



# Internal appeals procedures

2020/2021

These procedures are reviewed annually to ensure compliance with current regulations

## Key staff involved in internal appeals procedures

Role
Head of centre
SLT members
Line Manager
Exams officer
Chair of Governors

## 1. Appeals against internal assessment decisions (centre assessed marks)

Certain GCSE, GCE and other qualifications contain components of non-examination assessment (or units of coursework) which are internally assessed (marked) by Watford UTC and internally standardised. The marks awarded (the internal assessment decisions) which contribute to the final grade of the qualification are then submitted by the deadline set by the awarding body for external moderation.

This procedure confirms Watford UTCs compliance with JCQ's *General Regulations for Approved Centres 2020-2021, section 5.7* that the centre will:

- have in place and be available for inspection purposes, a written internal appeals procedure relating to internal assessment decisions and to ensure that details of this procedure are communicated, made widely available and accessible to all candidates
- before submitting marks to the awarding body inform candidates of their centre assessed marks and allow a candidate to request a review of the centre's marking

Certain components of GCSE and GCE (legacy GCE coursework, GCE and GCSE non-examination assessments) and other qualifications that contribute to the final grade of the qualification are internally assessed (marked) by the subject teacher. The marks awarded (the internal assessment decisions) are then submitted by the deadline set by the awarding body for external moderation.

### Deadlines for the submission of marks (Summer 2020 exam series)

Date	Qualification	Details
04/11/2020	GCSE	Final date for submission of centre assessed marks (AQA)
05/05/2020	GCSE	Final date for submission of centre assessed marks (AQA, WJEC)
13/05/2020	GCSE	Final date for submission of centre assessed marks marks (OCR, Pearson)
13/05/2020	GCE/EPQ	Final date for submission of centre assessed marks (AQA, OCR, Pearson)
24/05/2020	GCSE / GCE	Final date for submission of centre assessed marks (AQA Art & Design: Photography)

Watford UTC is committed to ensuring that whenever its staff mark candidates' work this is done fairly, consistently and in accordance with the awarding body's specification and subject-specific associated documents.

Watford UTC ensures that all centre staff follow a robust *Non-examination assessment policy* (for the management of GCE and GCSE non-examination assessments). This policy details all procedures relating to non-examination assessments for GCSE, GCE, EPQ,

including the marking and quality assurance processes which relevant teaching staff are required to follow.

Candidates' work will be marked by staff who have appropriate knowledge, understanding and skill, and who have been trained in this activity. Watford UTC is committed to ensuring that work produced by candidates is authenticated in line with the requirements of the awarding body. Where a number of subject teachers are involved in marking candidates' work, internal moderation and standardisation will ensure consistency of marking.

On being informed of their centre assessed marks, if a candidate believes that the above procedures were not followed in relation to the marking of his/her work, or that the assessor has not properly applied the mark scheme to his/her marking, then he/she may make use of the appeals procedure below to consider whether to request a review of the centre's marking.

Watford UTC will

1. ensure that candidates are informed of their centre assessed marks in a timely manner by email to their Watford UTC account or verbally (the candidate will sign a declaration sheet to state they accept their mark) so that they may consider a request to a review of the centre's marking before marks are submitted to the awarding body
2. Candidates will receive an email receipt of their request and the dates will be logged
3. Inform candidates that they will need to explain on what grounds they wish to request a review of an internally assessed mark as a review will only focus on the quality of their work in meeting the published assessment criteria
4. Inform candidates that they may request copies of materials (for example, as a minimum, a copy of their marked assessment material (work) and the mark scheme or assessment criteria plus additional materials which may vary from subject to subject) to assist them in considering whether to request a review of the centre's marking of the assessment
5. having received a request for copies of materials, promptly make them available to the candidate (or for some marked assessment materials, such as art work and recordings, inform the candidate that these will be shared under supervised conditions) within 2 school days
6. Inform candidates they will not be allowed access to original assessment material unless supervised
7. provide candidates with sufficient time in order to allow them to review copies of materials and reach a decision, informing candidates that if their decision is to request a review they will need to explain what they believe the issue to be
8. Provide a clear deadline for candidates to submit a requests for a review of the centre's marking. Requests will not be accepted after this deadline. Requests **must** be made in writing within 4 school days of receiving copies of the requested materials. The

request must be made in writing to the Head of Centre by completing the internal appeals form

9. allow 7 school days for the review to be carried out, to make any necessary changes to marks and to inform the candidate of the outcome, all before the awarding body's deadline
10. ensure that the review of marking is carried out by an assessor who has appropriate competence, has had no previous involvement in the assessment of that candidate and has no personal interest in the review
11. instruct the reviewer to ensure that the candidate's mark is consistent with the standard set by the centre
12. inform the candidate in writing of the outcome of the review of the centre's marking

The outcome of the review of the centre's marking will be made known to the head of centre. A who will have the final decision if there is any disagreement on the mark to be submitted to the awarding body. A written record will be kept and made available to the awarding body upon request.

