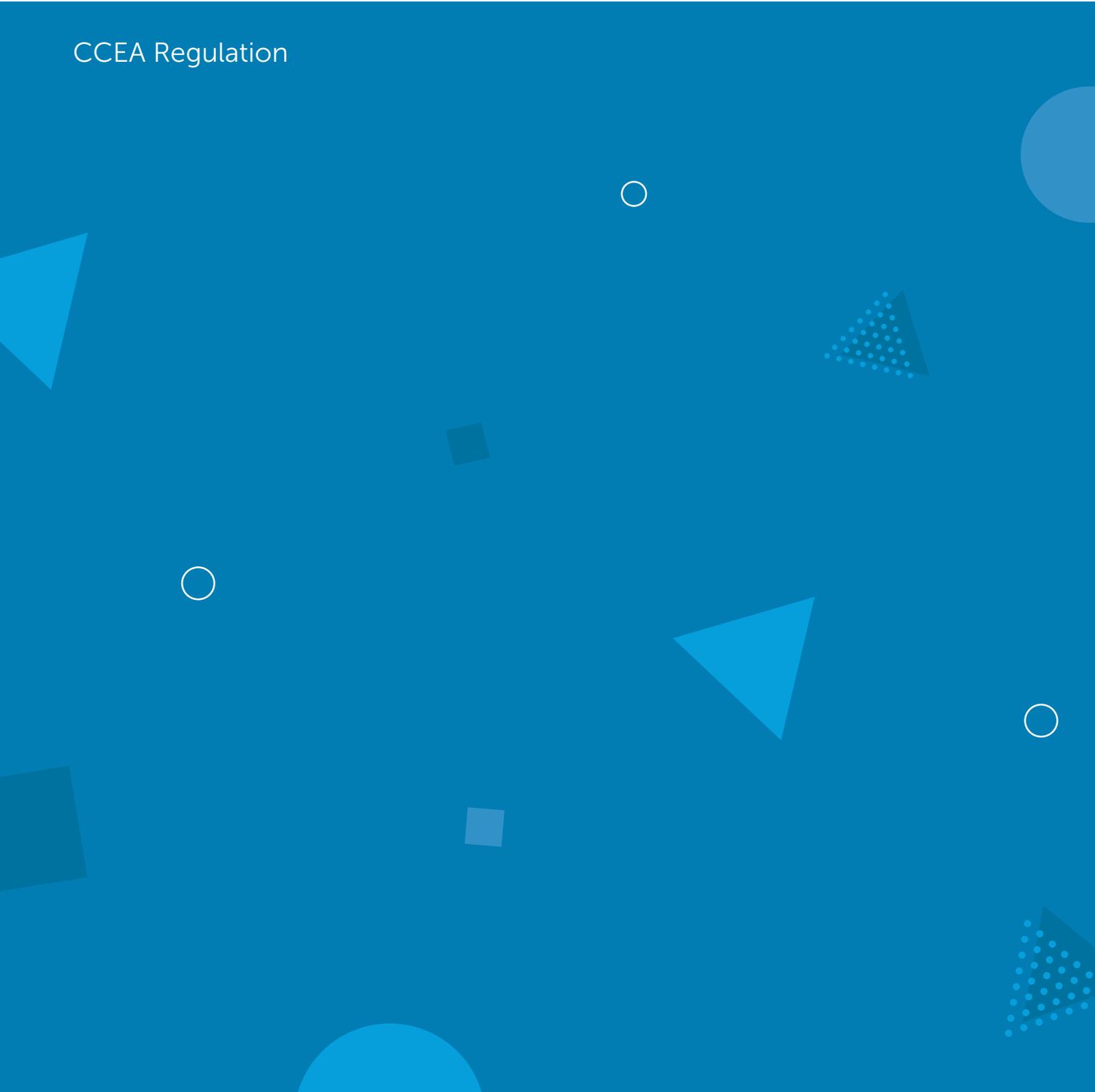


Information Regarding Private Candidates and Summer 2020 Awarding Arrangements

CCEA Regulation



Background

We have been exploring ways in which private candidates can be facilitated in the awarding arrangements put in place this summer. These include students not on a centre's roll whom schools and colleges have not taught themselves, because they have been home-educated, have followed distance-learning programmes or have studied independently.

There are other students, too, who are not private candidates but who have only recently joined a centre, or who because of their particular circumstances have studied for their qualifications with other centre, and for whom there is insufficient information available to that centre.

CCEA Awarding Organisation (AO) will send out further technical information (guidance) regarding private candidates.

