



Knox Academy

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Dear Pupil/Parent/Carer

3 August 2020

SQA results and appeals

All pupils will receive their SQA examination results tomorrow, either by post, or through *MySQA*. I write to clarify the process in place for querying an examination result and ways in which the SQA will accept what this year is called a 'post-certification review', or an 'appeal'. Further SQA information for pupils is [here](#), and further information for parents/carers is [here](#).

Background

SQA developed an alternative certification model for 2020, when it was clear examinations could no longer take place. The alternative certification model allowed SQA to award grades to all learners entered for National 5, Higher and Advanced Higher courses as fairly and reliably as possible, across subjects and levels. The alternative certification model was based on teachers' estimates, which have been quality assured by schools and the SQA.

The process may lead to a candidate or group of candidates being given a grade that's different from their estimated grade. To be as fair as possible to candidates, SQA are providing a free post-certification review (appeals) service to allow schools to request a review of the grade awarded for a candidate.

What is an appeal?

An appeal involves a review of candidate evidence, including any coursework still in school, or completed coursework that was submitted to SQA in March

Who can request an appeal?

Across the country, *only schools can request an appeal*. When teachers return to school on **10 August**, they will compare the estimated grades that they provided to SQA with the final SQA grades pupils achieved. Where a pupil fits the criteria (see below) then an appeal will be submitted.

Can grades go down as well as up in this appeals process?

Yes. It is possible that a lower grade could be awarded following an appeal, which is why we need a pupil's permission to submit an appeal. However, SQA expect cases of this to be very rare.

When is an appeal possible?

Pupils and/or parents/carers cannot ask the school to submit an appeal. All requests for appeals must come from the school and we must ensure all of the following are in place before submitting an appeal:

- Our teachers have clear evidence to support their estimate grade (SQA has provided details on the type of evidence schools can use [here](#))
- The SQA grade a pupil receives on 4 August is **lower** than the estimated grade that was made by the school (SQA are not accepting appeals for bands within a grade)
- The school has the candidate's permission
- The candidate understands that the review may lead to a lower grade

Only when all of the above is in place will the school be able to ask SQA to consider an appeal of the grade awarded by SQA.

What is the timeline for the appeals process?

Candidates receive results	Tuesday 4 August
Schools begin analysing estimate grades and SQA grades in order to decide which results to appeal	Monday 10 August
Deadline for submission of Priority Review requests (for candidates with a conditional university or college offer)	Friday 14 August
Deadline for submission of Non-priority Review requests	Friday 21 August
Outcomes of Priority Review requests issued to schools, universities/colleges and UCAS	Friday 4 September
Outcomes of Non-priority Review requests issued to schools	No specific date as this will depend on the volume of appeals SQA receive.

What happens next?

We will be in touch with all pupils for whom we are able to submit an appeal, to seek permission to make that appeal. We will then submit the evidence we have for those appeals to the SQA.

What happens once an appeal is made?

The appeal and all the associated assessment evidence will be reviewed by SQA's senior subject specialist examiners. They will either accept or reject the appeal based on the evidence provided.


If an appeal request is **accepted**, a pupil's result will be upgraded. If they require the result for a conditional college or university place, SQA will contact us at school and advise the higher education institute and UCAS, as appropriate. An updated Scottish Qualifications Certificate will be sent to all such pupils after all appeals for 2020 have been completed.

If an appeal request is **rejected**, SQA will confirm either the original grade on a pupil's certificate or a lower grade. This information will be sent to us at school so that we can talk to pupils about it.

Please note: Pupils and parents/carers can request details of a pupil's estimate grade provided to the SQA. We will provide further information next week on how parents / carers and pupils can obtain this information, should they wish to do so.

I hope this clarifies the situation for all pupils and parents/carers. If you would like to contact the school about any aspect of SQA results or the appeals process please email admin@knox.elcschool.org.uk and if a conversation would be helpful then someone will phone you back.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Susan Cook". Below the signature is a horizontal line that tapers at both ends, serving as a decorative flourish.

Susan Cook
Headteacher



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