

Careers Advice for Students in response to the Covid-19 Pandemic

We know that this is a very worrying time for students and their parents. We have therefore put together FAQs below to help provide support during these uncertain times.

Exam Results

1. How will my GCSE, AS and A Level results be worked out?

The Government has announced its plans for awarding GCSE and A level grades. Full details can be accessed here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/further-details-on-exams-and-grades-announced>

- You will get GCSE results. These will be formal and recognised by colleges, Universities and employers, just as if they had been awarded in any other year.
- GCSE results will not just be based on your predicted grade.
- GCSE results will also be based on non-exam assessment (e.g. coursework) and your mock results.
- The decision will not just be based on what your teachers think. It will also be based on data e.g. relating to the previous performance of both you and your school.
- All schools and colleges will have to follow the same process, to make things as fair as possible.

2. I didn't take my mock exams seriously, how will this affect my grade?

Your GCSE, AS and A Level grades will not only be decided based on your mock exams.

3. Will I still have to sit my exams?

No. You will get grades without taking any further exams.
Only students who aren't happy with their grade will take exams – these are likely to take place at some point between September 2020 and summer 2021.

4. When will I get my GCSE, AS and A Level grades?

GCSE grades will be published on 20th August; A levels on 13th August

5. What can I do if I don't agree with my GCSE, AS and A Level grades?

- Schools and colleges will have to follow a fixed process to decide on the grades. If you don't think the process has been followed, or if you feel the grades do not reflect your ability, you will be able to appeal
- Alternatively, if you don't want to appeal, you will be able to:
 - Resit your exams in the Autumn of 2020
 - Resit your exams in Summer 2021.

6. School hasn't finished teaching my subjects: how will this affect my future grades/options?

Your grades won't be affected by this – they will bear this in mind. In terms of your future options, it is recommended that you continue studying from home, to complete work on topics you have not finished/have not yet started. This will mean that when you start college/University in the new academic year, you will not be disadvantaged in any way. Your school/college is working hard to ensure that you have access to resources that will help you do this from your own home.

Sources: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/awarding-qualifications-in-summer-2020>

Extracurricular Activities

7. Will NCS Summer Programmes still be going ahead?

The National Citizens Service is working closely with Government to determine whether its summer programmes can go ahead. For the latest information you should visit their status page on their website (<https://wearencs.com/coronavirus-update>).

8. I had planned to get a summer job? If lockdown restrictions are still in place, what could I do to improve my CV/Personal Statement?

Prospective employers and colleges will be acutely aware of the unique difficulties young people are facing with regard to Covid-19. In the event that lockdown conditions

extend into the summer months, students can consider other ways of being productive, for example using Social Media to maintain contact with isolated people within the local community. Volunteering websites would be a good start to find out what is going on (<https://www.communityactionisleofwight.org.uk/what-we-do/volunteer-centre/>) and how you can help. Additionally, you can explore the wide range of online courses to improve your skills, with resources like Barclays LifeSkills (<https://barclayslifeskills.com/young-people/>)

9. Are there any online resources I can use to learn about a subject or topic?

You should speak to your school about this in the first instance. There are some very good online resources, such as BBC Bitesize (<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/>); GCSE Pod (<https://www.gcsepod.com/>). If you want to delve deeper into a subject or explore new subjects, you can visit MOOC (Massive Open Online Courses) <https://www.mooc.org/>. For careers-related information you can visit E-Clips (<https://www.eclips-online.co.uk/>) – you may need to ask your school for the password; or Career Pilot (<https://www.careerpilot.org.uk/>)

For further guidance or to speak to a Careers Adviser, please email
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