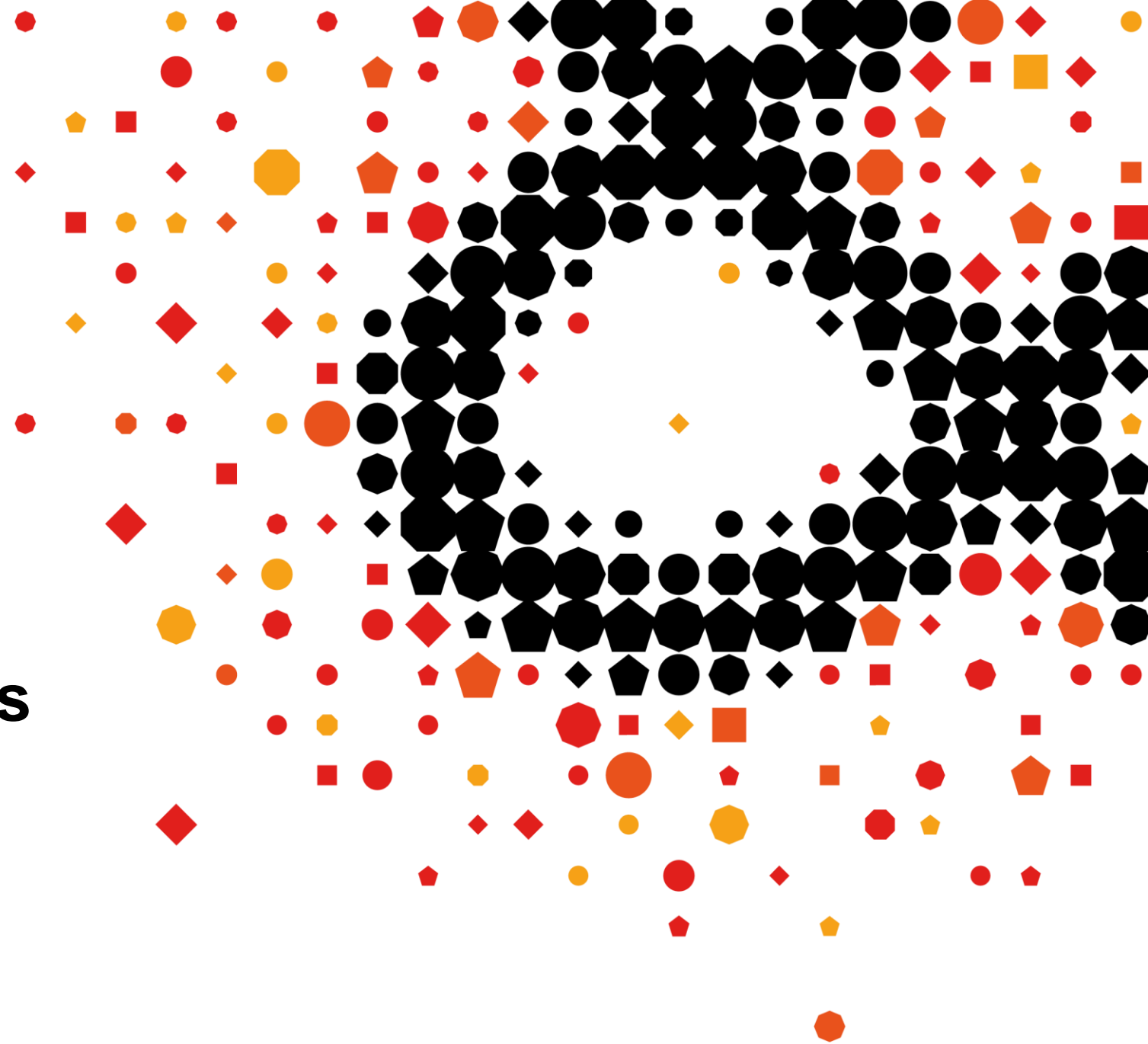


# Arrangements for assessment 2021

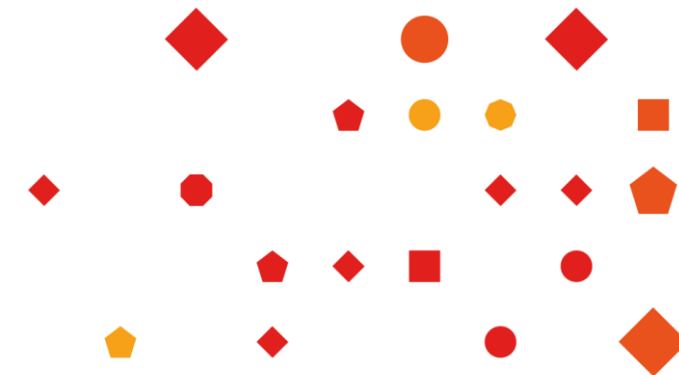
## Vocational qualifications

**May 2021**



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# Policy directive summary (relevant for UK VRQs and equivalent SCQF programmes)

[Letter from Gavin Williamson to Ofqual \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](https://publishing.service.gov.uk) 23 February 2021

- Government's priority is to ensure students can progress to their next stage of life wherever possible
- There should be fairness across VTQs and academic qualifications
- Where VTQs lead to employment, students should demonstrate the necessary occupational and professional standard such that can safely carry out that employment
- Where VTQs are used to progress to education or employment and they are unlike GCSEs, AS, A levels, government policy is that exams and assessment continues in line with public health measures, but with alternative arrangement available for those who cannot access the assessments.
- To help clarify which qualifications follow which approach, qualifications have been placed into 3 different categories.



