



CANTONIAN HIGH SCHOOL

THE BEST FROM EACH, SUCCESS FOR ALL

Y GORAU O BOB UN, LLWYDDIANT I BAWB

YSGOL UWCHRADD CANTONIAN

Fairwater Road, Fairwater, Cardiff, CF5 3JR

Tel/Ffôn: 029 2041 5250

E-mail/E-bost: cantonianhigh@cardiff.gov.uk

Website/Gwefan: www.cantonian.org

Executive Headteacher: **Mrs D Gill**

Pennaeth Gweithredol:

Head of School: **Mr G Jones**

Pennaeth yr Ysgol:

March 2021

Dear Parents/Carers

Centre Determined Grades for Qualifications in 2021 for Pupils in Years 12 & 13

I wrote to you recently to outline the changes in awarding qualifications in 2021. In November 2020, the Education Minister announced that there would be no summer examination series for pupils taking GCSEs, AS levels or A levels in 2021. In January 2021, it was confirmed that these qualifications would be awarded using Centre Determined Grades. This means that individual examination centres, such as schools, will determine the actual grades awarded for each qualification.

The assessment approach is designed to outline how the school, as an examination centre, will apply the 'Guidance on Alternative Arrangements for Approved GCSEs, AS and A levels' provided by [Qualifications Wales](http://www.qualifications.wales), the examination regulator, to help determine grades in 2021.

Full details of how we are producing Centre Determined Grades can be found on the school's website <http://www.cantonian.org/qualification-2021/>

It is essential that you take the time to read this information so that you understand the process and the expectations we have of you/your child. You will also find a timeline with all the key dates that you need to be aware of.

In addition, you will find a copy of the school's Assessment Approach for Qualifications 2021 on our website which will outline the procedure for awarding and reviewing grades and any subsequent appeal process <https://usercontent.one/wp/www.cantonian.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/03/Cantonian-High-School-Assessment-Approach-for-Qualifications-in-2021.pdf>

The evidence used for Centre-Determined Grades

Centre Determined Grades will be generated using evidence of work completed by a pupil, using the adapted specification content. In determining grades, the school will be required to make 'best-fit' judgements. This means that pupils are not required to demonstrate all aspects of a grade descriptor to be awarded the grade; pupils should be awarded a grade which supports evidence of attainment across sufficient breadth of content, within the specified qualification, as determined by WJEC, and may achieve the same grades by demonstrating different combinations of knowledge, skills and understanding. Where there is insufficient evidence, or where evidence suggests attainment is below that required of the lowest grade for a qualification (i.e. G grade at GCSE) then a pupil will be awarded a Centre Determined Grade of U.

The Centre Determined Grade will be generated using evidence of work completed by a pupil, using the adapted specification content. In determining a grade, the following types of evidence will be used in each qualification:

Contributing evidence

- a) Teachers may use evidence from previously completed WJEC past-paper questions, which:
 - have been externally quality assured, with a published mark scheme; and
 - have been completed under controlled conditions; and
- b) Pre-public exams that were sat in November 2020, as pupils were written to, to be made aware that the outcomes of these mock exams would contribute to their Centre Determined Grade in the event of examinations being cancelled in the summer 2021. Where these were complete WJEC examination papers, the outcomes may have a greater weighting when determining the Centre Determined Grade.

Adapted past-paper questions

The school will make use of WJEC adapted past-papers when setting tasks to help determine a grade for each qualification. There are recognised benefits of using these materials. The adapted past-papers have already been externally quality assured, are fully supported by clear mark schemes and are familiar to both pupils and staff. Where necessary, due to time constraints, teachers will have the option of amending these papers to reduce the content, however, this will then be reflected in the weighting in relation to the Centre Determined Grade awarded. Teachers will ensure these past- papers, which will form a key part of the evidence, will be incorporated within their delivery of teaching and learning, in replacement of other activities undertaken in lessons.

Non-Examination Assessment (NEA)

NEA exists in many qualifications. Teachers will use the performance of pupils in this element to help contribute towards the determination of a grade. However, teachers will need to consider the weighting of this element to ensure that the grade awarded accurately reflects the overall standard.

