

TAG Update 5: 14th May 2021

This week our teaching teams have been discussing ways of ensuring fairness and objectivity in their marking and overall grading decisions. Whilst marking each piece of student assessment work, teachers are employing a range of strategies to ensure that any bias is avoided and judgements are consistent.

These include: Teachers discussing and agreeing key points and interpretations of mark schemes before marking; one teacher marking questions from across all teaching classes for a subject; teachers sampling and checking the marking across a team; 'blind marking', where the student's name is removed and a candidate number is used instead.

We are also going to be ensuring that the grade decisions are fair and consistent by: Using the same evidence base for all students on a course; using the same 'weighting' for a particular piece of work of each student on a course (e.g. one student's mock exam result will not influence their grade more than another student's mock exam); and comparing the standard of the work with exemplar grade description materials provided by the Joint Council for Qualifications.

In the meantime, we are close to completing a compilation list of which assessments we will be using to judge the grades for each qualification, with the 'weighting' (relative importance) of each assessment. As soon as this is completed we will share it with students and parents.

Our students are continuing to work hard – please continue to encourage them as they prepare for their final assessments over the next two weeks.