



Ofqual keynote: Supporting the successful delivery of exams and assessments

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Roles and responsibilities in qualifications



Department
for Education



Schools and
colleges

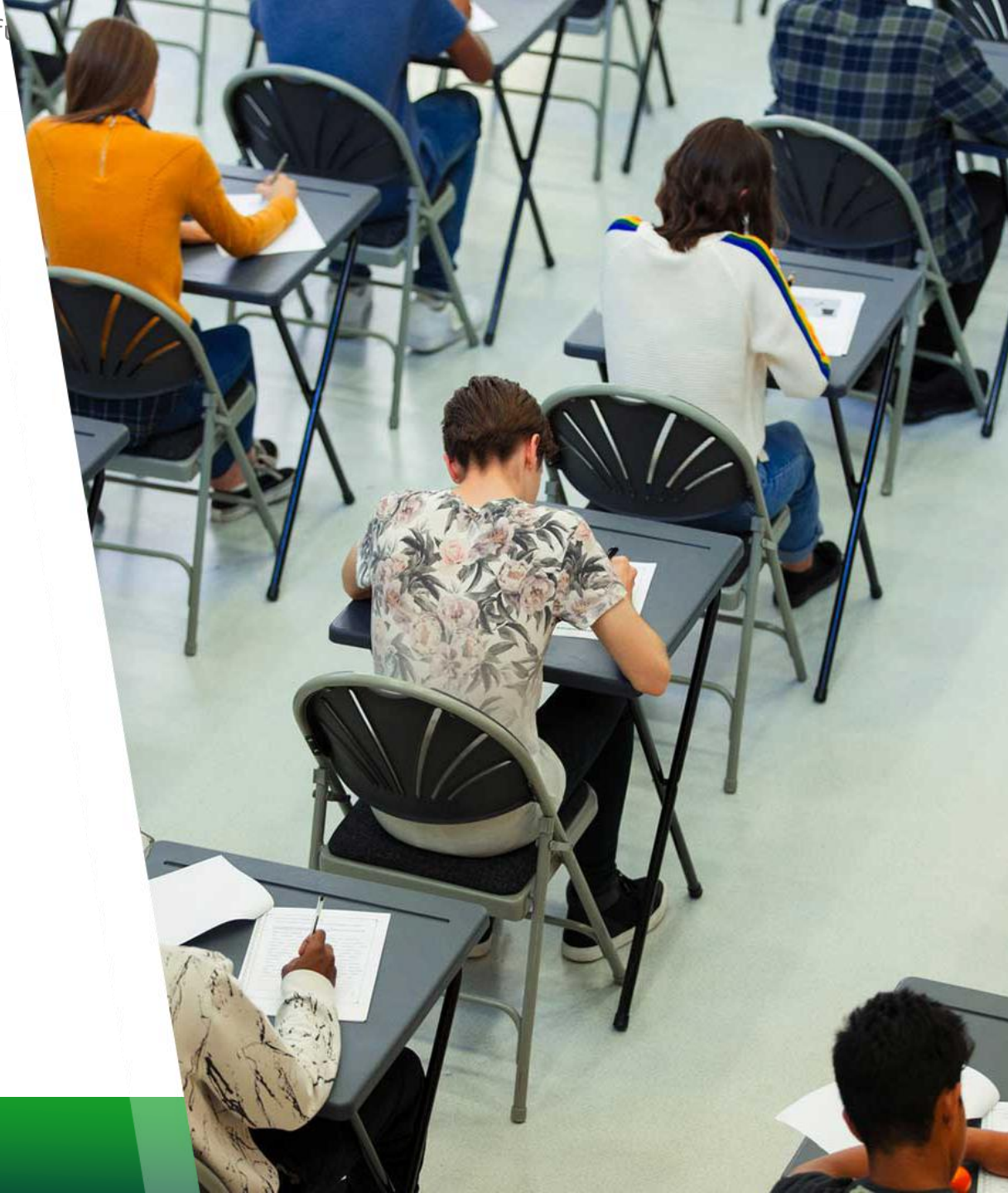


Skills England

Awarding
organisations

Exams Officers' role

- The role of the Exams Officer is critical to the safe delivery of exams and assessments.
- **Thank you!**
- Looking ahead to 2025-2026.



Delivery of exams and assessments, and results

Marking and grading: GCSE, AS and A level

Assessment



Marking



Grading

VTQs follow the same or a similar approach, with grading tailored appropriately to the qualification.



