



Information for all GCSE, AS and A Level (or equivalent) learners

The announcement last term to cancel exams this summer will I'm sure have been unsettling for learners and parents/guardians alike. With the uncertainty it brings, you will understandably have questions on so many areas relevant to the education of your son/daughter. To keep you informed, I would like to provide answers to some of the questions you may have.

How will grades be calculated for GCSEs, AS and A Level qualifications?

Schools have been asked to submit two pieces of information for each subject qualification, based on what they know about a learner's work and performance:

1. **A Predicted Grade** based on what the teachers of a subject believe the learner would most likely achieve if teaching, learning and exams had happened as planned. This is not the same as a target or aspirational grade, a UCAS grade or the grade a learner is currently working at.
2. **The order of learners, by performance, within those grades.** For example, if there are 24 learners with a predicted B grade in GCSE Business Studies, these have to be ranked from 1 to 24, where 1 is the best performing learner, 2 is the next and so on.

As part of this process, teachers will take account of a range of evidence to decide this. For example, classwork and homework; results in mock exams or assessments undertaken to date e.g. AS results for A level grades; oral or coursework results. The general progress of the learner during the course of the subject will also be considered. After the grades are submitted to the exam board, statistical modelling (see page 3) will then take place to standardise results.

Will learners have to sit their exams in the autumn when schools return?

As yet, we don't know when schools will re-open and if so, in what form this will take. Full details of what exams will be available this autumn haven't been finalised. At this point, GCSE exams in English Language, Mathematics, Mathematics Numeracy and Welsh (1st Language) are the only exams confirmed to take place. For current Yr 10 classes who were going to take GCSE Maths or Numeracy exams this autumn, this is under review and dependent on when we return to school. The well-being of learners and their preparation will be at the heart of this decision so every learner can achieve their very best.

For the current Yr 10 and Yr 12 learners, will the syllabus and exam content remain the same for subjects?

This is under review by Qualification Wales (the exam regulator) and the Welsh Government in discussion with Head teachers. Changes are possible regarding specification content, assessments to take place and the standardisation of exams. Details will be shared with parents/learners when we know more.



What are the arrangements for Yr 12 and 13 learners re-sitting exams?

From Qualification Wales guidance, for GCSE re-sits, though no subsequent teaching may have taken place in that subject since Yr 11, Heads of Faculty will liaise with teachers who taught the learner in Yr 11 and look at previous grades achieved before making a realistic assessment of the improvement made since the qualification was last sat. A predicted grade will then be determined. As there will be no separate rankings dependent on the school year of the learners, Yr 12 and 13 learners will be ranked with Yr 11 learners for the appropriate grade.

For Yr 13 learners re-sitting AS exams, A Level teachers will consider likely re-sit results when predicting the A level grade.

What about vocational qualifications?

Depending on the structure of the qualification, schools will be asked to provide a predicted grade for the whole qualification, or for uncompleted modules or units. There might be some instances where a rank order of learners will be required (as with GCSEs, AS and A levels). The awarding body offering the qualification will use any predicted grades, combined with other relevant information, to determine the most appropriate result. For example, many learners will already have completed assessments in some modules or units, which will be taken into account.

When will I get my results?

Results will be issued to learners as originally scheduled:

Thursday 13th August for AS and A' Level results

Thursday 20th August for GCSE results

Can I challenge the result given, and if so, how would I do that?

There will be no review of marking in the normal way. Consultations are currently taking place to discuss what, if any, appeal process could be adopted.

