

SQA Update (February 2022)

The current plan is that the SQA Exam Diet will go ahead, “if safe to do so”.

SQA have made modifications to subject assessments in place since start of session – eg reduction in course content, or removal of some coursework assessments.

Plan 2 activated on 1 Feb – SQA to provide “exam revision support” for subjects with an exam. Support available week beginning 7 Mar. May include advice re particular topics to be assessed (or not assessed) – different approaches for different subjects.

SQA and Estimates

As per last session, estimated grades must be based on *demonstrated attainment*. Schools will share these estimates with learners, parents and carers (date TBC).

The evidence for estimates will be submitted to SQA for Exam Exceptional Circumstances and Appeals.

SQA will use estimates to help to prioritise learners' scripts for re-consideration during the finalisation stage of awarding procedures.

SQA will use estimates to check that awarding outcomes are as fair as possible to learners.

In the unlikely event that exams do not go ahead, results will be based on estimates. There will be no alternative assessments within schools during the final term.

SQA and Appeals

Free direct access for learners.

Usual priority service (eg for university conditionals)

SQA appointees will review assessment evidence that learners have completed through the year. (the same as for an exam exceptional circumstances request), which will be judged against the same national standard for that course. SQA will also conduct a clerical check on the exam script.

Only evidence used to inform estimates can be used (i.e. no additional evidence beyond estimate date).

Further guidance will be provided in due course.

SQA and Grading

In line with other UK awarding bodies, SQA have announced:

“We are prepared to be more generous in our approach to grading than in a normal exam year to factor in the impact of the pandemic on learners. In line with the approach being taken across the rest of the UK, we therefore expect that the overall outcomes in 2022 will represent an intermediary position between 2021 and pre-pandemic years.”