

HSDC Exams Update – Vocational/Technical and Functional Skills Qualifications



**ALTON
HAVANT
SOUTH DOWNS**

Good afternoon – we hope you are all safe and well.

We have recently received guidance from Ofqual on the process and timeline for awarding grades for vocational/technical and Functional Skills qualifications in lieu of formal examinations and assessments. Following this guidance from Ofqual, we would like to update you on what we are doing to ensure you gain the correct grades for your studies.

For most of these qualifications, schools and colleges have been asked to provide a centre assessment grade for their students by using a balance of different sources (all of which are detailed in the link below). If you are studying any of these qualifications your teachers will be working on this now, and once complete and fully checked the College will submit this information to all awarding organisations.

The awarding organisation offering the qualification will use any centre assessment grade, combined with other relevant information, to determine the most appropriate calculated result. For example, many students will already have completed assessments in some modules or units, which will be taken into account. Where appropriate, statistical techniques based on students' results in previous years, on these and on their qualifications from school, will form part of the adopted approach. Final grades will have the same status as in any other year. Awarding organisations will aim for students to receive results at the usual time during August.

For qualifications where it is not possible or not appropriate for schools and colleges to provide centre assessment grades (due to qualifications being specifically designed to support progression to and through employment), Ofqual are working with awarding organisations to encourage changes to assessments. In some cases (for example, where there are health & safety or specific employer requirements) it may not be appropriate to make these changes and therefore there may be no option but to wait until normal assessments can happen again.

A full list of qualifications and whether they will receive a calculated result or assessment changes will be released by Ofqual shortly and we will communicate with you further at that time.

Ofqual have also stated that students who do not feel their final result reflects their ability will be able to complete an assessment at the next available opportunity; most of these qualifications have a number of assessment windows during the year and some awarding organisations may be able to make additional windows available.

Further information regarding the recent Government update can be found by following the link below:
<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/awarding-vocational-and-technical-qualifications-this-summer>

Although this additional information from Ofqual is very welcome, we appreciate the feeling of uncertainty this still brings and the desire to contact your teachers. Please rest assured that the College will do everything to ensure the centre assessment grades given are up-to-date, accurate and fully take into account every students' individual circumstances. Therefore, you should not contact your teachers about your grades unless absolutely necessary. Colleges have been informed that under no circumstances can they share centre assessment grades with students, parents or carers prior to final results being issued.

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