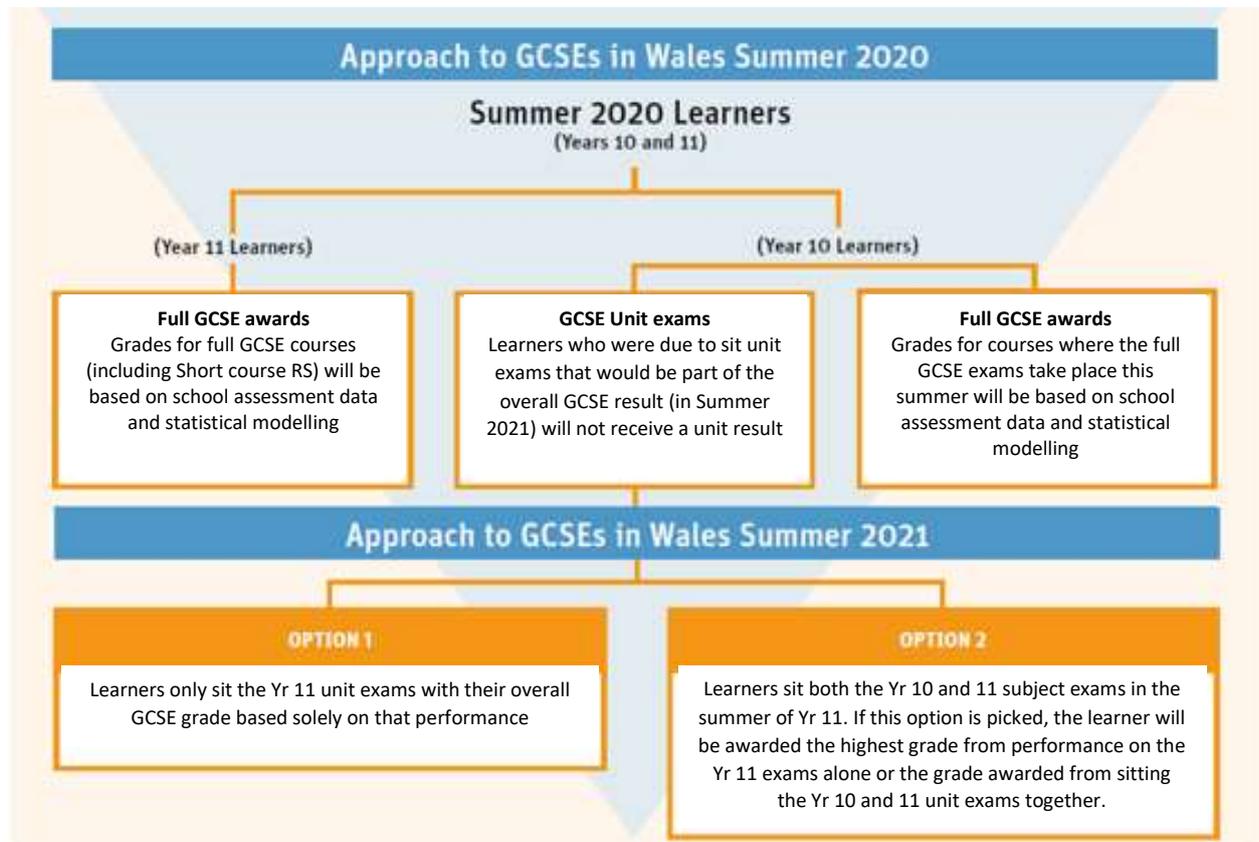
Do I need to do anything now?

No, there's nothing you need to do. Teachers are viewing all the work learners have done so far, any new work provided to teachers will not influence this summer's results. For Yr 11 learners specifically, bridging units are currently being prepared for sixth form study in all subject areas. When completed, these will be made available via the school website.

For additional information, predicted grades and the rank order of learners are confidential and cannot be shared by teachers with learners, parents or carers. This is to ensure the information submitted by schools is as fair as possible. In addition, the final grades issued to learners after standardisation from the exam board, might be different from those submitted.



Current Yr 10 & 11 learners



What's happening for learners currently in Yr 10?

Yr 10 learners who were due to sit exams that would have led to a full GCSE this summer i.e. learners completing the **1 Year** Welsh 2nd language course, will be issued a grade following the same process for Yr 11 GCSE learners.

