



Executive Headteacher: Mrs J Bowers-Broadbent, BA HONS , PGCE
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GCSE GRADING 2021

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Will my grades be based on old PPE (mock) exam results?

We have considered as much evidence as possible which includes performance in PPE's. This means student grades have been based primarily on assessments and other evidence as outlined in the subject evidence sheets. However, in some circumstances we have used evidence from earlier on in the year or course. This might be because a student was absent for an assessment, or because earlier evidence is a fairer demonstration of their ability. Where we have been made aware of exceptional circumstances that a student may have experienced since the beginning of their course in Year 9, we have taken this in to account when awarding GCSE grades.

Will my grades be based on exams only?

No – these are not 'exams replaced with exams'. Each subject has pulled together evidence in the way that is best for that subject. If a subject usually has coursework, this has been included in the evidence. If a subject is usually only assessed by exam, evidence may also include in-class topic tests or substantial pieces of classwork, assessments and work completed during any periods of remote learning, as well as written assessments. The best way to think of it, is some assessments with the 'safety net' of supporting evidence, where needed.

Will my coursework (NEA) count towards my final grade?

Yes. If one of the subjects you study has coursework (Non-Exam Assessment), then this will count towards your final grade. If your NEA isn't finished your teacher will still use it as evidence towards your grade and will mark the work you have completed. You will not be penalised and receive a lower grade if your NEA isn't finished.

What other 'evidence' might my teachers take into account?

Teachers may include topic tests, classwork (individual work only), coursework, exam questions, multiple choice tests, portfolio work and anything else that is appropriate for that subject. Your teachers will tell you which type of evidence they will be using for their subject. In most cases the majority of your final submitted grade will be determined by assessments taken in assessment weeks held in May.



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Will I be disadvantaged if I haven't been able to work easily during lockdown?

It is important that you tell us if you think you have been disproportionately affected (affected much more than others) by the Covid pandemic. Although we cannot apply for 'special consideration' for any student this year (this is only allowed under the usual exam and grading arrangements), we have made sure that through our moderation process we have spoken with teachers and Heads of Departments to consider the 'mitigating circumstances' under which you were studying and how you may not have been able to learn content in the same way as other students.

If I am not happy with my grade can I appeal?

Yes, there are 3 grounds for appeal this academic year.

1. The centres made an administrative error
2. The centre made a procedural error in calculating the final grade
3. There was an unreasonable exercise of academic judgement (appeal will be submitted to the exam board)

What is the process for submitting an appeal?

If you would like to appeal your grade, you will need to complete and submit the [appeals form](#) and return it to exams@buxtonschool.org.uk by Wednesday 25th August 2021. Once we have received your request, we will conduct an internal investigation based on the grounds of your appeal. Once we have conducted the investigation, we will share the outcomes with you. If there is a ground for appeal, the appeal will be submitted to the relevant awarding body.