

Henry Cort Centre Assessed Grades (CAGs) Policy amendment Summer 2020

“[CAGs represent] the most likely grade a student would have achieved if they had sat their exams this summer and completed any non-exam assessment. It is important that professional judgements, about individual students’ position in the centre’s rank order, and the centre assessment grades, are as objective, and candid, as possible. Educational staff are prohibited from revealing this information other than in the context of a formal request under data protection law, following the release of results. Exam boards will treat any disclosure by any member of a centre’s staff of centre assessment grades, rank order information, or the professional judgements which underpin them, to anyone not authorised by the Head of Centre [Ms Cabbage], as malpractice or maladministration.” And this will result in disciplinary action. Ofqual April 2020 ^{1,2}

Stage 1 (May 18th)

Teacher Assessed Grades.

- Year 10 and 11 lead teachers use the TAG 2020 SIMs mark sheets to enter a Teacher Assessed Grade (TAG) for every student. It represents their view of the most likely overall whole grade a student would have achieved had they sat their exams this summer.
- This includes U grades, pass/merit/distinctions, science combined awards, and should be within the grade range for the tier students were formally entered for.
- Whilst TAGs are informed by a holistic view of the whole student, staff should predominantly base their decision on factual evidence including:
 - PPE RAW marks & grade.
 - NEAs and for technical subjects their components (including those that have already been externally marked or not).
 - Indicative grade*.
 - Snapshot from Autumn Data Drop (including attendance ATU/QoCW).
 - Students conduct up until March 20th (& quintile rank).
 - Grade descriptors from exam boards.
- Any further pertinent information about any student that a teacher uses to inform their judgement must be recorded in the TAG commentary box (1,000 character limit) **.
- Finally, to aid stage 2 each teacher must then rank each student in their class for each grade (1 = highest) in the TAG rank 2020 column.
- Marksheet will be locked by the deadline and cannot be updated thereafter.



Stage 2 (May 25th)

Subject Rank

- D/HoFs review TAGs and request further justification from teaching staff if needed. Every class should have a deep dive review completed for at least one randomly selected student.
- Please note HOFs own classes must be reviewed by their Deputy, as each TAG requires two staff to sign them off.
- For subjects with multiple classes D/HoFs to use the Rank Order 2020 marksheet to order all students in each grade (and across tiers). This can be delegated to staff if they are the subject lead.
- Rank order should also be based on quantitative data and/or a robust evidence trail.
- Ranks, including U Grades, should be double checked by ordering them once complete***
- D/HoFs should avoid ranking students through committee, they are to be completed by a single lead individual. Ranks will be confidential.
- Up until and including this stage staff should not take into account any student’s ‘background’ characteristics, such as prior performance/MEGS, PP, SEND status, gender etc.
- Marksheet will be locked by the deadline and cannot be updated thereafter.



Stage 3 (May 28th)

External Moderation (using FFT)

- Please note that the final ‘calculated grades’ will take the CAGs and standardise them by statistically shifting grades based on students’ backgrounds, their prior performance, and the prior performance of the college. This means national results will still have, for example, a PP gap and a gender divide comparable to previous years. So the overall proportion of students getting any particular grade will be not be significantly different.
- In light of this the College will moderate TAGs before final submission using FFT to:
 - Identify differences in KS2 prior attainment for individual subjects.
 - Compare GCSE subject attainment patterns between 2020 and 2019.
 - Compare teacher assessed grades to FFT’s predicted performance based on the Colleges own pupils’ subject progress over the last 3 years.
 - Gain an early indication of 2020 value added progress based on 2019 FFT estimates. **Please note the college will not use this progress data to inform any performance management judgment**



Stage 4 (June 1st)

Final Approval

- SLT will review the report from FFT & may request further supporting evidence from teachers and middle leaders to justify their judgements.
- Tweaks may be made to TAGs and rankings. This will be confidential.
- Once approved by the Head of Centre (CDC) the TAGs become Centre Assessed Grades (CAGs).
- CAGs and rankings will be submitted to exam boards.
- It is possible exam boards will request further supporting evidence prior to the results day (August 20th).
- As always, the the Head of Centre and exams officer will review and process results a day earlier. It may be necessary at this stage to flag students and or subjects we wish to appeal or support in advance of students collecting their results.
- It is hoped the college will be able to hand out results in the normal way in person. All staff are welcome and encouraged in on this day.

Guidance

*Every student will have an indicative grade calculated for them based on prior PPE performance in that subject using last years results, when available. Please note some students do not have indicative grades if no one last year achieved similar scores for their PPEs (for example level 9’s, or when it is a new qualification). The precision with which the indicative score is calculated is determined by how big last year’s sample size was, (so the smaller the subjects the less reliable). Indicative grades will be accurate for most students, but it is likely there will be anomalies. It is expected there will be students who deserve TAGs below or above their indicative score. These students will, therefore, require careful justification using supporting evidence. To help staff identify students significantly (1.5 grades) outside of their indicative score there is an alert box on every mark sheet.

**The TAG commentary box is for qualitative information teachers think is relevant and is in addition to any PPE comments already recorded. So, for example a teacher might write, “*student A had made substantial improvement in their classwork and attitude to learning in February and March 2020. They acknowledged they hadn’t tried in their PPEs but they had started to attend revision sessions and were knuckling down in lessons, as shown in their book work*”.

*** Information on a SIMs mark sheet can be ordered by right clicking the column heading and selecting “Order Rows” → “Ascending”.

References

1. https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/879627/Exceptional_arrangements_for_exam_grading_and_assessment_in_2020.pdf
2. https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/878848/Summer_2020_grades_for_GCSE_AS_A_level_EPQ_AEA_in_maths_-_guidance_for_heads_of_centres.pdf
3. https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/879024/Letter_from_Secretary_of_State_for_Education_to_Sally_Collier_-_VTQs_-_9_April_2020.pdf
4. https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/879605/Equality_impact_assessment_literature_review_15_April_2020.pdf