



## Urban Synergy Results Day 2020 – Webinar Handout

### RESULTS DAY: WHAT TO EXPECT

**A and AS levels results published - 13 August 2020 - GCSE results published - 20 August 2020**

- ▶ Results for vocational and technical qualifications will be on the same days as A, AS level and GCSE results for equivalent levels
- ▶ Students will be awarded a formal calculated grade for each examination as final exams were not sat
- ▶ Vocational qualifications and technical awards will be issued with a calculated result, in line with the approach for GCSEs, AS and A levels

### Calculation of Students' Results

Ofqual states that it has developed a fair and robust process for assessing students' grades for summer 2020 from a broad range of evidence such as:

- ▶ Centre assessment grades from school and colleges for A and AS levels, and GCSEs
- ▶ Predicted grades used for university applications
- ▶ Mock examination results
- ▶ Past performance of the school or college

School and Colleges can also take these into account:

- ▶ Incomplete coursework
- ▶ Coursework after 20 March, 2020
- ▶ Prior attainment data such as Key Stage 2
- ▶ Draw on their performance of this year's students compared to those in previous years

Rank Order

- ▶ In addition, the centre (the school) will provide a rank order of students' grades in each subject area.
- ▶ Students warned that the standardisation of grades could result in the final grades being different from the original grades submitted to the board
- ▶ Students were told that they would not be informed of their grades submitted to Ofqual.

### Examination Grades with High Educational Currency Value

- ▶ A and AS Level grades for students are expected to achieve the following: A\*, A, B and C
- ▶ However, most universities are looking for students who have A\*, A and B
- ▶ To enter University Students must have passed GCSE mathematics and English at Grade 5 or above
- ▶ GCSE grades 9, 8, 7, 6, and 5 are considered good grades
- ▶ To take A and AS levels, schools and college expect students to achieve grades 6 and 7 in some subjects
- ▶ Schools and colleges have to use their professional experience and make an objective judgement for Students with Special Educational Needs and/or Disabilities.

### **Successful results – Well Done!**

- ▶ GCSE students need to decide what subjects they want to take at A and/or AS levels and if they want to stay on at school or go to college
- ▶ A Level students will have to consider the subject they want to study at university
- ▶ Students with a prior unconditional offer - can take up the place or go through UCAS Clearing and try for a different university.
- ▶ Students with a prior conditional offer – if you achieve the grades you can accept the place
- ▶ You can also look at Adjustment to find an alternative course, Adjustment is available between 13 and 31 August 2020, but applicants may only have five days to use it

### **Mixed results**

- ▶ You can ask your school to appeal against poor results
- ▶ Resit the examination subject/s to achieve a higher grade/s
- ▶ Go through UCAS Clearance, to see if a University would offer them a place

### **Unsuccessful results**

Don't worry if you have not done as well as you expected, there are still several options available. Follow these steps:

- ▶ Ask their school to appeal against poor results
- ▶ Resit the examination subject/s to achieve a higher grade/s
- ▶ Students can decide to redo the examinations next academic year 2020/2021
- ▶ Talk to your careers lead, teachers and family about your options. Speak to the university you planned to go to – they may still take you, especially if you only just missed out on your grades
- ▶ If you're not able to get onto your chosen course, you can use UCAS' Clearing service to find a similar course which is right for you, with entry requirements that match your grades
- ▶ If you're not able to get onto your chosen course, you may be able to resit your exams, Speak to your teachers about this and what you need to do next
- ▶ Alternatively, you can look at doing something different, like a gap year, internship, degree apprenticeships or employment
- ▶ Schools can now appeal their total results where they have significant numbers of students with grades that have been reduced

### **PARENTAL SUPPORT AND EMOTIONAL WELL BEING**

- ▶ Exam results is a very stressful, daunting and traumatic time for students and parents play a crucial role in supporting their children
- ▶ Prepare your children to cope whatever the outcome. To reassure them talk, listen and explain about their fears, worries and anxiety
- ▶ If children understand and identify anxiety and stress they will manage it much better

If your children have achieved well, congratulate them and help them to decide on their next step and if your child has not done well, avoid criticising or comparing them to their siblings, relatives or friends.

