

Exam Results – Advice for Parents and Students

This guide aims to explain the results process and answer some questions that may come up regarding results day, how marks are awarded and how to or whether to make an enquiry about results.

Marking

Between June and August all exam papers and coursework modules are marked by examiners who work remotely for the exam boards. Most papers these days are scanned and added to electronic databases and the papers are downloaded by examiners at home in batches of 20 or so. Examiners are mostly teachers or retired teachers who are employed by the exam boards to mark papers.

In August the Standards Committees meet and analyse the numerical marks awarded across the whole country and decide for each separate module where the grade boundary will fall for that subject for this season. The numerical marks for each paper, perhaps 3 for each subject are added up and the grades are then awarded for each student.

For coursework units the process is that teachers mark the coursework at school. This is then internally moderated with other teachers and sometimes with other centres too to ensure the system has been followed accurately. The marks are then entered online and the exam boards request a sample of the work and they then double-check the marking too. At this point the mark can be adjusted.

On Results Day we download the results and print a results statement for each student. They are given out early on Results Day so that students have as much time as possible to make decision on their next steps.

Achieving grades lower than expected

If a grade is not as expected there are several options available.

For those awaiting a university place there is a Priority Review of Marking which can be requested. The fee is approx. £40-60 for this service. Once the request is received an examiner looks through the original marking and checks it is in line with

the markscheme. Only if an error is found will they actually re-do the marking to give a new mark. They are not aware of the overall grade awarded or how close it is to the grade boundary as they only see the mark not the overall grade.

If there is time it is recommended that students order a copy of their script (their answers) to see first if there is an explanation for the disappointing mark.

We never recommend a review of marking unless the candidate is near the upper grade boundary as marks can and do often go down.

The grade boundaries for each subject can be located on the public exam board websites soon after results are published eg; <http://www.aqa.org.uk/exams-administration/results-days/grade-boundaries-and-ums/raw-mark-grade-boundary-tables>

Parents and students often ask if it is worth trying for a Review of Marking. This depends on the circumstances. To give an indication of the success of marking reviews please note the following statistics.

In 2017 of 55 reviews of marking requested these were the outcomes:

3 A level grades changed
7 GCSE grades changed

Ofqual offer a guide after the event which shows the national statistics, such as this if you wish to read further.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/enquiries-about-results-for-gcse-and-a-level-summer-2015-exam-series>

The overall figures for 2015 are as follow: Of 115,762 enquires submitted for AS and A level, 1.4% changed.

The Examinations Officer and other senior staff are available throughout late August to help guide you through the various services on offer.

Two important things to note:

- Only the student can make an enquiry and their written permission is essential
- Payment must be made before the enquiry can be requested

Key Dates are as follows for Results Summer 2018

A level results publication:	16 th August 2018	8am-10am
GCSE results publication:	23 rd August 2018	9:30am

Priority 2 Review of Marking deadline: NOON on 23rd August 2018
A level script request: NOON on 23rd August 2018

GCSE script request: NOON on 30th August 2018
(NB not ALL exam boards offer this service for GCSE)

Scripts should arrive around or before 6th September.

Review of Marking (non-urgent) deadline: 20th September 2018

Forms and fees will be available on results days here in school. The office is manned at certain hours (published nearer the time) between 16th August and 31st August but please email exams@beechencliff.org.uk in the first instance and many queries can be resolved this way.

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