The awarding body will be informed if the centre does not accept the outcome of a review

Candidates are reminded that the review of marking **may result in their mark going up, going down or remaining the same.** Candidates must accept the reviewed mark.

After candidates' work has been internally assessed; "the moderation process carried out by the awarding body may result in a mark change, either upwards or downwards, even after an internal review. The internal review process is in place to ensure consistency in marking within the centre, whereas moderation by the awarding body ensures that centre marking is in line with national standards. The mark submitted to the awarding body is subject to change and should therefore be considered provisional."

(Quoted directly from the JCQ publication [Reviews of marking \(centre assessed marks\) suggested template for centres](#))

This process is outside the control of Watford UTC and is not covered by this procedure.

## **2. Appeals against the centre's decision not to support a clerical check, a review of marking, a review of moderation or an appeal**

This procedure confirms Watford UTCs compliance with JCQ's *General Regulations for Approved Centres 2020-2021*, section 5.13 that the centre will:

**Have available for inspection purposes** and draw to the attention of candidates and their parent/carers, a written internal appeals procedure to manage disputes when a candidate disagrees with a centre decision not to support a clerical check, a review of marking, a review of moderation or an appeal

Following the issue of results, awarding bodies make post-results services available. Full details of these services, internal deadlines for requesting a service and fees charged are provided by the exams officer and are sent by email to students/parents in the student handbook and are available on the website.

Candidates are also informed of the arrangements for post-results services and the availability of senior members of centre staff immediately after the publication of results, **before** they sit any exams by email to parents/carers/candidates

If the centre or a candidate (or his/her parent/carer) has a concern and believes a result may not be accurate, post results services may be considered

The JCQ post-results services currently available are detailed below

### **Reviews of Results (RoRs)**

- Service 1 – (clerical re-check)

This is the only service that can be requested for objective tests (multiple choice tests)

- Service 2 – (review of marking)
- Priority Service 2 (review of marking)

This service is only available for externally assessed components of GCE A-Level specifications (an individual awarding body may also offer this priority service for other qualifications)

- Service 3 – (review of moderation)  
(this service is not available to an individual candidate)

### **Access to Scripts (ATS)**

- copies of scripts to support reviews of marking
- copies of scripts to support teaching and learning

Where a concern is expressed that a particular result may not be accurate, the centre will look at the marks awarded for each component part of the qualification alongside any mark schemes, relevant result reports, grade boundary information etc, when made available by the awarding body to determine if the centre supports any concerns

For written components that contributed to the final result, the centre will:

1. Where a place at university or college is at risk, consider supporting a request for a Priority Service 2 review of marking
2. In all other instances, consider accessing the script by:
  - a) (where the service is made available by the awarding body) requesting a priority copy of the candidate's script to support a review of marking by the awarding body deadline or
  - b) (where the option is made available by the awarding body) viewing the candidate's marked script online to consider if requesting a review of marking is appropriate
3. Collect informed written consent/permission from the candidate to access their script

4. On access to the script, consider if it is felt that the agreed mark scheme has been applied correctly in the original marking and if the centre considers there are any errors in the marking
5. Support a request for the appropriate RoRs service (clerical re-check or review of results) if any error is identified
6. Collect informed written consent from the candidate to request the RoRs service before the request is submitted
7. Where relevant, advise an affected candidate to inform any third party (such as a university or college) that a review of marking has been submitted to an awarding body)

Written candidate consent (informed consent via candidate email is acceptable) is required in all cases before a request for a RoRs service 1 or 2 (including priority service 2) is submitted to the awarding body.

Consent is required to confirm the candidate understands that the final subject grade and/or mark awarded following a clerical re-check or review of marking, and any subsequent appeal, may be lower than, higher than, or the same as the result which was originally awarded.

Candidate consent must only be collected **after** the publication of results.

