

## **GCSE Grades Summer 2023**

How grading will work over the summer and what this means for you or your child.

### **Ofqual guidance for students**

In May, Ofqual published some useful guidance for students on the 2023 summer exam series – available [here](#). Ofqual is the exams regulator, which checks the systems and processes of individual exam boards.

### **Exams in 2023**

This is the first year since the pandemic that exams have taken place without any significant adaptations, although students are able to use formula and equation sheets to support them in GCSE maths, combined science and physics.

This means that students have needed to study all content in their subjects as any topic could come up in the exam. This is the same across the country and across all exam boards.

### **Grading in summer 2023**

As exam papers are completed, exam boards will begin to mark them using the same mark schemes as were in place in 2019 and in 2022 (the last two years in which exams took place). The marks awarded will depend on the quality of the student's work.

Once all papers are marked, then exam boards will set grade boundaries. This year, Ofqual's decision is to return to a similar pattern of grade distribution as in 2019. Ofqual has put systems in place to ensure that nationally grades will not be lower than in 2019, even if the quality of work is slightly lower. In other words, a student has about the same chance as achieving a Grade 4 or Grade 7 or Grade 9, etc. at GCSE, as they did before the pandemic.

This is the main way in which the exam boards are attempting to ensure that students are not disadvantaged by having lived through the pandemic. Again, this approach is the same across the country, and across all exam boards.

We wish all our students the best of luck with the rest of their exams.