The awarding of Centre Determined Grades will be completed by Friday 21st May 2021.

Below is a breakdown of how Centre Determined Grades are going to be awarded for each subject. Where assessment start dates are marked with an asterisk (*) different classes may have different start dates.

These assessments will take place within normal timetabled lessons.

AS Level – Year 12

Subject	Method of Assessment	Assessment Start	Weighting
AS English Literature & Language	Adapted Past Papers	12 th April	100%
AS Media Studies	Adapted Past Papers	15 th April	60%
	Non-Examined Assessment	Ongoing	40%
AS Maths	Adapted Past Papers	16 th March	100%
AS Biology	Adapted Past Papers	29 th April	100%
AS Chemistry	Adapted Past Papers	23 rd April	100%
AS ICT	Adapted Past Papers	15 th April	60%
	Non-Examined Assessment	Ongoing	40%
AS Art and Design	Non-Examined Assessment	Ongoing	100%
WJEC Level 3 Criminology	Adapted Past Papers	24 th March	100%

A Level – Year 13

Subject	Method of Assessment	Assessment Start	Weighting
A2 English Literature & Language	Adapted Past Papers	12 th April	60%
	Non-Examined Assessment	Ongoing	40%
A2 Maths	Adapted Past Papers	16 th April	100%
A2 Biology	Adapted Past Papers	30 th April	100%
A2 Chemistry	Adapted Past Papers	22 nd April	100%
A2 ICT	Adapted Past Papers	20 th April	60%
	Non-Examined Assessment	Ongoing	40%
A2 Art and Design	Non-Examined Assessment	Ongoing	100%

On return from the Easter break, teachers will notify you/your child of the topics being assessed within each adapted past paper and the dates assessments will be undertaken within the assessment window. Teachers will not be able to inform you/your child of which past paper will be used.

All pupils will be required to attend school until **Friday 28th May** when we break up for half term.

On return to school after the half term break, assessments will be marked and moderated by teachers and cross-moderated by the school's leadership team.

From **7th June**, on return from the half term break, pupils in **Year 12** will continue to follow their normal timetable.

From **14th June**, pupils in Year 13 will be invited to attend school for careers advice in preparation for their transition to college or employment.

Quality Assurance Processes

In line with usual practices, WJEC will require internal processes to be undertaken to promote consistency. The school will undertake quality assurance processes, within subjects and across subjects, to ensure the grades determined are valid, reliable, equitable and fair, while seeking to avoid discrimination.

Centre Determined Grades are provisional until qualification grades are issued by WJEC on results days.

The school will provide pupils with a **provisional** Centre Determined Grade by 25th June and submit them to the WJEC by 2nd July. If a pupil wishes their grade to be reviewed, this can be requested before they are submitted to the WJEC. The review of pupils' grades will be similar to the internal moderation process. Where a review has been requested, it will be considered by a member of staff who was not the original assessor. The Head of School will also review that the school's processes have been followed. New or additional evidence will not be considered as part of the review process. Where a review has been upheld, the Centre Determined Grade will be amended.

At each stage of the review/appeal process, pupils should be aware that a Centre Determined Grade may be improved or lowered. GCSE final grades will be given on 12th August 2021.

Review of Centre Determined Grades and Appeals

Where a pupil wishes to appeal their grade, the appeals process will have three stages, as set out in the Minister of Education's announcement on 20th January 2021:

Stage 1 – a school-based review of the provisional Centre Determined Grade on the grounds of judgement and/or a procedural error being made.

(The school-based review stage will allow pupils to request a review of the school's judgement of their grade and/or correct any errors. This will be completed before the submission of Centre Determined Grades to the WJEC. The school will provide an effective mechanism for pupils to request a review of their provisional grade.)

Stage 2 – an appeal to WJEC on the grounds that the judgement that the centre has made is unreasonable and/or a procedural error has been made.

Stage 3 – a request to Qualifications Wales for an Exam Procedures Review Service (EPRS) to review whether WJEC has followed the required procedures.

Thank you for your time in reading this letter; I appreciate there is a lot of information for you to consider.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D Gill', written in a cursive style.

MRS D GILL

Executive Headteacher