- ▶ Do not let them become discouraged by comparing themselves with their peers.
- ▶ Focus on the best course of action and play up your children's strengths.
- ▶ Give them encouragement and hope
- ▶ Persuade your children to put failure to work for them by learning from it

### **RETAKES**

- ▶ If an A level, AS level, GCSE or Vocational Training Qualification (VTQ) student does not believe the correct process has been followed, they can appeal only through their school or college
- ▶ A level, AS level and GCSE students who do not feel their calculated grades reflect their ability will be able to retake exams in the autumn term
- ▶ VTQ students who do not feel their result reflects their ability can sit an assessment at the next available opportunity (no further information given at present)
- ▶ Students participating in the autumn series of examinations
- ▶ AS and A level examinations will take place in October and GCSE examinations in November
- ▶ **AS and A-level examinations will begin on Monday 5 October 2020 and finish on Friday 23 October 2020**
- ▶ **GCSE examinations will begin on Monday 2 November 2020 and finish on Monday 23 November 2020**
- ▶ **The entry deadline for AS and A level examinations is 4 September 2020**
- ▶ **The entry deadline for GCSE students is 18 September 2020 except in the case of English language and maths where the deadline is 4 October 2020**

#### **Important note**

- ▶ Ofqual has decided to permit examination boards to run a further series in **January 2021** for GCSE English language and maths only, if the demand is high

#### **BE PREPARED**

- ▶ Students who have to retake their examinations, they should start organising their revision straightway - Plan a revision timetable
- ▶ Know the examination board and review the syllabus for each subject they are going to retake
- ▶ For example, the paper or papers for each examination, how many questions they have to answer for each paper, the time allowed for each examination paper and the marks for each question on the examination papers

#### **CLEARING**

- ▶ Clearing is a chance for students to look for a place if they do not have one, after getting their results.
- ▶ To use Clearing you must have no offer on the table and must apply and pay £5 to apply for a course in clearing
- ▶ Clearing Plus has been launched this year which is a brand-new matching service

#### **APPEALS AND BIAS**

- ▶ You can ask your school or college to check whether it has made an administrative error when submitting your centre assessment grade or position in the rank order

#### **Your School or college can appeal if:**

- ▶ They believe the exam board used the wrong data when calculating your grades(s) or made a mistake when it communicated your grades(s)
- ▶ It believes the historical data used for standardisation was not a reliable basis for predicting it's 2020 results

#### **Situations when historical data can be appealed**

- ▶ There's been a substantial change in the demographic makeup of your school or college e.g if a single sex school has become co-educational

- ▶ Your school could have experienced a significant event such as a flood or fire that caused students to relocate, consequently affecting one year's results in the historical data used
- ▶ Where there is evidence that results this year were likely to show a different pattern of grades to results in previous years-e.g where schools are concerned that the statistical model used could affect individual high ability students

#### **What if they won't submit an appeal on my behalf?**

- ▶ It must have a process in place for you to ask for a review of that decision, so that someone else at your centre considers your request – Follow the complaints procedure
- ▶ Where you believe there may have been an error in your centre assessment grade(s) your school or college should be able to explain how it made it's judgement and they evidence they used
- ▶ Deadline for an appeal for GCSE, and A level is **17 September 2020**

#### **What if I feel my school has been biased against me?**

- ▶ Receiving a grade lower than you expected is not in itself an indication of bias or discrimination
- ▶ For your case to be considered you will need to show something specific which calls for an explanation that your school has not been able to give

#### **An example of malpractice**

- ▶ Student Z who is from a BAME background is given a centre assessment grade 3 for GCSE history but was expecting a grade 4.
- ▶ They learn that a number of students in their class who are also from a similar background received lower than expected grades for history
- ▶ The exam board might review the rank order information from the school as a first step
- ▶ If the rank order for GCSE history shows that BAME students are mostly in the lower end but not the case for other subjects-the exam board will ask for further explanation

#### **How can I complain?**

- ▶ You must raise this with your school in the first instance
- ▶ If you feel that your concerns have not been addressed, you could raise your concerns with the exam board which issued your results
- ▶ Remember this would not be an appeal, but rather an allegation that malpractice or maladministration occurred in relation to your centre assessment grade(s) or rank order position(s)

#### **What will the exam board do with my allegation?**

- ▶ It will carry out an investigation to gather evidence so it can decide whether malpractice or maladministration occurred
- ▶ It is likely to review your academic record and any other specific evidence you provide
- ▶ It may choose to look at other relevant data including historical data provided by the school
- ▶ They will also talk to your head teacher and the teacher you say is responsible for the malpractice
- ▶ If there is evidence of malpractice, your results will be reviewed

