

June 2021

Dear Student

RE: Changes to evidence used for teacher-assessed grades

Since completing your final assessments in May, your teachers have been assessing your work to ensure that the teacher-assessed grade (TAG) that you receive is based on a holistic judgement of what you know and what you can do. This process has been lengthy, but your teachers have worked incredibly hard to ensure that all awarded grades are a fair, yet honest, reflection of your performance.

As a reminder, the evidence buckets for each subject vary; however include the following:

1. Performance in your 5 best DEPs
2. Performance in NEA
3. Performance in seen assessments
4. Performance in unseen assessments

Full details of the evidence buckets for individual subjects can be found [here](#).

We made a deliberate effort not to place too much emphasis on past performance in assessments such as DEPs and mock examinations. We felt that it would be unfair to heavily weight past performance, as you were not told at the time of these assessments that they would count towards your final grade. Therefore, the effort that students put into preparing for these assessments would have been highly variable and potentially not a true reflection of what you know and can do. Hence, we decided that 20% of your final grade would come from your five best DEPs.

However, since making this decision, your teachers have rightly questioned whether your mock examination performance from the December 2020 mocks could be used as a more substantial piece of evidence for your TAG. This has been raised particularly where performance in the mock examination was better than the assessments that were undertaken in the May 2021.

We have therefore made the following changes to the evidence base being used for your TAGs:

- The mock examination may be used as alternative evidence.
- The mock examination may only replace evidence of a seen or unseen assessment.
- The mock examination may only be used as alternative evidence where performance in the mock is better than performance in the May 2021 assessment window.
- The mock examination will be worth the same weighting as the assessment that it is replacing.
- The mock examination cannot be used if performance in the May 2021 assessment window is better.
- The mock examination cannot be used to replace the NEA or Best DEPs bucket.

This means that the mock examination may be used in some of your subjects' evidence baskets, but not all. It is only being used where your teachers think that this evidence better represents what you know and can do and where your final TAG will be enhanced. Where this is the case, your teachers have **replaced** the evidence of one of your other assessments with the mock examination when making a holistic judgement of your performance. There are some examples below to illustrate this process.

Example 1 – mock examination performance is not as strong as May 2021 performance

Bucket 1	Bucket 2	Bucket 3	Bucket 4
5 Best DEPs (20%)	NEA (20%)	Seen assessment (30%)	Unseen assessment (30%)

Example 2 – mock examination performance is better than one assessment taken in the May 2021 assessment window

Bucket 1	Bucket 2	Bucket 3	Bucket 4
5 Best DEPs (20%)	NEA (20%)	Seen assessment (30%)	Mock examination (30%)

Example 3 – mock examination performance is better than both assessments taken in the May 2021 assessment window

Bucket 1	Bucket 2	Bucket 3	Bucket 4
5 Best DEPs (20%)	NEA (20%)	Seen assessment (30%)	Mock examination (30%)

NB – the mock examination can only be used to replace one evidence bucket

I hope you understand why this decision has been made and that you agree that this change will assist teachers in determining the most appropriate teacher-assessed grade for their students. Please be assured that this change is in line with the JCQ guidance on awarding grades and our Centre Policy. Both documents can be found on our website [here](#).

If you have any queries about this change, please contact exams@elliottthudsoncollege.ac.uk in the first instance.

Best wishes and I look forward to seeing you on results day on Tuesday 10 August.



David Holtham
Executive Principal: Post 16 Education