

Archived: Previous reports on the matter of Awarding grades in 2021

In January 2021 Ofqual published the following in response to the Secretary of State's address to the House of Commons:

*We are working with the Department and will begin to consult widely next week on possible arrangements for GCSEs, A levels and vocational and technical qualifications. We are mindful of the Secretary of State's preference for teacher assessment to play its part. We are not starting from scratch: we have been considering different scenarios for some time and we have, of course, learned lessons from last summer. We will work towards the best approach for students so that they can progress on to the next stage in their lives. It's important that students continue to engage with education so they are best placed to progress. We are aware of teacher workload and how teacher assessment of students will have an impact on that. And of course we are mindful of the needs of private or independent candidates and the diversity of the qualifications landscape.*

You can read the full response from Simon Lebus, Chief Regulator for Exams 2021 here <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/a-message-from-simon-lebus-chief-regulator-on-exams-in-2021>

#### **From OFQUAL**

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#### **Some extracts from the Secretary of State's announcement on 6 January:**

We have set out clear, legally binding requirements for schools to provide high-quality remote education. This is mandatory for ALL state-funded schools and will be enforced by Ofsted. We expect schools to provide between three and five teaching hours a day, depending on a child's age...

Ofsted will inspect schools – of any grade – where it has serious concerns about the quality of remote education being provided...

We have also been significantly stepping up the digital support we are providing to schools and parents. The fantastic Oak National Academy continues to provide video lessons for all ages across all subjects and yesterday the BBC announced it will be delivering the biggest push on education in its history, bringing 14 weeks of educational programmes and lessons to every household in the country...

Although exams are the fairest way we have of assessing what a student knows, the impact of this pandemic now means that it is not possible to have these exams this year. I can confirm that GCSEs and A and AS Level exams will not go ahead this summer. This year we are going to put our trust in teachers rather than algorithms...

... I can confirm now that I wish to use a form of teacher-assessed grades, with training and support provided to ensure these are awarded fairly and consistently.

**Full report :** <https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/education-secretary-statement-to-parliament-on-national-lockdown>