

Frequently Asked Questions – **UPDATED 15th May 2020**

General

Q. We have learners who are not certifying this year but should have completed units this year. Does this approach apply to those learners?

Yes, if moving the assessment to the following year would be detrimental to those learners as they would not have sufficient time to complete all units. Use the centre assessment grades approach for the units which would have been completed this year. Please ensure you check your registrations are correct on the system.

Q. How should we log this information?

You can use whichever method makes sense to you. Our intention is to use our usual systems as much as possible with the submission of information and we are working with our IT team to ensure the system is able to reflect the changes to centre assessment grades. We would recommend you make a note of the grades per learning outcome, the evidence you have to support that outcome and any additional justification for the grade. Please do not input any grades into the system yet.

Q. Once we have generated the centre assessment grades, what do we do with them?

Keep them somewhere safe until we request them from you. Please do not send anything to us or upload anything to the site yet.

Q. When will we have to upload the grades to the site?

Ofqual have said that the first two weeks of June (1st – 12th June 2020) will be when grades are requested for GQs and VQs. To ensure consistency where centres may be working across a number of Awarding Organisations, RSL will have the same window.

Q. Are we able to submit the grades sooner if we have them ready?

This will depend on the required update to our grade entry system. We anticipate that this function will be available sooner than 1st June. As soon as our system is ready, we will contact all centres to let them know it is available to input the grades. If you have grades available prior to the window, you are encouraged to input them once the system is available. The sooner we have the centre assessment grades, the better. **Please do not input the grades until we ask you to.**

Q. What about externally assessed units?

Please refer to the external assessment section of this document below.

Q. Will sampling still take place this year?

Please refer to the sampling section of this document below.

Q. Will learners still be certificated by the same dates in the Summer?

That is certainly our and Ofqual's intention and we will do everything we can to ensure these dates are met. We are still intending to validate and issue results to centres on the 13th August 2020, as per our Key Dates Calendar.

Internal Assessment

- Q. Can evidence for one unit already completed be used for a unit which hasn't been completed?**
Yes, as long as the evidence can be seen as similar. For example, planning work for one unit will show the learner's ability to plan, which could be applied to a different unit.
- Q. There is no evidence of any kind for any learners. What do we do?**
There may be instances where there is no evidence available. If you are not able to generate centre assessment grades, please do not do so. We will provide further guidance on this when we release updated guidance next week.
- Q. Can learners continue with internal assessment?**
Yes, if they are able and willing to do so. Any assessment from this stage will be considered supporting evidence for centre assessment grades. As centre assessment grades will need to be provided by the 12th June 2020, it may not be possible to complete all assessment in the way you had planned, even if you have moved to online delivery. Please also be mindful of ensuring authenticity of any work produced during lockdown.
- Q. What if learners aren't able to continue with assessment? Does this have an impact?**
No. Ofqual's guidance says that they are not expecting any further assessment to take place.

Controlled External Assessment

- Q. Do we need to submit centre assessment grades for externally assessed units?**
Yes. Centres will need to generate centre assessment grades for externally assessed units, in the same way that they will for internally assessed units. Centres should use the assessment and grading criteria available via the syllabus documents and Controlled External Assessment briefs.
- Q. Why is controlled external assessment being used as an evidence type?**
A number of centres successfully completed the external assessment and RSL believe the evidence should be used if available, giving learners recognition for their hard work. It is entirely up to the centre as to whether the feedback and provisional grades are used, but RSL feel centres should have access to as much supporting evidence as possible under the circumstances.
- Q. We submitted controlled external assessment evidence to RSL by the deadline. Will this be assessed?**
The work will not be assessed in the traditional sense. Using the spreadsheets submitted by centres, RSL External Assessors have reviewed the evidence provided for outcomes which were identified by centres as complete. They have provided feedback and provisional grades for these learning outcomes. These grades have not been input into the RSL system; they have been indicated on the feedback sheets. Feedback from RSL External Assessors is there to support your centre assessment grades for the external units.
- Q. If we said outcomes were incomplete but uploaded work, will this have been reviewed by an RSL External Assessor?**
No. Only outcomes identified by centres as complete have been reviewed.

Q. We did not submit controlled external assessment work to RSL. Are we able to do this now?

We will not be accepting any further controlled external assessment evidence for review and feedback from an RSL assessor but any unseen evidence can be used to support centre assessment grades where you feel it is indicative of the relevant grade for that learner.

Q. What will we receive on controlled external assessment results day?

As we have not assessed the learner work, only providing feedback, there will not be any grades in the system. You will be able to download the report forms for learners through the External Assessment section of the site. The report forms indicate provisional grades against each learning outcome and feedback as to the grade awarded.

