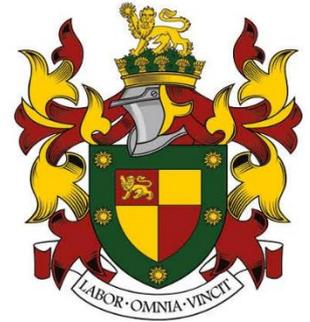


AGSB 2021 Grades: Information for Students and Parents

OFQUAL guidance about awarding GCSE and A-level grades this year, was released on 25th February 2021. A summary of this guidance including the evidence that schools should use to make their judgements, the process of quality assurance and opportunities for appeals can be found [here](#).

The purpose of this document is to provide you with details about the final part of the GCSE and A-level courses at AGBS and update you on our intentions for final assessments to inform the grading of our students.



We are awaiting further guidance from the exam boards about how to ensure that grading judgements made are fair and consistent and guidance about the requirements for quality assurance in school. Once all this information has been made available to us, we will publish our full plans for awarding grades in 2021.

Trial exams before Easter

Students in Year 11 and 13 are sitting trial exams in their subjects before Easter. For year 11, students will receive their results by 1st April and for Year 13 students will receive their results by 23rd April. Students will also receive feedback about the papers, so that they know what they could have done to improve their mark further.

Assessments to inform the 2021 Grades

We want to provide as many opportunities as possible for our students to show us what they can do, for as long as possible up until the June grade deadline. We also think that it is important that our students have an opportunity to act upon feedback from their trial exams, to improve their grades.

It is our intention therefore that students will sit some May Mini Assessments in each of their subjects after the Easter holidays and before the grade submission deadline in June. The exams will typically be between 30 minutes and one hour per subject. The May Mini Assessments are designed to be short and focused on a small part of the exam specification, to reflect the short amount of time that students have to prepare for them. Students will be provided with focused revision lists for these assessments.

As the trial exams were originally scheduled for earlier in the year, there is some content that students were not examined on in these assessments. The May Mini Assessments will be based on this content for most subjects.

The revision lists will be sent to Year 11 on Tuesday, 23rd March and Year 13 on Monday, 29th March.

Timeline

8 th March – 22 nd March	Year 11 Trial exams
23 rd March – 1 st April	Year 13 Trial exams
23 rd March	Revision lists sent to Year 11 for May Mini Assessments
29 th March	Revision lists sent to Year 13 for May Mini Assessments
2 nd April – 19 th April	Easter Holidays
26 th April -10 th May	Year 11 May Mini Assessments
6 th May – 13 th May	Year 13 May Mini Assessments
10 th - 11 th May	Year 11 Art Assessment
17 th - 18 th May	Year 13 Art Assessment
18 th June	Final submission of grades to the exam boards

Non-Examined Assessment (NEA)

- In some subjects NEA (Coursework) contributes towards students' final grade. This will continue to be the case this year. NEA is usually assessed by teachers and this will be the case in 2021 also.

Content of trial exams and May Mini Assessments

This year, we will only assess students on what they have been taught– this might not be the full course, because of the continued disruption of the pandemic. Grades will be submitted based on students' performance on the content that has been covered. This means that students will not be disadvantaged if their teachers have not had time to finish the courses. We have asked all teachers to stop teaching new content as soon as possible.

Completion of courses

The vast majority of content for the GCSE and A-level courses have been taught to our students. In those departments where not all content has been taught, AGSB will provide opportunities after the May Mini Assessments for students to be taught the remaining content. This will mean that students who have opted to study subjects at a higher level, will not be disadvantaged. For Year 13, completing the content will be voluntary, for Year 11 we will expect students to complete courses for all subjects they wish to take to A-level.

More details will be sent about this after Easter.

Awarding of 2021 Grades

Teachers are able to draw on a broad range of assessment evidence from across a student's study of the course, up until the deadline for grades in June. OFQUAL have said that different departments may use different sources of evidence, and there is no requirement for any one type of assessment to be used. Further guidance about what evidence we will use to grade students at AGSB will be made available when we publish our full plans in the coming weeks.

Discussions about 2021 Grades

We understand that students will have questions about their grades and we know that the uncertainty around grades this year is very stressful. Students can of course discuss their internal assessment results with teachers and find out what they can do to improve their performance. However, students should not attempt to second-guess the final grade submitted to the exam boards, as teachers will be using a range of evidence to inform their final judgement.

The best thing students can do is to work as hard as possible to perform well on their trial exams and their May Mini Assessments as these assessments will certainly play a role in determining their final grade.

If you have any questions about the Year 11 2021 grades please contact Mrs S Weil (sweil@agsb.co.uk) and for Year 13 please contact Mr T Murray (tmurray@agsb.co.uk).