <https://swakeleys.hillingdon.sch.uk/about-us/examination-results/>). It must be emailed to examappeals2021@swakeleys.org.uk which will be administered by Miss Caldwell our Examinations Officer. Only the official form, completed **in full** will be accepted.

Our internal deadline for students to request a priority appeal is **11 am on Friday 13 August** (students cannot appeal before results day on 10 August).

We will attempt to complete the centre review by Tuesday 17 August* and return the outcome via email to students. If students then wish to progress their appeal to stage 2, an awarding organisation appeal, they must then complete the stage 2 appeal form which will be emailed to students. This must then be emailed back to examappeals2021@swakeleys.org.uk by **11 am Thursday 19 August**. This allows these appeals to be administered by school and sent to the awarding organisation by the JCQ deadline of 23 August.

**At both stages of the appeals process, there may be the need for specialist, expert knowledge (e.g. subject teachers, SEND knowledge). This may not be possible in August. In such cases, we may have to wait until the start of term, but priority appeals will still be treated as a priority.*

What are the deadlines for non-priority appeals?

Non-priority appeals are any A levels, GCSEs or vocational qualifications, where a firm or insurance university place is not pending. The deadline for submitting a centre review is 3 September; and the deadline for submitting an awarding organisation appeal is 10 September. Appeals received after these dates may still be considered.

You know student grades - why can't you tell us? What if you know we have not met university conditional offers?

We are forbidden from disclosing the Teacher Assessed Grades to any third party, including students and parents, until results days. Any teacher or member of staff who does this is committing exam malpractice. Although students may have been given marks or grades on single pieces of evidence, we cannot disclose the final submitted TAG.

During the external quality assurance process taking place in June or July, our submitted TAGs may be moved up or down (although this will always be done through human agency, not by an algorithm).

We only know what a student's conditional offer is if they have chosen to share that information with us. It has not formed part of our objective grading of students. Where we do know this information, we must not let students know their submitted TAGs, even if they have not met the conditions of their offer.



Swakeleys School for Girls Clifton Gardens, Hillingdon, UB10 0EJ Tel: 01895 251962 Fax: 01895 235027

Email: office@swakeleys.org.uk Web: www.swakeleys.hillingdon.sch.uk Company No: 7570315 VAT No: 122265252

Appendix B - Optional Student Request Form for Centre Reviews and Appeals to Awarding Organisations



Important information for students

What may happen to your grade during the centre review and appeals process?

If you request a centre review or an awarding organisation appeal there are three possible outcomes:

- Your original grade is **lowered**, so your final grade will be lower than the original grade you received.
- Your original grade is **confirmed**, so there is no change to your grade.
- Your original grade is **raised**, so your final grade will be higher than the original grade you received.

Once a finding has been made you cannot withdraw your request for a centre review or appeal. If your grade has been lowered you will not be able to revert back to the original grade you received on results day.

What will be checked during a centre review?

You can ask the centre to check whether it made a **procedural error**, an **administrative error**, or both. A procedural error means a failure to follow the process set out in the centre policy. An administrative error means an error in recording your grade or submitting your grade to the awarding organisation.

You must request a centre review before you can request an awarding organisation appeal. This is so the awarding organisation is certain that your grade is as the centre intended.

What will be checked during an awarding organisation appeal?

You can ask the awarding organisation to check whether the centre made a **procedural** or **administrative error** - or whether the awarding organisation itself made an **administrative error**. You can also ask the awarding organisation to check whether the **academic judgement** of the centre was unreasonable, either in the selection of evidence or the determination of your grade.

When do I need to submit my request?

You should submit a request for a centre review by **16 August 2021 for a priority appeal**, or by **3 September 2021 for non-priority appeals**.

Once you have received the outcome of your centre review, if you wish to request an awarding organisation appeal you should do so as soon as possible. Your school or college will submit this on your behalf. Requests for a priority appeal should be submitted by **23 August 2021** and requests for non-priority appeals should be submitted by **17 September 2021**. Priority appeals that aren't submitted to the awarding organisation by 23 August 2021 will still be treated as a priority but they may not be completed in time for those with a higher education place dependent on the outcome of the appeal.

What is a priority appeal?

A priority appeal is only for students applying to higher education who did not attain their firm choice (i.e. the offer they accepted as their first choice) and wish to appeal an A level or other Level 3 qualification result. You should inform your intended higher education provider that you have requested a centre review or appeal.

What is your UCAS personal ID and why is it needed?

Your UCAS personal ID is the 10 digit code included in all correspondence from UCAS. This is needed to confirm that a student's place is dependent on the outcome of the appeal.

Stage one – centre review

A. Student request

This section is to be completed by the student. A request for a centre review must be submitted to the centre, not the awarding organisation. A centre review must be conducted before an appeal to the awarding organisation. This is so the awarding organisation is certain that your grade is as the centre intended.

Centre Name	<input type="text"/>	Centre Number	<input type="text"/>
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Student Name	<input type="text"/>	Candidate Number	<input type="text"/>
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Qualification title e.g. AQA GCSE English Language	<input type="text"/>		
Teacher Assessed Grade issued	<input type="text"/>		
Is this a priority appeal? <small>A priority appeal is only for students applying to higher education who did not attain their firm choice and wish to appeal an A level or other Level 3 qualification result.</small>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	If Yes provide your UCAS personal ID e.g. 123-456 789	<input type="text"/>

Grounds for centre review

Please tick one or both of the options if they apply to your request. If you don't think either apply, your centre will still conduct a review for administrative and procedural errors so the awarding organisation can be certain that your grade is as the centre intended.

Administrative Error by the centre e.g. the wrong grade/mark was recorded against an item of evidence	<input type="checkbox"/>	Procedural Error by the centre e.g. a reasonable adjustment / access arrangement was not provided for an eligible student	<input type="checkbox"/>
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Supporting evidence

Please provide a short explanation of what you believe went wrong and how you think this has impacted your grade. There is a 5,000 character limit.

<input type="text"/>

Acknowledgement

I confirm that I am requesting a centre review for the qualification named above and that I have read and understood the information provided in the 'Important information for students' section above. In submitting this review, I am aware that:

- The outcome of the review may result in my grade remaining the **same**, being **lowered** or **raised**
- The next stage (Stage Two, the appeal to awarding organisation) may only be requested once the centre review (Stage One) has been requested and concluded.

Student Name	Student signature	Date
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

2 (b) Issues with access arrangements / reasonable adjustments and/or mitigating circumstances

You **must** provide a clear explanation of what you believe went wrong and how you think this has impacted on your grade. There is a 5,000 character limit.

3 (a) Selection of evidence

You **must** provide a clear explanation of what you believe went wrong and how you think this has impacted on your grade. There is a 5,000 character limit.

3 (b) Determination of the Teacher Assessed Grade

You can provide a short explanation of the reason for your appeal if you want to. There is a 5,000 character limit.

Acknowledgement

I confirm that I am requesting an appeal for the qualification named above and that I have read and understood the information provided in the 'Important information for students' section above.

I am aware that:

- The outcome of the appeal may result in my grade remaining the same, being lowered or raised
- I understand that there is no further opportunity to appeal to the awarding organisation and that the next stage would be to contact the regulator. The awarding organisation will include the next appropriate steps, where applicable, in their appeal outcome letter which you will receive from your school/college.

Student name

Student signature

Date