Q. Will we be able to appeal a result?

There will not be the opportunity to resit or appeal, as there usually would be for Controlled External Assessment, as feedback provided by RSL External Assessors will be used as supporting evidence for centre assessment grades, not as the final grade itself. Where you do not believe the grade is reflective of the learner's ability, or where they received unclassified, centres can generate a centre assessment grade using supporting evidence.

For example, where a learner achieved DDUD across an external assessment and fell on a small part of the 3rd LO that would have been easily rectified in the resit (resulting in a DDPD overall), a 'D' would be an appropriate estimate, reflective of the learner's achievement and ability.

Q. How do we take evidence limits into account when generating centre assessment grades for externally assessed units?

As centres closed before the Controlled External Assessment deadline, we know there are centres in the position where learners had completed work but had not yet had the opportunity to revisit their work, proof read and edit it. This means there is a strong possibility that evidence exceeds the written/audio visual evidence limits. When generating centre assessment grades, written/audio visual evidence limits can be taken as advisory and learners not penalised where they have exceeded them. Where learners have had the time to edit their work, they will not be disadvantaged by this as they will have had the opportunity to refine their work.

Evidence limits for performance/practical evidence (e.g. performance, recordings, events) remain as per the brief.

Q. If the learners were unable to complete all the externally assessed unit, how do we generate centre assessment grades?

More guidance will be sent regarding this next week but you will essentially need to make a judgement based on evidence produced by learners during their time on the qualification, in the same way you would for incomplete internal assessment.

Sampling

Q. If we have not yet been through sampling, will sampling take place this year?

Sampling will not take place in its usual form as it may not be possible to provide a full sample. Centre assessment grades will be subject to rigorous statistical analysis to assess the validity of centre assessment grades and ensure the resulting qualification grades are accurate and consistent with previous awarding years.

A moderation sample is likely to be requested where analysis identifies a centre as falling outside of the set parameters, or where RSL is concerned that certification without further interrogation could jeopardise the integrity of the qualification e.g. late registrations post shutdown.

Q. We submitted a sample before lockdown but the sample report has not been released. When will this be released?

Any sampling reports which have been completed but not yet released will be made visible to centres on 21st May 2020.

Q. We submitted a sample which was not agreed and a second sample was requested, which we will not be able to provide. What happens next?

As learners are not in a position to make amendments, centres in this position will be treated as though a sample has not been submitted and will follow the same process as if sampling had not been completed.

Q. If we have had a successful EQA sample this year, does that mean we will not be subject to further moderation?

A successful EQA sample puts you in a strong position but does not necessarily mean you will not be subject to further moderation following statistical analysis.

Q. How will we know if we have to provide moderation?

Following RSL's statistical analysis, you will be contacted by RSL. Should a moderation sample be needed, you will receive a sample request through the cloud.rslawards.com site in the usual way.

Dear Centres

As we are sure you are aware, Ofqual launched a consultation on their proposals for awarding vocational and technical qualifications on Friday 24th April 2020. You can find the details of the consultation here - <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/ofqual-consultation-on-awarding-vocational-and-technical-qualifications-in-summer-2020> The deadline for the consultation is the 8th May 2020. If you are interested in seeing the most up to date detail from Ofqual, you can find it here - <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/awarding-qualifications-in-summer-2020>

We are conscious that a lot of centres are being asked by their SLT to predict grades and that centres do not feel in a position to do so without further guidance from us. Ideally, we would wait until the Ofqual consultation has concluded and results published but we are conscious of the amount of time that has passed since centres closed and the limited amount of time available following the consultation.

We will wait until after the consultation has closed and Ofqual have published their guidance before we provide exact detail about how learners will be certificated this year. The reason for this delay is while we are confident with our plans for certification, we do not want to provide centres with information which may be subject to change by Ofqual. There has already been too much disruption this year and we do not want to add to the levels of stress. Please be assured this is not an attempt to keep anything from centres. We want to be as open and transparent as possible but until we have assurance from Ofqual about our approach to certification, we cannot begin its implementation.

Many of you are also likely to deliver GCSE and A Levels alongside your VQs and so may have been asked to predict grades for your learners. The government has said that, as far as possible, qualifications which are used for progression to further or higher education, or to employment, should be treated in the same way as GCSE and A Levels, with learners receiving a calculated result. Awarding Organisations have submitted their qualifications to Ofqual, identifying what they believe the purpose of their qualifications are. While Ofqual have not yet confirmed this, we are confident our qualifications fall under the bracket of qualifications used for progression to further or higher education and/or qualifications serving a mixed purpose, supporting progression to further or higher education or to employment. What this means for you is that we expect all learners taking RSL qualifications will be in scope for calculated grades in some form.

