



SQA Qualifications 2021 - Important Information about how Provisional Grades are Awarded

Evidence of Demonstrated Attainment

SQA's Alternative Certification Model for 2021 relies on demonstrated attainment. This means there must be evidence that a pupil has reached the standard required across the full range of course content. **Over the session pupils have undertaken a number of assessments for the subjects they are studying. Evidence gathered from these assessments are used by teachers to make judgements about how well your child has performed compared to SQA standards.** Staff take a range of factors into account to judge how reliable the assessment evidence is (see below). SQA consider reliable assessments to be a good indicator for accurately predicting pupils' attainment.

High Predictive Value

At least 70% of the course skills and knowledge is covered in the assessment
There is a range of A to C questions that offer different levels of challenge
The assessment is secure, pupils haven't seen it or completed parts of it before
The assessment is done under strict supervision

Low Predictive Value

The tracking test assesses a limited amount of the course
The mid topic assessment may have a limited number of A/B type questions
There may have been limited options to choose from when completing a timed essay
Assessments have offered pupils the use of their notes

Key Pieces of Evidence

The assessments completed in May and June are considered to be key pieces of evidence. They have a high predictive value because they meet the conditions above. They will form a significant part of the evidence used to judge pupils' demonstrated attainment this session.

Supplementary Evidence

Your child will have completed a number of classroom-based assessments such as mid topic tests, end of unit/topic tests, timed essays and unit assessments. Supplementary evidence can provide a general overview of demonstrated attainment over the session and will be used to support the key pieces of evidence they have completed. Supplementary evidence will range between high and low predictive value.

Determining a Provisional Grade

Staff review the key pieces of evidence available from across the session. In most cases this evidence will have been gathered in December, May and June for most subjects. Where pupils have performed in line with, or better than, their previous performance, then the provisional grade can be determined on this evidence alone. **This is line with current SQA guidance.**

In some cases where pupils perform less well in May compared with their previous performance, then staff will use supplementary evidence gathered over the session to support the pupil's provisional grade. The examples below show how this may work.

Example 1

Pupil A performs less well in May's assessment for a component in a particular subject. However, the **supplementary evidence** for this element in December demonstrates that previously the pupil has performed better under conditions that offer a **high predictive value**. In this case, the pupil's evidence in December will be considered with the prospect of the pupil's grade being adjusted.

Example 2

Pupil B performs less well in May's assessment for a particular part of a Question Paper. However, the **supplementary evidence** from a topic test, with a **medium predictive value**, indicates that the pupil has previously demonstrated attainment in this topic. In this case, the pupil's evidence will be considered with the prospect of the pupil's grade being adjusted.

Subject Evidence

Departments have identified the key pieces of evidence used by each subject to determine provisional grades- an example is shown in appendix 1. Noted next to the key pieces are the weightings for each course component. The weightings are determined by SQA and support staff when collectively reviewing the evidence to agree pupils' provisional grades.

Departments have also identified, where applicable, the supplementary evidence used to support pupils who may have performed below what was expected of them in the key pieces of evidence.

The predictive value is noted beside each piece of evidence. Staff have carefully considered each piece of evidence and its reliability. This has supported their judgements when establishing the provisional grades. The information for each subject will be shared with parents alongside your child's report issued later in June.

High predictive value
Medium predictive value
Low predictive value

Working Grade Report

You will receive a report later in June that will indicate your child's working grade for their subjects this session. The working grade will represent the school's provisional grade for each subject. This grade will have been quality assured by teaching staff and, in some cases, SQA. The working grade will have been discussed with your child with their class teachers.

Appeals

Information on how you may appeal your child's working grade will be made available to parents in separate correspondence. SQA are in the process of finalising their guidance for their appeals service.

Appendix 1 – Subject Evidence

Key Pieces of Evidence					
Subject	Level	Component 1	Component 2	Component 3	Component 4
Design and Technology					
Design and Manufacture	N5	Question Paper (44%)	Assignment Design (31%)	Assignment Practical (25%)	

Supplementary Evidence	
Supplementary evidence	Predictive value
Unit work	Low