Results days

AUGUST 2025						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

Thursday 14 August
Level 3 results day

Thursday 21 August
Level 2 results day

The embargo on results is 8 am – UCAS will also lift their embargo at this time

Schools and colleges will receive results the day before results day

JCQ will publish the results (across England, Wales and NI) on behalf of the exam boards

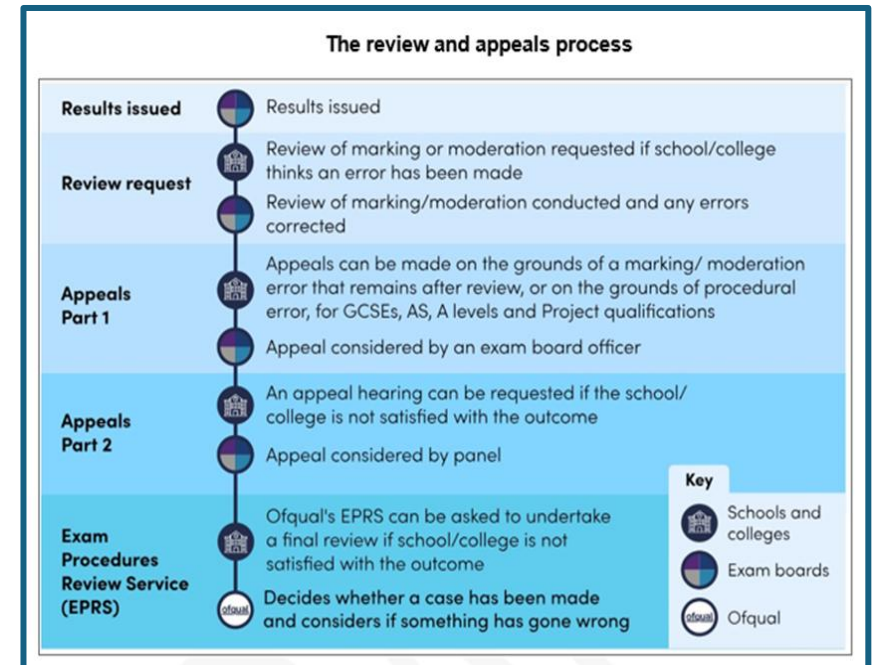
On results days Ofqual will be publishing:

- Infographics – GQ and VTQ – to highlight key figures/trends
- Interactive analytics will be refreshed, including region and centre type breakdowns
- Press release

Equalities analysis will be published in the autumn


Reviews of marking and moderation, and appeals (GCSEs, AS and A levels)

- **A school or college can, on behalf of a student:**
 - Request access to marked scripts
 - Request a review of marking or moderation – if it feels there has been an error
 - Request priority review of marking – university/HE/FE place
 - Appeal – if it feels an error remains after the review
 - Ask Ofqual's EPRS to undertake a final review



For VTQs: Awarding organisations have their own processes for reviews of marking, moderation and appeals.

Qualifications review and reform



DfE's Post-16 Qualifications Reform



Qualifications
review



New
qualifications



Curriculum
and
assessment
review

Ofqual provides advice and feedback to government on changes to qualifications as well as monitoring qualifications in delivery.

Post-16 Landscape from September 2025

Level 3

Academic

A levels

AS levels

Others

Access to HE Diploma, IB Diploma, Core maths, AEA, EPQ

Alternative Academic Qualifications (AAQs)

Applied Generals

Technical

Apprenticeships

Reformed Technical Qualifications

T Levels
(16-19 only)

Tech Levels

VTQ Information Hub

- Contains key dates and deadlines for qualifications that are taken alongside or instead of GCSEs and A levels.
- Check Awarding Organisations' websites to check when assessments are taking place to plan for any disruption to teaching time.
- The VTQ Information Hub is planned to go live in November for the 2025/26 academic year.



Digitisation

Artificial intelligence (AI)

Risks relating to non-exam assessment

AI tools must not be used to cheat

JCQ guidance: AI use in assessments: protecting the integrity of qualifications



Fairness



Validity



Security



Confidence



Innovation



On-screen assessment

Research on risks, benefits, challenges and opportunities

Must not compromise fairness, standards and public confidence of exams

Cyber security

- Schools and colleges must take cyber security seriously
- Awareness and training programmes help schools and colleges guard against cyber attacks
- Contingency arrangements
- The National Cyber Security Centre (NCSC) provides resources to help schools improve their cyber security
- JCQ has published guidance on cyber security in schools and colleges



Long-term resilience arrangements

Ofqual Guidance on collecting evidence of student performance to ensure resilience in the qualifications system

Gather evidence that aligns with normal arrangements

Awarding organisations provide guidance for specific VTQs

Long term arrangements

Sufficiently robust contingency measures should be in place in case the exams officer is absent.

Resources

Ofqual resources

- [Understanding grading: toolkit for schools and colleges](#)
- [Press release: The value of cyber security training in schools](#)
- [Resources to help support exams officers in their roles](#)
- [Ofqual guide for schools and colleges 2025](#)
- [Ofqual student guide to exams and assessments in 2025](#)
- [VTQ information hub 2024 to 2025: key dates and deadlines](#)



Other resources

DfE

- [Curriculum and Assessment Review: interim report](#)
- [Qualifications Reform Toolkit](#)

JCQ

- [AI Use in Assessments: Your role in protecting the integrity of qualifications](#)
- [Cyber Security Poster](#)
- [General Regulations for Approved Centres](#)
- [Guidance on cyber security in schools and colleges](#)



Questions?

