

Dear Parents and Carers

SQA Information on appeals

SQA results day this year is Tues 4th August for young people in the senior phase. There is support available to you and your child should they not achieve the results they had expected.

The following letter details the arrangements for submitting an appeal for this session. In addition to this formal process pastoral supports will be available from the school from Monday the 10th of August. The national helpline offered by the Skills Development Scotland will also be available from results day. Contact details will be included along with the Awards letter. Finally, you can also contact the local SDS branch in Galashiels on 01896 754884 where trained advisors will be able to assist you.

Context

In response to the cancellation of the 2020 exam diet, SQA developed an alternative certification model for 2020 to ensure the hard work of Scotland's learners is fully recognised.

The alternative certification model is based on teachers' estimates, which have been rigorously moderated by all schools initially and then by the SQA. The process may lead to a candidate or group of candidates being certificated with a grade that is different from their estimated grade. To be as fair as possible SQA is providing a post-certification review (appeals) service to allow centres to request a review of the grade awarded for a candidate.

How does post-certification review (appeal) work?

Post-certification review is free of charge. It is carried out by SQA examiners at the request of a school and involves a review of candidate evidence completed over the academic year.

Can the candidates or their parents or carers request a post – certification review

Schools will be in touch with you, should they believe that a post-certification review should be made, to get the candidates consent if the following conditions have been met:

This will be done when the following conditions are met:

1. The school have secured the consent of the candidate.
2. The school have a wide range of evidence to support a higher grade than has been awarded.
3. The candidate's award is below the estimate submitted by the school

What evidence will be submitted to the SQA?

SQA will consider a wide range of alternative evidence and not solely a class test or prelim. Examples of suitable sources of evidence are:

- Completed or partially completed course assessments.
- Classwork
- Prelims
- Past Paper
- Class Tests
- Performance Evidence of candidate's abilities in a practical setting (Photographs of art work and design pieces, recordings of music and dramatic performances.)

My child has a conditional offer for a course starting this year. What happens if they don't get the grades they need?

Your school should have a record of all the conditional offers for their young people. When the results are released (on the 4th of August) the school will identify any young person who has not met their entry requirements and where we are confident that the three conditions outlined above have been satisfied, they will submit a priority post certification review. The results of these priority reviews will be known by Friday the 4th of September. UCAS, Universities and Colleges will be notified by the SQA of any changes to a candidate's award following a priority review.

How will we know if a post certification review has been submitted for our young person?

Prior to submitting a post certification review for any candidate, the school will ensure that they have discussed with you their intention and informed you of the possible outcomes. It is important to note that a post certification review can result in three possible outcomes:

- No change
- An award at a higher grade
- An award at a lower grade.

Only when a school has the candidate's consent to submitting the request for review will they proceed.

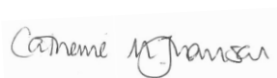
Where can I find out more information?

For additional information please see the SQA website 2020 Qualifications – Your Questions Answered. <https://www.sqa.org.uk/sqa/93797.html>

You can also call the Skills Development Scotland Exams Results Helpline on 0808 100 8000* which will open at 8am on Tuesday 4 August. Advisers can give you lots of information on Clearing, resits and the SQA's results services process. They can also chat to young people about other options besides going to university and college, such as doing a [Modern Apprenticeship](#), gaining work experience and alternative options for your year ahead.

I hope that the detail of this letter has proven to be informative and that you have a happy and safe holiday period. Further communication regarding arrangements for the new term will be forthcoming.

Yours faithfully



Catherine Thomson

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Scottish Borders Council