

Cults Academy

SQA Post Certification Review – August 2020

Due to the coronavirus COVID-19 outbreak, the 2020 exam diet was cancelled. The SQA developed an alternative certification model for 2020. This model includes a post-certification review service for National 5, Higher and Advanced Higher courses.

The school will use this service to request a review of a young person's grade, if:

1. the awarded grade is lower than the submitted estimate grade
2. and the school has evidence to show that the young person was performing at the level of the estimate grade.

Post-certification reviews will be carried out by SQA examiners at the request of the school. Requests from candidates or their parents and carers will not be accepted by SQA. It should be noted, however, that the school must obtain a candidate's approval before submitting a request.

A candidate is eligible for review only when they have been awarded a lower grade than the grade estimated by the school. A successful post-certification review request will result in a change of grade only — a change in band is not a feature of the review. Post certification review is available for National 5, Higher and Advanced Higher Courses in 2020 only.

The school can request one of two post-certification review types:

1. a priority review
2. a review

Priority reviews are for candidates with a conditional university or college offer.

Before submitting a request, a member of the school's Senior Leadership Team will ensure that:

- Assessment evidence is available that demonstrates performance at a higher grade than that awarded by SQA.
- The school has discussed with each candidate its intention to submit a request for a review and informed them of the possible outcomes.
- The school has the candidate's consent to submitting the request for review.
- The candidate is aware that, if this is required for progression, SQA will share the outcome of their post-certification review with UCAS and/or the institution to which they have applied to allow their application to progress.
- Where there is a requirement to provide higher/further education contact details, these are accurate and up to date.

The post-certification review process

Post-certification reviews will be undertaken by senior subject-specialist SQA examiners. The examiner will make a holistic judgement on the totality of the evidence available to them and award the candidate a grade. There are three possible outcomes:

1. Agree with the original centre estimate and upgrade the candidate result.
2. Disagree with the original centre estimate and confirm the grade awarded by SQA.
3. Disagree with both the original centre estimate and the original grade awarded by SQA and apply an alternative, lower grade.

When reviewing a submission, examiners will have access to the evidence submitted by the school as part of the review request, and any non-question paper component materials held by SQA for the candidate. Examiners will also have access to candidates' refined estimated bands and rank order. They will take a holistic approach to reviewing evidence. It is important to note that any award will be placed in the grade's lower banding — A2, B4, C6, D7 or No Award 9.

Timeline:

Priority reviews

<i>Date</i>	<i>Action</i>
Friday, 14/08/20	Deadline for submission of Priority Review requests
Friday, 04/09/20	Issue outcomes to centres/HEIs/UCAS

Reviews

<i>Date</i>	<i>Action</i>
Friday, 21/08/20	Deadline for submission of requests
TBC	Issue outcomes to centres

Actions

After you have received your SQA results (**issued Tuesday 4 August**):

Priority review: contact the school immediately by email if your results have not met the conditional offer of a place at college or university. Give the name of the college or university and what the requirements were.

Review: there is no need to contact the school as Faculty Heads, as part of the Quality Assurance process, will be reviewing all SQA course awards.

FAQ

Can I contact SQA directly to request an appeal?

No. Only the school can request a review of your grade. SQA will not accept requests from candidates, parents or carers. Please speak to your school.

If I'm waiting on the result of an appeal to confirm a place at college or university, will I get priority?

As we do every year, we will give priority to requests for candidates requiring a result to secure a conditional place at college or university. For this, your school or college needs to request a priority post-certification review. Results of priority post-certification reviews will be issued in line with UCAS deadlines.

Can my grade go down as the result of an appeal?

It is possible that SQA may award a lower grade following a review, but we expect this to be very rare. This would only happen if the evidence submitted by your school or college very clearly shows that you are performing at a lower grade than both the estimate submitted by your school or college and the grade you have been awarded by SQA.

Please use following link to access more information from the SQA:

<https://www.sqa.org.uk/sqa/93825.9757.html> 2020 Qualifications Parent and carer support