

Circular S/IF/57/23

October / 2023

To: The Principals of Post-primary Schools and Directors of Further and Higher Education

For circulation to: Examination Officers

Grading Arrangements 2024

As a follow up to Circular [S/IF/12/23 Phasing out Summer 2022 Alternative Awarding Arrangements](#) – issued to centres in January 2023 we wish to share some practical examples of how this will work in 2024.

Summary – as highlighted in the circular linked above:

- GCSE candidates requesting a grade in 2024 will be expected to have completed all units/components in the qualification. There will be no alternative grading.
- AS candidates requesting a grade in 2024 will be expected to have completed all units/components in the qualification. There will be no alternative grading.
- A Level candidates requesting a grade in 2024 will not be able to receive a grade based on A2 units only – AS performance must contribute to their A Level grade.
- A Level candidates, who entered AS units in summer 2022 under alternative arrangements, will be able to request an A Level grade in 2024 which will be determined using their best AS results (from mandatory only units or all units if completed) together with **all** A2 units. This will be the last series in which students can receive an A Level grade using alternative grading – i.e. reduced number of AS units.

Note: all existing rules regarding re-sits, fresh start and the Terminal Requirement (40% Rule) at GCSE will apply in 2024. Further information can be found using the links below:

[GCSE - Guidance Notes: Entry, Re-sit and Aggregation Rules](#)

[GCE - Guidance Notes: Entry, Re-sit and Aggregation Rules](#)

A Level examples - where candidates **will be eligible** for Alternative Grading in Summer 2024.

Example 1

Units	Summer 2022	Summer 2023	Summer 2024
AS unit 1 (mandatory unit in 2022)	<i>Completed</i>	<i>Not completed</i>	<i>Not completed</i>
AS unit 2 (optional omission unit in 2022)	<i>Not completed</i>	<i>Not completed</i>	<i>Not completed</i>
A2 Unit 1	<i>Not completed</i>	<i>Completed</i>	<i>Re-sits unit</i>
A2 Unit 2	<i>Not completed</i>	<i>Completed</i>	<i>Not completed</i>

This student has completed the AS mandatory unit only in 2022 and both A2 units in 2023. They resit A2 unit 1 in 2024 and **will be eligible** for alternative grading. Their grade will be based on performance in AS unit 1, best performance in A2 unit 1 and their A2 unit 2 result.

Example 2

Units	Summer 2022	Summer 2023	Summer 2024
AS unit 1 (mandatory unit in 2022)	<i>Completed</i>	<i>Re-sat unit</i>	<i>Not completed</i>
AS unit 2 (optional omission unit in 2022)	<i>Not completed</i>	<i>Not completed</i>	<i>Not completed</i>
A2 Unit 1	<i>Not completed</i>	<i>Not completed</i>	<i>Completed</i>
A2 Unit 2	<i>Not completed</i>	<i>Not completed</i>	<i>Completed</i>

This student has completed the AS mandatory unit only in 2022 and re-sat the unit in 2023. They complete both A2 units in 2024 and **will be eligible** for alternative grading. Their grade will be based on their best performance in AS unit 1 and their performance in both A2 units.

Example 3

Units	Summer 2022	Summer 2023	Summer 2024
AS unit 1 (mandatory unit in 2022)	<i>Completed</i>	<i>Not completed</i>	<i>Re-sits unit</i>
AS unit 2 (optional omission unit in 2022)	<i>Not completed</i>	<i>Not completed</i>	<i>Not completed</i>
A2 Unit 1	<i>Not completed</i>	<i>Not completed</i>	<i>Completed</i>
A2 Unit 2	<i>Not completed</i>	<i>Not completed</i>	<i>Completed</i>

This candidate completed the AS mandatory unit only in 2022 and then has taken a year out in 2023. They **will be eligible** for an A Level grade in 2024 under alternative arrangements. Their grade will be based on their best performance in AS unit 1 and their performance in both A2 units.

Example 4

Units	Summer 2022	Summer 2023	Summer 2024
AS unit 1 (mandatory unit in 2022)	<i>Completed</i>	<i>Re-sat unit</i>	<i>Not completed</i>
AS unit 2 (optional omission unit in 2022)	<i>Completed</i>	<i>Re-sat unit</i>	<i>Not completed</i>
A2 Unit 1	<i>Not completed</i>	<i>Not completed</i>	<i>Completed</i>
A2 Unit 2	<i>Not completed</i>	<i>Not completed</i>	<i>Completed</i>

This student has re-taken year 13 in 2023 and repeated both AS units in 2023. This candidate **will be eligible** for an A Level grade in 2024 under alternative arrangements. Their grade will be based on either their best performance in AS Unit 1 only or their best performance in AS unit 1 and AS Unit 2 combined, whichever is higher, and their performance in both A2 units.

A Level examples - where candidates **will not be eligible** for Alternative Grading in Summer 2024.

Example 1

Units	Summer 2021	Summer 2022	Summer 2023	Summer 2024
AS unit 1 (mandatory unit in 2022)	<i>Received CDG grade at AS – examinations cancelled</i>	<i>Not completed</i>	<i>Not completed</i>	<i>Not completed</i>
AS unit 2 (optional omission unit in 2022)		<i>Not completed</i>	<i>Not completed</i>	<i>Not completed</i>
A2 Unit 1	<i>Not completed</i>	<i>Completed</i>	<i>Not completed</i>	<i>Re-sits unit</i>
A2 Unit 2	<i>Not completed</i>	<i>Not completed</i>	<i>Not completed</i>	<i>Completed</i>

This student **will not be eligible** for an A Level grade in 2024 as a Centre Determined Grade (CDG) cannot be used towards an A Level grade. A Level candidates will not be able to receive a grade based on A2 units only in 2024. To receive a grade this student would have to complete all AS and A2 units.

Example 2

Units	Summer 2022	Summer 2023	Summer 2024
AS unit 1 (mandatory unit in 2022)	<i>Completed</i>	<i>Re-sat unit</i>	<i>Not completed</i>
AS unit 2 (optional omission unit in 2022)	<i>Not completed</i>	<i>Not completed</i>	<i>Not completed</i>
A2 Unit 1	<i>Not completed</i>	<i>Not completed</i>	<i>Completed</i>
A2 Unit 2	<i>Not completed</i>	<i>Not completed</i>	<i>Not completed</i>

This student **will not be eligible** for an A Level grade in 2024 as they have not completed all A2 units. To receive a grade this candidate would have to enter A2 unit 2 as well as A2 unit 1 and these results would then be aggregated with their best AS unit 1 performance to award an A Level grade.

If you have any queries regarding the content of this circular please contact:

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