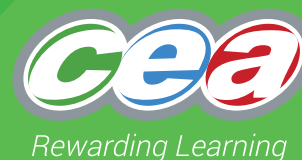


How Occupational Studies, Vocational Qualifications and Entry Level Qualifications Will Be Awarded in Summer 2021

Student Guide



We know that it has been a difficult time for students over the past year, with disruption to learning and exam and formal assessment cancellations. This guide provides you with a summary of the next steps and details about how you'll receive a grade or level for each of your subjects this year.



Why the change?

On 6 January 2021, the Minister of Education, Peter Weir MLA, cancelled all CCEA examinations and formal assessments scheduled for Summer 2021. Instead, the approach to awarding your grades in Summer 2021 will be based on your teachers' professional judgements, with moderation. These will be known as **Centre Determined Grades**.



Who will receive a grade?

All students who have been entered for an overall qualification in 2021 and have been entered for all the required units, as set out in the specification, will be awarded a grade.

Students with entries for units in Occupational Studies or Vocational Qualifications, but no cash-in for an overall qualification in Summer 2021, will **not** be awarded a grade.

Students with entries for units in Entry Level qualifications and no cash-in for Summer 2021 can be awarded certificates at unit level. These will be issued outside of the main awarding process. Your school or college will advise you on how you can get the certificates.



What is a Centre Determined Grade?

A Centre Determined Grade is a judgement of the standard at which each student is performing, which is then used to award a final qualification grade.

Your teachers will look for evidence of the work you have completed for each of your subjects, carry out an assessment and give you an appropriate grade. This will apply across all subjects for Occupational Studies, Vocational and Entry Level qualifications.

This is different to the process used in 2020, where teachers were asked to predict the grade students would likely have achieved had they sat the exam or been able to complete formal assessments.

An algorithm will **not** be used.



How will I get a Centre Determined Grade?

Your school or college will have ensured that you have sufficient knowledge of your subject content or can demonstrate the necessary skills to be awarded a Centre Determined Grade. CCEA has already provided detailed guidance to your school or college that sets out how teachers should develop their approach to assessment and quality assurance.

They will then select appropriate examples of your work – known as evidence – to determine your grade.

We know that students have experienced disruption to teaching and learning due to the pandemic. Lost teaching and learning time is being addressed by allowing your school or college the flexibility to choose how you'll be assessed and the areas you'll be assessed on.



What evidence can be used?

You will only be assessed on what you have been taught, over the past two years, either in a classroom/practical setting or during home learning.

Your teacher can select a range of evidence, which may include:

- portfolio work and/or coursework already completed;
- assessment tasks already undertaken;
- performance in any classwork, homework or assessments taken throughout your course of study, including participation in practical elements for Occupational Studies;
- records of your performance throughout your study; and/or
- marks/levels in relevant units taken before Summer 2021.

Your school or college will let you know what evidence is being used to determine your grade.

Each school and college will have a Centre Determined Grades policy that sets out how teachers will use evidence to determine your grade. If you have a question about how the evidence will be used, please ask your teacher.



Will grades be awarded fairly across all schools and colleges?

Quality assurance is extremely important to CCEA, and we have taken steps to ensure this is embedded at every stage of the alternative awarding arrangements. Significant support, guidance and training are being provided to strengthen your teachers' understanding of how to make consistent, fair and accurate assessment judgements.

CCEA will ask each school or college for a sample of evidence across a range of subjects and levels, so that we can carry out external moderation. Where we suspect malpractice or undue leniency or severity, we will work with schools and colleges to address these issues.

So that no student in Northern Ireland will be at a disadvantage, CCEA awarding organisation and CCEA Regulation continue to engage frequently with counterparts in the rest of the UK. This is to protect compatibility in awarding and assessment and ensure that universities, further education colleges and employers treat all qualifications across the UK equally.



I am a private candidate; what should I do?

You should continue to work with the school, college or exam centre you have entered with, to ensure they have sufficient evidence to determine your grade.

If you are being taught at a different centre from the one where the entry was made, you should be included in the grading of the centre that made the entry. If necessary, the centre making the entry should consult with your teaching centre and compare evidence to determine an agreed grade.

If you have recently transferred from one school or college to another, your current Head of Centre may wish to consult with the previous centre about evidence they hold and may take this into account in determining your grade.



When will I get my results?

CCEA will issue Level 3 Certificate of Personal Effectiveness results on 10 August 2021, followed by the release of Occupational Studies, Vocational and Entry Level qualification results on 12 August 2021.

The full range of grades across all three qualification areas will be used. If there is insufficient evidence available to award a Centre Determined Grade, students will receive a Level Not Achieved or Unclassified grade.



Will I be able to appeal my grade?

CCEA will be working with other awarding organisations over the coming months to make sure that an appeals process is put in place and will provide more detailed guidance in due course. Because exams and formal assessments have not gone ahead, the standard post-results services such as access to scripts, reviews of marking and reviews of moderation will not be available this summer.



What should I do now?

You should continue to engage with your school or college as normal and keep on studying and learning to complete your course, even if you will not be formally assessed on those elements of the course.



Supporting Our Learners' Health and Wellbeing

Our learners' wellbeing will always be important to us. We understand the challenges you're facing now, and we want to support you as much as we can.

We encourage you to communicate, remotely and safely, with your family, friends and teachers in line with the current Public Health Agency guidance.

The dedicated Wellbeing Hub on our website includes tips and advice that our learners, along with their parents and teachers, can use to stay healthy and mindful at this time.

You'll also find helpful and relevant learning activities on the Wellbeing Hub, including CCEA resources, and links to other organisations that support the objectives of the curriculum. Find out more at www.ccea.org.uk/learning-resources/wellbeing-hub

For more information on Summer 2021 Awarding, including FAQs and a dedicated Student Area, visit www.ccea.org.uk/summer-2021

Key Facts for Summer 2021 Alternative Awarding Arrangements

- 1 There are no public examinations.
- 2 Teachers will use their professional judgement to decide grades using a range of evidence.
- 3 Evidence can take multiple forms, for example portfolio work, coursework, previous class assessments or work completed at home.
- 4 Students will only be **assessed** on what they have **been taught**.
- 5 Centre Determined Grades will be based on a student's work.
- 6 Work **completed at home** can contribute to the evidence.
- 7 The **full range of grades** and levels, including distinctions for Occupational Studies, will continue to be awarded.
- 8 There is **flexibility** for schools and colleges, as all students will have had a different learning experience.