



2020 Awarding for National 5, Higher and Advanced Higher courses – update for parents and carers

Due to the exams being cancelled this year, we have been working on an alternative way to ensure your child's hard work is fully recognised in the results they receive.

Three guiding principles have underpinned our work:

- fairness to all learners;
- safe and secure certification of SQA qualifications, while following the latest public health advice; and
- maintaining the integrity and credibility of Scotland's qualifications system, ensuring that standards are maintained over time, in the interests of learners.

We are also committed to meeting our obligations to the Equality Act 2010 and the Equality Act 2010 (Specific Duties) (Scotland) Regulations 2012. We intend to publish an equality impact assessment of our approach to awarding your child's results this year.

For 2020, there are four steps to how we will deliver your child's results:

Step 1 – Estimates – now complete, all estimates have been received from schools and colleges across Scotland.

Step 2 – Awarding

This step allows us to award grades for everyone who is entered for National 5, Higher and Advanced Higher courses as fairly and reliably as possible, across subjects and levels. It uses a wide range of data including the teacher and lecturer estimates which are checked by schools, colleges and SQA.

To be as fair as possible to all learners from across the whole of Scotland, we need to include multiple checks and decision rules, when checking school and college estimate data. This includes using senior qualifications staff in SQA and senior subject experts, to check, and where appropriate adjust, the school and college estimates.

It is important that we now concentrate on the significant task of considering all the estimates so that we can deliver your child's results on 4 August.

Step 3 - Results and Certification

Your child will receive their results on Tuesday 4 August, by post and via [MySQA](#), our online and text service. Please encourage them to sign-up to [MySQA](#), as a direct way to receive their results.

Step 4 - Appeals

After 4 August, a free appeals service will be available to your child's school or college so that they can ask for your child's grade(s) to be reviewed.

If your child is concerned with their results, they should speak to their school or college as soon as possible after 4 August. We will give priority to requests for those learners needing a result to secure a conditional place at college or university.

For your child's school or college to request an appeal, the grade awarded to your child on 4 August must be lower than the estimated grade sent to us by their school or college. In addition, there must be appropriate assessment evidence available. Your child's school or college will be able to advise you on this.

The appeal and all the associated assessment evidence will be reviewed by our senior subject specialist examiners. They will either accept or reject the appeal based on the evidence provided.

If an appeal request is **accepted**, your child's result will be upgraded. If they require the result for a conditional college or university place, we will advise their school or college, the higher education institute and UCAS, as appropriate. An updated Scottish Qualifications Certificate will be sent to your child after all appeals for 2020 have been completed.

If an appeal request is **rejected**, we will confirm either the original grade on your child's certificate or a lower grade. This information will be sent to their school or college.

It is possible that a lower grade could be awarded following an appeal if the evidence supplied by your child's school or college is judged to be so far from standard that it cannot support either their estimated grade or the grade awarded on their SQA certificate. We expect cases of this to be very rare. If it does happen, we will discuss this with your child's school or college.

Including this option supports fairness and equity to all learners, while maintaining the integrity and credibility of the qualifications.

Everyone at SQA remains committed to delivering your child's results, in as fair a way as possible allowing them to progress to further learning or work. We all want to ensure the class of 2020 can hold their heads high, now and in the future, with their qualifications fully recognised as they would be in any year.

We have further information on our dedicated [learner](#) and [parent and carer](#) webpages.