Results Guidance 2020

Q1. Is it possible for me to speak to a member of staff regarding my results?

A. We recognise that accessing results remotely is not the usual way students will be used to receiving the results for their studies. However, due to Covid-19 we have had to consider how we can ensure students get their results at the earliest opportunity, without any delays and to ensure student and staff safety and welfare at all times.

We understand that some of you will have questions relating to your grades on Thursday 13\textsuperscript{th} August. Staff will be in school and available from 9:00am – 1:00pm on results day to support student queries.

If students require further support, they can email Mrs Tranter \url{tranterc@hamsteadhall.com} or Ms Wood at \url{woods@hamsteadhall.com}

Those students progressing to university can find UCAS guidance, clearing choices and contact numbers in the link below:

\url{https://www.ucas.com/undergraduate/results-confirmation-and-clearing/who-contact}

Or for further guidance on your future, click on the links below.

\url{https://www.thestudentroom.co.uk/results/}
\url{https://www.ucas.com/further-education/find-career-ideas}
\url{https://www.careerpilot.org.uk/information/a-levels/after-a-levels-what-next}

Q2. Can I appeal the grade(s) I have achieved?

A. Dissatisfaction with the grades issued by exam boards does not in itself constitute grounds for appeal, unless there is evidence that there has been a technical error by the centre or the exam board.

Due to the extraordinary arrangements this year, students and/or their parents/carers \textbf{cannot appeal directly to an exam board}. Instead they are required to make a representation to the head of centre. The head of centre’s decision as to whether to proceed with an appeal is subject to the centre’s internal appeal arrangements and evidence provided.

Ofqual has clearly defined what constitutes a valid ground on which an appeal can be based:

- the awarding body did not apply procedures consistently, or procedures were not followed properly and fairly; or

- the exam board used the wrong data in calculating results; or

- the college made an administrative error in submitting the incorrect grade to the awarding body; or

cont...
the result generated was incorrectly issued by the exam board to one or more candidates

Further information on how an appeal can be raised, please refer to the letter on the website.

Q3. Is there an opportunity for me to take an exam in the Autumn to improve my grade(s)?

A. In most cases students will be able to use the grades they have achieved to progress and we can provide you with advice on this.

In the letter you received today with your results you will find details of how you can request to sit an exam for any of the subjects you studied at Hamstead Hall Academy Sixth Form College.

Students wishing to sit an examination will do so in the Autumn term (October for A-level subjects or November for GCSE English or Maths). Hamstead Hall Academy Sixth Form will be responsible for entering you for these but please be aware that there will be a fee for each exam entry.

Students that opt to undertake an autumn exam and achieve a different grade, than awarded in the summer, are permitted to use the higher grade for their future progression. It will be possible to request a replacement certificate to show the higher of their summer and autumn grades, however some exam boards may charge for this.

Once entries have been made, teaching staff will contact candidates to provide details of online support and guidance that will be available for the autumn series examinations.

Q4. Following the government’s announcement on the 12th August, is it possible for me to request my mock examination grade if this is higher than my actual examination grade received on results day?

A. The government announced a new ‘triple lock’ process which it hopes to give students added security as you receive your grades. Students can accept their calculated examination grade, appeal to receive a valid mock examination result or sit autumn exams.

However, the details of this are more complicated and it is not as straightforward as simply using a ‘mock grade’ in place of the grade given by the exam board. Instead, if a student receives a substantially lower grade than the school has evidence for, through mock results, this may be grounds for appealing the grade through a formal appeals process to the exam board.

It is also important to be aware of the context of how mock exams are set. They are not an exact replication of the external examination programme. As a school we use ‘mock’ exams in a number of ways throughout the school year as part of our ongoing assessment. This includes guiding students through exam questions in class, doing partial exam questions in class or for homework, and doing full or partial exams under exam conditions. Furthermore, we use mock exams to help our students progress: for example, by getting them used to the style of the exam or setting them a greater challenge. It is not uncommon for a mock grade, awarded from a test that only examines earlier, and often easier parts of a course, to be higher than the actual grade students achieve at the end of a course.

For this reason, the grade a student has been given as a ‘mock grade’ may not satisfy the criteria needed by the exam boards for appeal – if for example it was a paper that the students had planned answers for in class. In most cases, a mock paper does not examine the whole content of the course and is an amalgamation of previous exam questions. Therefore, a higher mock grade may not be sufficient grounds for appeal. The exam boards will want detailed evidence of this grade and justification as to why it should replace the grade awarded.

A high proportion of students will receive the grades their teachers have worked out they were most likely to achieve. In some cases, these teacher-assessed grades may have been marked down using the examination board statistical formula.
Most of our students should be able to go onto their choice of university. All universities understand the situation this year and are trying to be more flexible. If a student gets into their choice of further study or training, we strongly recommend that they don't go down the appeals or resit route, but instead focus on the next stage of the education and use the rest of the summer to prepare.

If a student has not received the grades, they need for university entry requirements, the following routes are open to them:

- Contact the school to seek further advice.
- Contact the university and ask for further advice.
- Use you UCAS track, please make sure you have your log in and password.
- Use the attached links in answer 1.
- If you still cannot get into your choice of university, contact the school about the possibility of appealing the grade – but this should be a last resort. Not all mock exam grades will provide sufficient evidence for an appeal and therefore may not be successful.
- If an appeal is not possible, you may want to consider resitting the exams in the autumn or in summer 2021.

Q5. Is it possible for me to find out the grade (Centre Assessed Grade) my teacher(s) provided to the exam board?

A. We recognise that this has been a very difficult time for all of our students. The process of providing Centre Assessed grades was the fairest possible approach available under extreme circumstances and the grades awarded this year are as valid as in any other year. This will allow students to progress in the usual way despite the cancellations of external exams.

The sixth form was able to assess student grades with a high degree of accuracy, the teachers who contributed to the process know their students well. The grades centres submitted to the exam boards were based on objective evidence and agreed by the college following a rigorous internal quality assurance process and are not the sole responsibility of any individual teacher.

The standardisation model developed by Ofqual and the awarding organisations is statistical, designed to adjust for different interpretations of the standards by different centres and the results may not reflect the grades submitted by the centre.

The standardisation process applied by the exam boards ensures grades awarded this year are consistent with those awarded to other cohorts in other years. We know that the Centre Assessed grades were higher than this nationally, meaning that there was some downward adjustment at subject and centre level.

In the rare circumstances where students wish to request the grade their teacher(s) submitted to the exam board can be provided and will usually take up to ten working days of the request being made. Further information can be found in the Results and Appeals process, found in the Exam area of the school website.

Q6. When will my certificates from the summer exam period be made available to me?

A. It is expected that students will be able to collect their examination certificates in latter part of the autumn term, usually after October half term. Students can nominate someone else to collect the certificates on their behalf or have them sent via recorded delivery (cost applicable).

Q7. After receiving my results, I have decided that I would like to resit the year at Hamstead Hall Academy Sixth Form. Is this a possibility?

A. We are envisaging that a lot of our students will be able to progress into further education, apprenticeship schemes or employment following results day. However, there will be a few that have not met university entry requirements and will request resitting the academic year. Again, students are required to request this in writing to Mrs Tranter. Please bear in mind before you apply, that your student records based on attendance, punctuality, homework, assessments etc along with a formal interview will all be used in the decision-making process regarding a resit year.