#### **Appeals Process 2020: Vocational qualifications**

- ▶ This year appeals will not happen as normal
- ▶ Vocational and Technical qualifications vary widely, therefore grounds for appeal may vary
- ▶ Some exam board may charge a fee for providing some information – you can find out whether this applies to you by checking the appeals process on their website
- ▶ Remember that if you appeal your grade, it can go up, down or stay the same

## DESTINATIONS – GET READY FOR UNIVERSITY

- ▶ Where will you live? University halls, private student halls, private accommodation or stay at home
- ▶ What do you need to take? bank account details, clothes, documentation; passport/driving licence, NI number, NHS medical cards, kitchen utensils, electronic devices and charges, basic food, bedding materials, etc.

## BUDGETING

- ▶ Remember to include - student bills: utility, internet, TV licence, Insurance
- ▶ Prepare a budget and bank account before you head off to university
- ▶ Be careful about overdraft arrangement - an overdraft is a buffer and not extra cash

UCAS & Further Support

## USEFUL LINKS:

Awarding GCSE, As and A levels

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/gcse-as-and-a-level-awarding-summer-2020>

Centre Responsibility

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/responsibility-for-autumn-gcse-as-and-a-level-exams-eries>

You can find more details about your right to access that information on the [Information Commissioner's Office website](#).

Be Prepared. Have Everything Ready for results day. What happens. Your options. Your university.

<https://www.ucas.com/undergraduate/results-confirmation-and-clearing/ucas-undergraduate-results>

What it all means. What your status in Track means.

<https://www.ucas.com/undergraduate/results-confirmation-and-clearing/results/what-your-results-mean>

Your Track hasn't been upgraded. Still waiting for confirmation:

<https://www.ucas.com/undergraduate/results-confirmation-and-clearing/still-waiting>

Not the results you expected. Requesting a review or appeal:

<https://www.ucas.com/undergraduate/results-confirmation-and-clearing/results/exam-reviews-and-appeals>

Looking for more courses. How Clearing works. New for 2020 Clearing Plus (matches)

<https://www.ucas.com/undergraduate/results-confirmation-and-clearing/what-clearing>

Been Accepted. What to do next.

<https://www.ucas.com/undergraduate/results-confirmation-and-clearing/been-accepted>

Got better results than expected. Go to Adjustment.

<https://www.ucas.com/ucas/undergraduate/apply-and-track/results/ucas-adjustment-if-youve-done-better-expected>

Chat to university students:

<https://www.ucas.com/chat-to-students> & <https://unibuddy.com/for-students/>

Virtual University tours:

<https://www.ucas.com/undergraduate/what-and-where-study/open-days-and-events/virtual-tours>

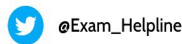
## Exam Results Helpline

Delivered by the National Careers Service

**0800 100 900**

Available from the 12th August  
7 days a week from 8am-10pm

The Exam Results Helpline can offer you free, impartial and confidential advice on your next steps.



The Exam Results Helpline will be running this year from the 12<sup>th</sup> August until the 28<sup>th</sup> August from 8am until 10pm every day, delivered by the National Careers Service.

Students, parents/carers and careers advisers will be able to access support by calling the helpline or speaking to an adviser on our webchat, as well as on Twitter on @Exam\_Helpline

## Virtual Careers Fair 2020

Monday 24th August - #OptionsAt18  
Tuesday 25th August - #OptionsAt16

Explore your options  
Speak to industry insiders  
Get expert advice on your next steps



To sign up, go to: [nationalcareersservice.eventbrite.co.uk](https://nationalcareersservice.eventbrite.co.uk)

National  
Careers  
Service

There is also a Virtual Careers Fair aimed at supporting young people looking for advice for their next steps after receiving their results. The two day event starts on Monday 24<sup>th</sup> August, aimed at 18 year-olds, and Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> August, aimed at 16 year-olds, and will include live Q&A sessions with National Careers Service advisers, as well as content from a range of national and local organisations. Students can register for this event on the following link:

[nationalcareersservice.eventbrite.co.uk](https://nationalcareersservice.eventbrite.co.uk)