



Curriculum for Excellence National Qualifications in S5 and S6 Results Service and Assessment

Pupils in S5 and S6 are studying courses at National 5, Higher and Advanced Higher. All of these courses are graded A to D. Details are provided in the Course Choice booklet¹.

Information about National 4 and 5 courses can be found in our leaflet [National Qualifications in S4](#).

Results Service

Appeals do not form part of the system of National Qualifications. Two separate services² operate

- Exceptional circumstances
- Post Results Service

Only requests approved by the school will be accepted by SQA. SQA will not accept requests from candidates or parents.

Exceptional Circumstances

If the school believes that a candidate has suffered as a result of exceptional circumstances (for example bereavement or illness during an exam) we will inform SQA of the circumstances immediately. If SQA agrees that the exceptional circumstances procedure should apply, the school can submit alternative evidence of attainment demonstrated by the candidate, which SQA will consider. This 'alternative evidence' will be coursework, class assessments or exams. To take a holistic view on the appropriate result, the SQA Examiners will also take account of how the other candidates at the school performed in the exam.

An outline of what does and does not constitute an exceptional circumstance is shown opposite. More detailed guidance is available on the SQA web site.

Exceptional Circumstance

"Unexpected circumstance never before encountered that fundamentally affects ability to perform in the exam."

Valid Circumstances

- Recent death of a close family member or friend
- Acute medical condition e.g. appendicitis
- Victim of violent crime
- Attending court
- Error by invigilator or in exam arrangements
- Severe disruption to exam not compensated

Invalid Circumstances

- Minor ailments – cold, hay fever, sore throat.
- Candidate or family member suffering from long-term illness which is unchanged
- Moving house
- Holidays, weddings etc.
- Auditions or trials
- Minor disruption to exam
- Candidate error
 - ♦ Not read instructions properly

¹ Parents were issued a paper copy last session. You can view the latest edition on our web site at <http://www.jordanhill.glasgow.sch.uk/school/course-choice>

² You can read more about these services on the SQA web site <http://www.sqa.org.uk/sqa/65427.html>

Post Results Service

This service runs after candidates have received their certificates in August. If the school is concerned by a candidate's result, we can request a clerical check and/or a marking review of the script. If this check/review of the marking of the script, leads to a change of grade (either up or down), this will be amended and a new certificate will be issued to the candidate. There will be no consideration of 'alternative evidence' with this service. If the original grade remains unchanged after the check/review of the marking of the script, the school is charged for this service.

The school's policy on Post Results Service can be read [here](#).

Please note that a candidate's grade can go down if the review reveals that an error was made.

Assessment Evidence

We gather assessment evidence throughout the session to inform estimate bands and potentially to support an exceptional circumstances case. Three different types of assessment evidence are used: Class Tests, Coursework and Mock Exams.

Class tests usually contain a range of question types which sample key aspects of the course and which replicate the demands of external assessment in terms of integration, challenge and application. They are also undertaken under 'controlled conditions'. Therefore, the collective outcomes of class tests undertaken across the session can be a very good source of evidence.

In some subjects, **coursework** undertaken under exam conditions is a natural part of the programme. This too can be useful.

Typically, there may be 1 or 2 exceptional circumstances cases across all of S4 to S6 in any one year.

It is in the interests of every candidate to perform to the best of their ability throughout the session so that the evidence base for the estimate band is as strong as possible and the estimate is as high as possible.

SQA will review that evidence base in an exceptional circumstances case.

SQA will not consider such evidence as part of any post results consideration. The school will not normally request a review unless the candidate has achieved a lower Grade than estimated.

Ultimately, performance in the external examination is the most important piece of evidence and SQA always encourages candidates to sit the examination where possible.

Mock Exams (Internal Exams)

Our S5/S6 internal examinations take place in the two weeks prior to the February holiday. The purposes of these exams are

- To provide clear evidence that the pupil can cope with the demands of the external assessment instruments.
- To contribute to the determination of the estimate grade which the school will send to SQA in advance of the external examinations.
- To form part of the evidence in an 'exceptional circumstances' case if this becomes necessary.

Performance in the mock exam is not the sole source of evidence for estimates and cannot be the sole source of evidence for an exceptional circumstances case as parts of the course have not been