

Mr Pavey, Headteacher

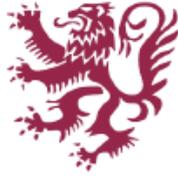
1 April 2021

Teacher Assessed Grades - Year 11 Summer 2021

The documents linked below will tell you exactly which pieces of evidence we will be using to arrive at this summer's grade. In general, we will gather roughly the same amount of evidence than a normal suite of exams would provide. We will test what has been taught, and will not include anything that we have had to leave out. A reminder of the essential principles is below.

- **Professional judgement**: there is no one thing, or mathematical formula which will dictate the grade. Teachers will use their professional judgement to decide the grade, on the basis of the evidence outlined in the subject grids on the link below.
- **Hierarchy of evidence**: not all pieces of work are of equal weight. In general, here is our hierarchy:
 - Recent is stronger than older.
 - Controlled conditions is stronger than independent work.
 - Marked is stronger than unmarked (we are unlikely to take account of notes or revision plans).
- **Work must be substantially that of the student**, and any assistance should be acknowledged; this is only likely to be an issue if students cannot complete the assessments in school, and an alternative way of doing them needs to be found.
- **The work outlined in the subject grid is what we will use**. Students are very welcome to submit extra work, in agreement with their teachers and within a reasonable timeframe, but they would be very unwise to do so *instead* of completing the assessments set by school. Likewise, external tutors are best used to help prepare for upcoming assessments, rather than doing totally different work.

Special consideration: we will take account of extraordinary circumstances, above and beyond the difficulties imposed on everyone by the pandemic. One of the main ways is the freedom to leave certain assessments out, or by giving less weight to them. For example, a student may have 5s and 6s for most of their work, but was ill for one assessment and got 3. This is out of line with the other grades, and we will be able to ignore it. In some circumstances, small adjustments to the marks may be made: please be aware that exam boards themselves very rarely award more than 3% uplift. All communication on special consideration needs to come through the central email address mentioned below.



CHENEY SCHOOL
Think for yourself, act for others

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Exam access arrangements: students will have the same access arrangements as for a normal exam series. SEND, the exams office and Heads of Faculty are working hard to ensure that nobody is missed, and a confirmatory email from SEND will be coming shortly showing what students are entitled to. Because this series of assessments is much more complicated than exams in the hall, it would be very helpful if students could remind teachers of their entitlement a few days ahead of an assessment; we will be doing that centrally, as well, of course.

Appeals: a second version of the subject grids containing the marks for each piece of evidence will be shared with students and parents just before May half term. Students will have the May half term to look at the evidence, and to let us know of errors or omissions. All communication on this needs to be through the central email address below. Any entirely new evidence or extra work produced for the first time later than a *week before May half term* will not be taken into consideration, because of time constraints. If students are not happy with the result published in August, it will be possible to lodge an appeal. Appeals will only be successful if it can be shown that a result could not have been reached through reasonable professional judgement. I have to be clear that this is a very high bar, as I can foresee no circumstances in which our teachers' judgements could fall so far short, even if students are disappointed by or disagree with the results. Again, all communication on appeals will need to go through the central email address below.

Bargaining up: some students or parents will be tempted to try and talk us into awarding better grades. I must be clear that this will not work, and I will not sign off grades that are not deserved. Firstly, it is wrong, and secondly, artificially inflated grades could bring the whole cohort's grades down, if the exam boards select us for external moderation.

Extra evidence: we will take account of extra evidence, but this should be done *with extreme caution*. We are making our judgements on the basis of the assessments and work outlined in the subject grids, so these must be the focus of students' revision and preparation. Anything extra is a bonus, but cannot replace the core work; time spent doing extra is not likely to be well-spent, and could be actively harmful if it distracts from the listed assessments. Extra work should be shared with the class teacher in good time, and certainly at least a *week before the May half term*. I will ask staff not to mark extra work over the May half term break.

Central email address: the email address for all correspondence about special consideration, appeals or corrections to the May mark grid is: CHS-Exams2021@cheney.oxon.sch.uk



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This central email address must be used for any correspondence about these issues. There is a risk that important questions or information will be missed if things are sent to individuals.

Overall assessment calendar:

<https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1XkbF7BEvYjcsANcjOEwHfQFBPKOMtow7sZ2bp0HM6il/edit?usp=sharing>

All the subject assessment grids can be found on our website:

<https://www.cheney.oxon.sch.uk/summer-exams-2021/>

Kind regards

Rob Pavey
Headteacher