

Consultation on arrangements for an autumn 2021 exam series

1. To what extent do you agree or disagree that the grades awarded to students in 2021 should reflect the standard at which they are performing?
Strongly agree
2. To what extent do you agree or disagree that the alternative approach to awarding grades in summer 2021 should seek to stand

12. To what extent do you agree or disagree that teachers should be required to assess (either of the exam board papers or via other evidence) a certain minimum proportion of the overall subject content, for each subject? **Agree**

13. Do you have any comments on the use of exam board papers?

Teaching staff should be provided with training and guidance to support their marking of evidence or papers if these are the outcomes of the consultation. To minimise the burden on teachers and their workload, the exam board should mark the papers that have been chosen by teachers to ensure that marking is kept central. A collaborated

NGA are concerned about the impact that the process of using exam board papers and marking processes have on teachers. There needs to be depth consideration on the pressure that teachers may face with having to make a judgement call on a student's final decision making process needs to be established that is rooted by a clear framework and does not put teachers in an inappropriate or vulnerable position.

If papers are to be provided by the exam board, NGA are of the view that this should be either compulsory or optional for all levels of assessment. However, Optionality of students sitting may undermine the consistency and comparability between centres and schools. On the other hand, making papers mandatory raises the question of how this would work in line with the public health guidelines at the time, ease anxiety of students, parents and teachers and process that does not replicate the exam system that is already in place.

NGA is concerned about the mixed messages that a mini series can send to parents and pupils.

39. Do you have any comments about external quality assurance?
NGA have heard from concerned members

52. Do you have any comments on the proposed appeal arrangements? **Schools and colleges should be informed and supported during an appeals process however, it is important to ensure that students have the time and ability to follow a reasonable route for appeals they feel their grade has not been based on their true ability. Students should face minimal disruption when progressing on to the next stage but teacher assessed grades can run of bias and discrimination.**