

People Directorate

Kyle Academy

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Our Ref:

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To: Parent/Carers of S4, S5 and S6

Dear Parent/Carer

SQA PROVISIONAL GRADES 2021

Last month, we shared with you important information about how Provisional Grades are awarded (you can read this again [here](#)). You will shortly be receiving a report informing you of your child's Provisional Grades. Below, you will find further examples to support your understanding of how your child's grades were determined.

This academic session SQA have been clear that the grades awarded to pupils must be based on demonstrated attainment. Your child will have completed a number of assessments to show how well they understand and can apply the necessary skills and knowledge for each course. These assessments provide evidence of demonstrated attainment.

Key Pieces of Evidence

Pupils completed a range of assessments during May and June that took into account all the skills and knowledge relevant to each course. SQA consider these assessments to be the most reliable indicator of demonstrated attainment, they carry a high predictive value. Consequently, SQA were clear that pupils demonstrating attainment in line with or better than their previous attainment could be awarded a provisional grade based on this evidence alone.

Subject:

Component 1	Component 2	Predictive Value
Question Paper 1 55%	Question Paper 2 55%	High

Supplementary Evidence

However, SQA guidance was also clear that all evidence gathered across the session should be considered when determining provisional grades. This supports pupils who may have performed less well in May but had previously demonstrated higher attainment. This evidence is called supplementary evidence.

Supplementary evidence is often not as reliable as key pieces of evidence because, for example, it assesses only a small part of the course or the assessment conditions were more relaxed. The predictive value indicates the reliability of the evidence used, evidence with medium predictive value is more likely to support A-C grades, whereas evidence with a low predictive value will support pupils performing at C-D.

Subject:

Supplementary Evidence	Predictive value
Mid topic Tests	Low
December Assessment	Medium

Applying Supplementary Evidence

Example 1

Pupil A was tracked at a D band 7 in December.

In May's assessment, Pupil A demonstrated that they could apply skills and knowledge in line with the course standards at a C band 6.

After moderation, Pupil A was awarded a C band 6 based on demonstrated attainment in key evidence.

Example 2

Pupil B was tracked at a B band 3 in December.

In May's assessment, Pupil B demonstrated that they could apply skills and knowledge in line with the course standards at a C band 6.

Supplementary evidence was reviewed. Pupil B had previously demonstrated that they could apply the skills and knowledge in assessments undertaken between August and December on the first half of the course.

The pupil's grade was adjusted after the review. The pupil was awarded a B band 4 based on key and supplementary evidence.

When you receive the report informing you of your child's Provisional Grades, you will also receive a booklet with information about the evidence staff used to determine grades for each subject and level. This will clearly indicate the key evidence and the supplementary evidence used with an indication of its predictive value.

Our aim is to ensure that both our pupils and you, as parents/carers, understand how the grades were arrived at. Please be assured that teachers will have used the strongest evidence they have for your child so that they get the best possible grade.

Best wishes

Lee Gardner

Depute Head Teacher
SQA Co-ordinator