Our update, below, will help private candidates and centres to understand more about their options.

Heads of centre can provide centre assessment grades for private candidates and include them in their centre's rank order

If a Head of Centre where a private candidate was registered to take their exams is confident they, or their staff, have seen sufficient evidence of the student's work to form a judgement, they can submit a centre assessment grade for the student, and include them in the centre's rank order.

Communicating with private candidates

The Head of Centre should tell any private candidates who had registered to take exams at the centre as soon as possible whether they will provide for them a centre assessment grade and include them in their centre's rank order. The Head of Centre should seek advice from CCEA AO where cases are not straightforward. CCEA AO will provide details on this in its guidance to centres.

CCEA Awarding Organisation's guidance for centres

CCEA AO will set out further guidance for centres where the Head of Centre is willing to provide a centre assessment grade for a private candidate but wishes to consider additional sources, as is set out in the Head of Centre Guidance: Awarding for GCSE, AS and A Level Qualifications Summer 2020, supplied by the candidate's previous centre. Further technical information from CCEA Awarding Organisation will explain how the centre should do this. This includes the process centres would need to follow to make judgements about the student's evidence of attainment, so that a centre assessment grade and rank order position, can be submitted to CCEA (AO).

Heads of centre must be as confident in the centre assessment grades and rank order for private candidates as they are for their other students

CCEA AO will be able to issue calculated grades to any student included in a centre's cohort. Heads of Centre must have the same level of confidence in the grade and rank order position they submit for private candidates as they do for their other students.

Evidence from specialist teachers

CCEA AO will advise in its communication how a centre can seek further information from teachers and other education professionals who have been supporting a student's learning to allow them to make secure judgements about centre assessment grades and a student's position in the rank order. This might include, for example, seeking information from teachers in another school, college, or hospital setting, or from qualified teachers of deaf or visually impaired learners. While discussions with teachers and other professionals should take place where needed before the centre assessment grade and rank order information are decided by the centre, those final judgements should be kept confidential within the centre.

Transferring a student's entry to another centre with which the student has previously studied

In a small number of cases, we understand that it may be more appropriate for a different recognised exam centre to the one that currently holds a student's entry to submit to the exam board centre assessment grade and rank order information. This will be in cases where another centre holds more evidence of the student's likely achievement had the exams gone ahead, and so is better placed to take responsibility for submitting a centre assessment grade and rank order for the student. CCEA AO will allow the entry to be transferred from one centre to another in these cases where both centres agree the approach. It is expected that centres will work collaboratively to ensure that the centre responsible for the final entry has the information required in order to make the submission.

Private Candidates for whom a centre assessment grade cannot be submitted

If private candidates cannot be facilitated by a centre, they, or the Head of Centre at which the entry has been made, can contact CCEA AO directly. The AO guidance will provide details on this.

Additional Sitting Opportunities for Private Candidates

There will be no additional examinations timetable above the already agreed November 2020, January 2021, March 2021 and summer 2021 timetable provided by CCEA.

This means that students who are dissatisfied with their grade outcomes provided by calculated grades will be able to sit some GCSEs in November, January and March.

The remainder of components will be offered in summer 2021. The timetable for November 2020 will include: Double Award Science (DAS) units in Biology, Chemistry and Physics Single Award Science (SAS) units in Biology, Chemistry and Physics. The timetable for January 2021 will include: GCSE Mathematics (All units, 1–8) GCSE English Language (Unit 1 and 4). The timetable for March 2021 will include: Double Award Science (DAS) units in Biology, Chemistry and Physics Single Award Science (SAS) units in Biology, Chemistry and Physics.

Summer 2021 will include all GCSE, AS and A level units as timetabled.

Further information

CCEA Awarding Organisation will send out guidance shortly to centres around private candidates with contact details. The CCEA helpdesk is available and can be contacted at 02890261200.

For those candidates taking non CCEA examinations, the following details are available

AQA phone: 0800 197 7162, email: eos@aqg.org.uk

OCR phone: 01223 553998, email: general.qualifications@ocr.org.uk

Pearson phone: 0345 618 0440, email: support.pearson.com/uk/s/qualificationcontactus

WJEC Eduqas phone: 029 2026 5000, email: info@wjec.co.uk

Ofqual is currently considering arrangements for an additional exam series in the autumn, in accordance with government policy. This will be open to students who had entered to take exams with English AOs this summer, including those who were unable to receive a calculated grade.

Those candidates taking examinations with CCEA and who do not receive a calculated grade this summer, will have the opportunity to sit the examination in the next available series.