In many cases, VQs are in a better position to provide reliable calculated grades than GCSE or A Level as assessment takes place throughout the academic year and large volumes of usable evidence have been gathered prior to schools closing on the 20th March 2020. Centres will be asked to produce **centre assessment grades** for each learning outcome for each unit completed this year.

Ofqual's current guidance proposes an approach to calculating results which will involve the following three elements:

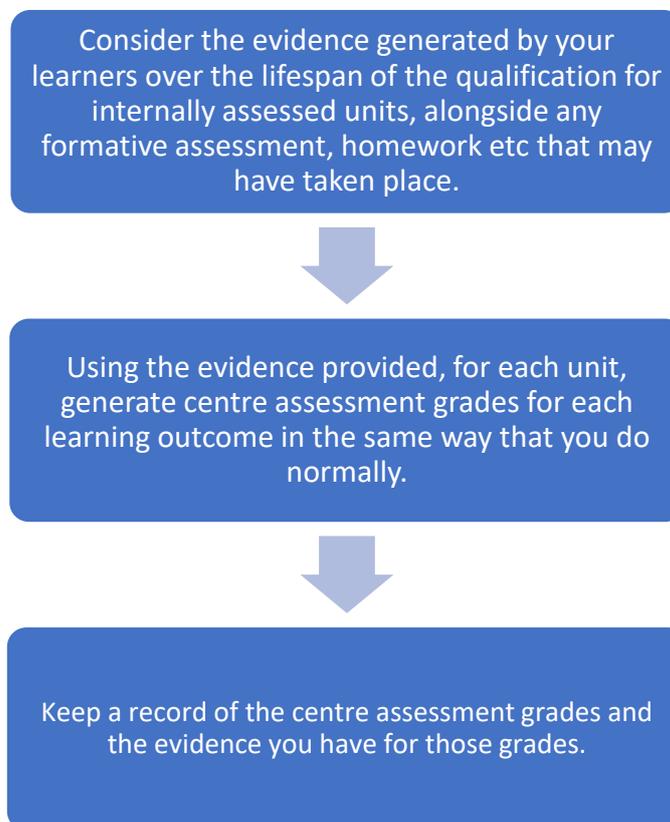
- A **centre assessment grade** for each learner (generated by the centre) and/or a calculated grade (determined by the awarding organisation) based on the results they already hold for the learner
- Quality assurance of the overall calculated result (which is derived from the centre assessment grade and/or any awarding organisation calculated grade)
- A check on overall qualification level outcomes and grade profile, and that it is in line with expectations

This information is directly taken from Ofqual's 'Summer 2020 results for vocational, technical and other qualifications' guidance which is available here -

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

Centre assessment grades apply to all units that were due to be completed this year. We will provide more detail on externally assessed units once we have assurance from Ofqual about our approach to certification. For now, you should focus on internally assessed units. While centre assessment grades will mostly apply to learners who are certificating this year, we are aware that there will be learners on the first year of a course who will not have time to make up units next year or would be otherwise disadvantaged by doing so. If it is possible to move assessment to next year, please do so. Should moving assessment to the following year not be possible due to time constraints, please provide centre assessment grades for the affected internally assessed units.

Please complete the following for your internally assessed units:



At this stage, you will not need to do anything with this information other than log it for your own records. Once we have the required sign off from Ofqual, we will give you detailed guidance about the next steps. If you wish to wait until the Ofqual consultation has concluded before completing this, that is absolutely fine. We are sending this guidance now as we know many people are eager to make some progress towards certificating following a protracted period of waiting.

We appreciate that you will have a lot of questions and, as explained above, we are currently limited in the answers we can give. Please see below for some FAQs which will hopefully help to answer your immediate questions and we will provide further guidance as soon as we are able to.

Kind Regards
The RSL VQ Team

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5. Are we able to submit the grades sooner if we have them ready?

This will depend on the required update to our grade entry system. We anticipate that this function will be available sooner than 1st June. As soon as our system is ready, we will contact all centres to let them know it is available to input the grades. If you have grades available prior to the window, you are encouraged to input them once the system is available. The sooner we have the centre assessment grades, the better. **Please do not input the grades until we ask you to.**

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We will provide more detail on this once we have assurance from Ofqual about our approach to certification. For now, focus on internally assessed units.

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Internal Assessment

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There may be instances where there is no evidence available. If you are not able to generate centre assessment grades, please do not do so. We will provide further guidance on this at a later stage.

11. Can learners continue with internal assessment?

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