For any moderated components that contributed to the final result, the centre will:

- Confirm that a review of moderation cannot be undertaken on the work of an individual candidate or the work of candidates not in the original sample submitted for moderation
- Consult the moderator's report/feedback to identify any issues raised
- Determine if the centre's internally assessed marks have been accepted without change by the awarding body-if this is the case, A RoR service 3 (review of moderation) will not be available
- Determine if there are any grounds to submit a review of moderation for the work of all candidates in the original sample

Where a candidate disagrees with a centre decision not to support a clerical re-check, a review of marking or a review of moderation, the centre will:

- For a review of marking (RoR priority service 2), advise the candidate they may request the review by providing informed written consent (and the required fee) for this service to the centre by the deadline set by the centre
- For a review of marking (RoR service 1 or 2), first advise the candidate to access a copy of his/her script to support a review of marking by providing written permission for the centre to access the script (and any required fee for this service) for the centre to submit this request
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- After accessing the script to consider the marking, inform the candidate that if a request for a review of marking (RoRs service 1 or 2) is required, this must be submitted by the deadline set by the centre by providing informed written consent (and the required fee for this service) for the centre to submit this request
- Inform the candidate that a review of moderation (RoR service 3) cannot be requested for the work of an individual candidate not in the original sample

If a concern is raised about a particular examination result, the candidate should raise their concern in person or by email to the exams officer or Associate Principal, or Principal, who will investigate the feasibility of requesting a review supported by the centre.

Watford UTC's policy is for a member of SLT to see and discuss their results and future with every single candidate collecting their examination results, before they leave the centre.

The Principal, Associate Principal and Exams Officer are all available in person on results days and by email during the following days.

Where the centre does not uphold a request from a candidate, the reasons for this decision will be explained to the candidate. The candidate may pay the appropriate RoR fee to the centre, and a request will be made to the awarding body on the candidate's behalf.

If the candidate (or his/her parent/carer) believes there are grounds to appeal against the centre's decision not to support a review, an internal appeal can be submitted to the centre by completing the **internal appeals form** at least 14 calendar days prior to the internal deadline for submitting a request for a review of results (RoRs).

The appellant will be informed of the outcome of his/her appeal 7 calendar days before the internal deadline for submitting a RoRs.

Following the RoRs outcome, an external appeals process is available if the head of centre remains dissatisfied with the outcome and believes there are grounds for appeal. The JCQ publications **Post-Results Services** and **JCQ Appeals Booklet (A guide to the awarding bodies' appeals processes)** will be consulted to determine the acceptable grounds for a preliminary appeal.

Where the head of centre is satisfied after receiving the RoRs outcome, but the candidate (or his/her parent/carer) believes there are grounds for a preliminary appeal to the awarding body, a further internal appeal may be made to the head of centre. Following this, the head of centre's decision as to whether to proceed with a preliminary appeal will be based upon the acceptable grounds as detailed in the *JCQ Appeals Booklet*. Candidates or parents/carers are not permitted to make direct representations to an awarding body.

The **internal appeals form** (located at the end of this document) should be completed and submitted to the centre within 3 calendar days of the notification of the outcome of the EAR. The form should be emailed or handed to the head of centre, the Principal. Subject to the head of centre's decision, this will allow the centre to process the preliminary appeal and submit to the awarding body within the required **30 calendar days** of receiving the outcome of the review of results process. Awarding body fees which may be charged for the preliminary appeal must be paid to the centre by the appellant before the preliminary appeal is submitted to the awarding body (fees are available from the exams officer). If the appeal is upheld by the awarding body, this fee will be refunded by the awarding body and repaid to the appellant by the centre.



## Internal appeals form

Please tick box to indicate the nature of your appeal and complete all white boxes on the form below

FOR CENTRE USE ONLY	
Date received	
Reference No.	

- Appeal against an internal assessment decision and/or request for a review of marking
- Appeal against the centre's decision not to support a clerical re-check, a review of marking, a review of moderation or an appeal

Name of appellant		Candidate name if different to appellant	
Awarding body		Exam paper code	
Qualification type Subject		Exam paper title	

**Please state the grounds for your appeal below**

*(If applicable, tick below)*

- Where my appeal is against an internal assessment decision I wish to request a review of the centre's marking
- If necessary continue on an additional page if this form is being completed electronically or overleaf if hard copy being completed*

Appellant signature:

Date of signature:

**This form must be signed, dated and returned to the exams officer on behalf of the head of centre to the timescale indicated in the relevant appeals procedure**



## Further guidance to inform on appeals procedures

### JCQ publications

- ▶ General Regulations for Approved Centres  
<https://www.jcq.org.uk/exams-office/general-regulations>
- ▶ Post-Results Services  
<https://www.jcq.org.uk/exams-office/post-results-services>
- ▶ JCQ Appeals Booklet  
<https://www.jcq.org.uk/exams-office/appeals>
- ▶ Notice to Centres – informing candidates of their centre assessed marks  
<https://www.jcq.org.uk/exams-office/non-examination-assessments>

### Ofqual publications

- ▶ GCSE (9 to 1) qualification-level conditions and requirements  
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/gcse-9-to-1-qualification-level-conditions>
- ▶ GCE qualification-level conditions and requirements <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/gce-qualification-level-conditions-and-requirements>