

Parent Council



Setting the Highest Standards

Results Services Update

Supporting your child through SQA
Exams

Monday 1st February

Results Services



Setting the Highest Standards

- **Current Results Services replaced previous system in session 2013-14**
- **No longer any appeals in response to candidate underperforming in relation to expectations**
- **Increased focus on how the candidate actually performs on the day of the exam**
- **Increased levels of front-loaded Quality Assurance in marking (e-marking, planted scripts etc)**

Results Services



Setting the Highest Standards

- Two services offered under new system:
- Pre-certification: Exceptional Circumstances
- Post-certification: Post Results Services - Clerical Check or Marking Review

Exceptional Circumstances



Setting the Highest Standards

- This service supports candidates who could not sit an exam or who did sit an exam but their performance suffered because of exceptional circumstances. Exceptional circumstances include bereavement and serious illness. Minor ailments will not be considered exceptional circumstances.
- Evidence is submitted by the school within ten working days of the external exam
- Supporting documentation must be held by the centre

Exceptional Circumstances



Setting the Highest Standards

- SQA advise to sit the exam wherever possible
- Process – exam paper (if sat) marked as normal
- If performance is significantly different to estimate chief examiner and team look at marking of script and supporting evidence.
- Looking at all evidence they make a judgement as to how the candidate would have performed without this circumstance.
- Candidates who are involved in an exceptional circumstances consideration for a subject are not eligible for post-results services.

Exceptional Circumstances



Setting the Highest Standards

- Some examples of valid reasons:
- Bereavement, Medical condition, Domestic circumstance, Exceptional absence
- The exceptional circumstance fundamentally affected attendance or performance
- The centre has obtained, holds and can provide to SQA, on request, the written consent of the candidate to submit the request and the accompanying personal data to SQA.

Quality Assurance in SQA marking



Setting the Highest Standards

- SQA aiming to have all marking done electronically this session.
- Many levels of quality control before during and after marking
- Strict tolerances and 'planted scripts'
- Sampling of marking done within tolerance by team leaders
- Markers can be put on hold until back in tolerance
- Whole batches can be remarked by team leaders

Grade Boundaries



Setting the Highest Standards

- Markers are utilised to mark papers and assign a mark to each section or paper
- Grade boundaries are not known to the markers
- Grade boundaries are set once all papers are marked for all candidates
- Candidates who are within 1, 2 or even 3 marks of the next grade – papers are checked to see if any more marks can be found for that candidate

Results Services



Setting the Highest Standards

- Clerical Check - Check adding up of marks (not available in e-marked scripts)
- Marker Review - A review by a Senior Examiner of the marks that the candidate was given for each question and/ or component in the exam paper, to check whether the original marking was in line with national standard.
- The check/ review can lead to a change of grade **either up or down.**

Results Services



Setting the Highest Standards

- The centre will submit a request if it holds **clear and compelling evidence** that there is reasonable possibility that an error may have occurred with the marking or the totalling in a candidate's script.
- That is, the candidate's grade is markedly at odds with the **totality of assessment** evidence gathered during the year and out of line with the performance of other candidates with similar profiles.

Results Services



Setting the Highest Standards

- It is not sufficient for a candidate's final award to be below the level anticipated by any estimate submitted to SQA or that achieved in a mock exam. The expectation is that there is compelling evidence from all aspects of assessment **for the entire course**: class tests, unit tests, course work and any mock exam.
- Performance in the mock/prelim exam is not the sole source of evidence for estimates and cannot be the sole source of evidence for an exceptional circumstances case or a post-results service submission as parts of the course have not been covered at that point.

Results Services



Setting the Highest Standards

- In particular, a clerical check and/ or marking review will not be requested where:
- The candidate has not passed one or more of the component units of the course
- The candidate's final grade is in line with the estimate previously submitted to SQA by the centre
- The final award is within the same grade as that predicted by the assessment evidence predicted by the assessment evidence held by the centre
- The candidate's performance has shown inconsistencies during the year such that the final award falls within the range of performance evidenced
- A disparity between estimates submitted by the centre and actual candidate achievement for a class group indicates that the centre were unrealistic in determining estimates to meet national standards determined by SQA.

Results Services



Setting the Highest Standards

- In general terms, the centre will submit a request when the assessment evidence is consistent and points to an award at least two bands above the final award.
- The centre will submit a request only on the basis of assessment evidence. It cannot do so on compassionate grounds or, for example, because of entry to Higher Education is conditional upon a particular award. Neither can the centre agree to submit a request because the candidate or others have offered to pay any charges arising.
- Decisions about eligibility for the Post-results Service will be taken by the Head of Centre (or a nominated senior manager) based on advice by the relevant Head of Department and in conjunction with our SQA coordinator.

Supporting your child through SQA Exams



Setting the Highest Standards

- **Ongoing Assessment all year**
- **Knowledge of course and assessment**
- **Preparation for the final exams**

Environment



Setting the Highest Standards

- Physical environment
- Learning style
- Study-buddy eg languages
- Study Timetable – quality vs quantity
- Focus on areas for development

Resources



Setting the Highest Standards

- Nationals in a Nutshell

- Revision in a Nutshell

- Scholar

Subjects

- BBC

Nearer to Exam Time



Setting the Highest Standards

- Check times
- Logistics
- Contact the school if you have any concerns about your child and the SQA exams