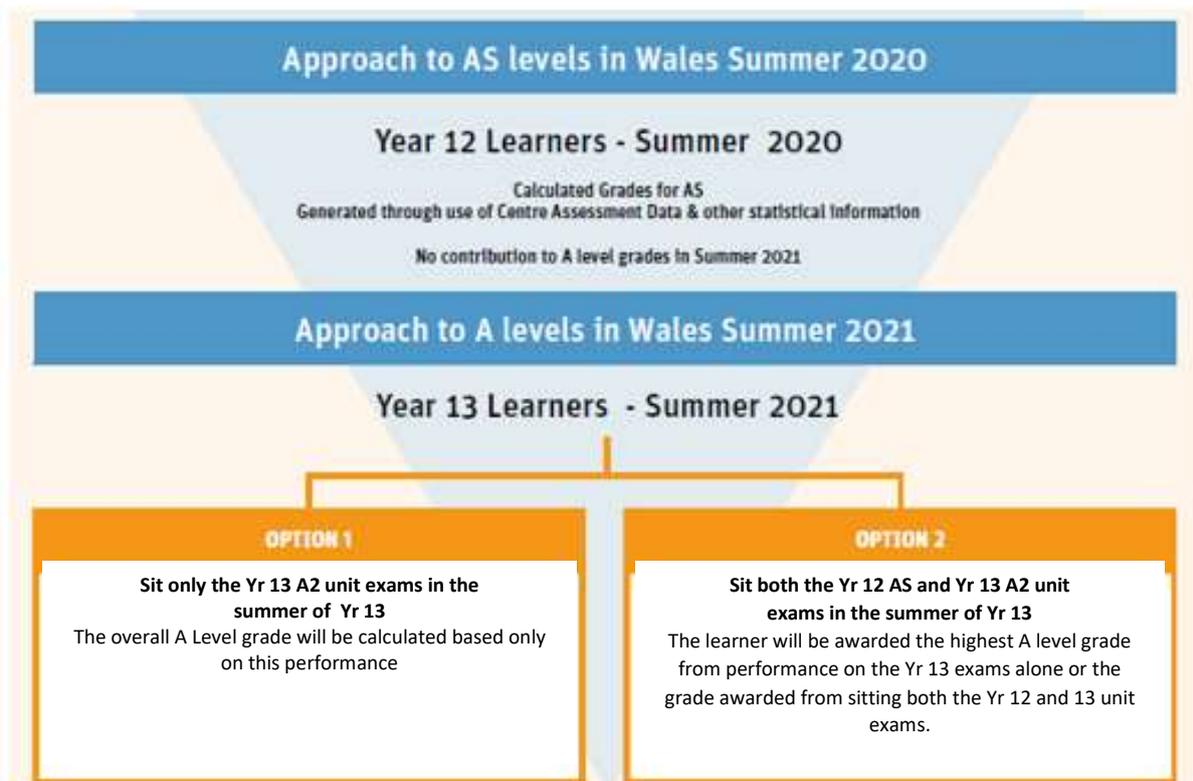
Yr 10 learners who would only sit unit exams this summer that form part, not all, of their overall GCSE i.e. the 3 Science Double award exams, RS(short) Unit 1, History Unit 2, Tourism Unit 2 will not receive predicted results. For these learners, they will have 2 options as shown above.

What does statistical modelling mean?

To make sure that grades awarded by schools are fair, the exam boards will put all predicted grades through a process of standardisation using a statistical model that's being currently developed. This will be used to work out the most likely distribution of grades for each school, based on specific criteria (e.g. the prior achievement of learners and the results of the school in recent years), and then use the rank order to assign grades to individual learners in line with the grade distribution. For example, if too many A grades are awarded in GCSE Business Studies, learners ranked at the lower end of the A grade could be downgraded to a B grade. If this year's results are too high and vastly out of line with previous years' data, grades could be reduced centrally.



Current Yr 12 learners



All AS learners (except those completing the Skills Challenge Certificate, Sport, ICT or Health & Social Care qualifications) will receive an estimated AS grade this summer, which will be based on a range of evidence, including teacher assessment grades. **The grades awarded this summer will not be used as part of a learner's full A' Level next year.** This is because in normal circumstances, marks from each AS unit are combined with marks from A2 units in the calculation of the final A level grade. This summer for AS, only a single grade is being awarded so this isn't possible. Similar to Yr 10 learners, those taking AS exams this year will have 2 options for their A level award in Yr 13.

Current Yr 13 learners

The overall A Level grade (or equivalent) will follow the same process as that for Yr 11 learners i.e. school assessment data and statistical modelling.

To finish then, I hope this document provides clarity and answers many of the questions you have. Should you have any further queries, please do not hesitate to contact school. A big thank you for your patience and support here.

Phil Jones – Assistant Headteacher