

SQA 2020 - 21

Current Developments

Course Assessments/Evidence Gathering

- ▶ Assessments have been running in school since 10 May and as of tomorrow, all written and practical assessments will be complete.
- ▶ These assessments are valuable evidence gathering exercises and for many, the candidate performance forms the main body of evidence that teachers draw from when making their judgements on provisional course awards.

Faculty Quality Assurance, Moderation and Determining Provisional Course Awards

- ▶ All teaching staff are now well underway with course assessment marking.
- ▶ Every faculty is employing various techniques and processes to ensure that the quality and accuracy of marking meets the SQA's national standard e.g. cross marking, blind marking, markers' meetings, peer moderation etc.
- ▶ Work around quality assurance and moderation has been on-going for some time and faculties have plans for each course with roles and responsibilities, clearly defined.
- ▶ All faculties are also linked in with the CEC 'Lead Teacher' networks, which offer support and opportunities for further quality assurance and moderation activities out with of our own school. Particularly helpful for departments and courses where there are a small number candidates and teachers.
- ▶ A number of our CLs/Teachers are CEC Lead Teachers so lead on these activities, across the council.

Faculty Quality Assurance, Moderation and Determining Provisional Course Awards

- ▶ Once all marking, quality assurance and moderation processes are complete, faculties are then required to analyse candidate performance across all significant pieces of evidence.
- ▶ From this a provisional course award will be determined.
- ▶ Faculties will then analyse the distribution of grades for candidates, looking at whether this meets with expectations of the cohort as well as our expectations of individual candidates.
- ▶ Part of this process is also about considering the approaches taken to evidence collection and trying to ensure that any issues experienced by candidates are identified and mitigated for when considering the setting of final grade boundaries.
- ▶ An important part of this process is also about comparing the performance of this year's candidates to those of candidates from previous years (specifically 2017 - 2019). The hope would be that, in very broad terms, performance would be of a similar level.

Whole School and Local Authority Quality Assurance and Moderation

- ▶ Once faculties have set their provisional course awards (deadline by the end of this week), this data will then be shared with SQA Coordinator.
- ▶ Further analysis will then be done by the Senior Leadership Team to ensure that course awards are in line with expectations and that, where there are significant differences to previous attainment, the narrative behind that is clearly detailed and defined.
- ▶ This analysis will then form a significant part of the content of a meeting the SQA Coordinator/Head Teacher will have with our CEC Quality Improvement Officer (17 June), to review our results and more generally, our approach to the implementation of the SQA's Alternative Certification Model for this year.
- ▶ Following this official sign-off and any additional actions we may have to undertake, we will then be in a position to start the administrative process of entering grades into the official SQA data portal (SQA Connect) ahead of the 25 June deadline.

Candidate Notification of Provisional Course Awards

- ▶ CEC have taken a centralised approach to the issuing of provisional course awards to candidates.
- ▶ All 23 CEC secondary schools will be issuing candidates with their provisional course awards on the same day, in the last week of term. The official date for this has still be communicated to schools.
- ▶ Each candidate/family will receive a letter detailing the provisional course awards (grades) that will be relayed to the SQA for each of the candidate's course presentations.
- ▶ The letter will also detail what evidence has been used to produce each course award and what quality assurance processes have been gone through, when determining the award.
- ▶ The SQA have made clear that, barring any form of administrative error, the provisional awards communicated to them by the school will be the final grades that candidates are certificated for on Tuesday 10 August.

2021 SQA Appeals Service

- ▶ Information was shared with centres last Wednesday (2 June) regarding the details around this year's appeals service.
- ▶ We have been informed that further information will follow this Friday (11 June) but the service as we know it, will function as follows:
 - All learners will have the right to appeal directly to SQA for free.
 - Learners will be able to register that they want to appeal their provisional result directly to SQA from Friday 25 June.
 - Appeals will be processed with the support of schools after learners have received their result certificates on Tuesday 10 August.
 - Learners should be supported by their school with the information they need to make decisions that are in their best interests. However, centres cannot stop an appeal request.
 - As in any other year, priority appeals will be available to learners who have offers to study at college, or university, or have an employment or training position dependent on a grade. All other appeals will be progressed thereafter.

2021 SQA Appeals Service

- The grounds for appeal are broad. There are three types of appeal:

- an appeal against the academic judgement made
- an appeal against an unresolved administrative error
- an appeal on grounds of discrimination where:

(i) there has been a breach of the Equality Act 2010 (which must have been either acknowledged by your school, established by a court or the Scottish Public Services Ombudsman), or

(ii) your school, college or training provider failed to provide agreed Assessment Arrangements.

- A key principle of the awarding of qualifications in any year is that a learner's grade is based on the evidence of their demonstrated attainment of the skills and knowledge of a course, and this is a central feature of this year's alternative certification model. Given this, an appeal of a result must also be based on the evidence of the learner's demonstrated attainment against the national standard. Therefore, the outcomes of an evidence-based appeal could be that a learner's grade could go up, go down, or stay the same.
- Schools will still be able to submit an appeal on behalf of their learners, if the learner prefers to use that route.
- Learners can register that they want to make a priority appeal with SQA until **Thursday 12 August**. However, if they miss that date, a school representative can submit a priority appeal for them until **Monday 16 August**.

2021 SQA Appeals Service

- If a learner does not need to the priority service, they can request the school submits an appeal for them, with the deadline for this being **Friday 27 August**.
- ▶ More details of the appeals service can be found on the SQA website, including a very useful page for learners.