# Policy directive summary

Ofqual published a useful summary of arrangements for each qualification type [here](#) on Thursday 25 February 2021. Ofqual has also consulted on and published a new [Vocational and technical qualifications contingency regulatory framework](#) on 24 March

## The approach for Vocational Qualifications – assess as normal or via adaptations

- The expectation from Ofqual is that delivery of learning and training should continue during this time and, on-demand assessments can and should continue to take place safely.
- This applies to all Ofqual regulated qualifications, including those delivered in Wales, **Scotland** and Northern Ireland.
- It is only in exceptional cases, where all other options to complete assessments are not possible (including using permitted adaptations or delaying assessments), should alternative arrangements such as Teacher Assessed Grades (TAG) be considered. Therefore, our guidance, following Government direction, has an emphasis on undertaking assessments in the usual way, or using adaptations.

Please note that **this is NOT applicable to any of our qualifications which are regulated by SQA.**



# A reminder of the arrangements in 2020

- In 2020, mitigations were put in place for the award of assessments and qualifications.
- Ofqual consulted on and published their Extended Regulatory Framework to regulate qualifications during this period.
- In order to award qualifications, one of three mitigation approaches was agreed for each qualification:
  - delay
  - adapt
  - a centre assessed grades (CAG)
- A CAG, where applicable, was a **prediction** of the grade/result that a student would most likely have achieved had they taken their assessment as normal between 20 March and 31 July 2020. The grade was based on available trusted evidence.
- Results went through a rigorous quality assurance process before being released to centres.



# The broad approach for 2021

## The approach for Vocational Qualifications – assess as normal or via **adaptations**

The expectation from Ofqual is that delivery of learning and training should continue during this time and, on-demand assessments can and should continue to take place where safe to do so.

It is only in exceptional cases, where all other options to complete assessments are not possible (including using permitted adaptations or delaying assessments), should alternative arrangements such as Teacher Assessed Grades (TAG) be considered. Therefore, our guidance has an emphasis on undertaking assessments in the usual way, or using adaptations.

Our guidance applies wherever our Ofqual regulated qualifications are being delivered across the United Kingdom. We are working closely with qualification regulators and our customers in England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland to ensure our guidance and processes can support learners in line with national public health guidance across the United Kingdom.



# How arrangements are different in 2021

- In 2021 **some**, not all, externally set and marked assessment have been cancelled, eg GCSEs, AS and A levels and some qualifications similar to GCSEs, AS and A levels, eg Technicals
- In March, Ofqual consulted on and published the VTQ Contingency Regulatory Framework (VCRF) Ofqual set out a number of categories of qualifications eligible for alternative assessment for the period 1 August 2020 and 31 August 2021.
- To take account of the complex landscape, vocational qualifications have been placed into different categories according to their purpose.
  - Category A – qualifications with **occupational skills or proficiency assessments**
  - Category B1 – qualifications **most similar** to GCSEs, AS and A levels
  - Category B2 – qualifications **not similar** to GCSEs, AS and A levels and mainly delivered as on-demand short courses.
- [Ofqual's qualification explainer tool](#) shows how qualifications have been categorised across all AOs.
- City & Guilds has also published its own list [qualification list](#).

# How vocational and technical qualifications will be awarded in 2021



Ofqual/21/6751/1

## Qualifications most similar to GCSEs and A levels

e.g. BTECs and OCR Cambridge Technicals



Taken only in schools or colleges



Do not assess occupational skills

## Your results



Graded by teacher or lecturer judgement



Various sources of evidence used



Results no later than for GCSEs and A levels

## NOT relevant as NOT offered in Scotland by City & Guilds

## Qualifications not similar to GCSEs or A levels

e.g. Functional skills and ESOL Skills for Life



Taken in schools, colleges or other places



Do not assess occupational skills

## Your results



Assessments should continue where possible



May be awarded using other evidence or judgements



Awarding organisations decide the evidence needed

## Qualifications with occupational skills or proficiency assessments

e.g. construction, plumbing and electrical qualifications



Taken in schools, colleges or other places



Assess occupational skills

## Your results



Assessments can continue as normal where possible



Assessments may be delayed



Assessments can be adapted if needed

Visit [www.gov.uk/ofqual](http://www.gov.uk/ofqual) or search 'Ofqual 2021 qualification explainer tool' for specific details (coming soon)

Category B1

Category B2

Category A





# Categories explained

## Category A – Qualifications which assess occupational competency, proficiency, Licence to practise

Qualifications used to demonstrate occupational or professional competence in order to enter directly into employment. This includes NVQs and licence to practise qualifications.

For these qualifications, as far as possible, awarding organisations will continue to make exams and other assessments available to learners, remotely or in person where it is safe to do so.

- Continue where possible
- Make use of **agreed adaptations where possible**
- Delay where not possible
- Teacher assessed grades (TAG) **are not possible**



# Categories explained

## Category B1 - Qualifications most like GCSEs, AS and A Levels, eg Technicals

Qualifications which are used for progression to further or higher study or into employment, where the issuing of results to learners should be prioritised. It would include those qualifications most similar to GCSEs, AS and A levels and are used instead of, or alongside, GCSEs, AS and A levels.

**As some of our SCQF programmes are equivalent to our UK vocational qualifications, sharing the same content, purpose and assessments they will also be eligible for TAG** (using the same parameters as those used for the UK vocational qualifications).

- Results will be awarded in a similar way to GCSE, AS and A-levels.
- Results will be issued using alternative evidence when exams and/or internal assessments do not take place, and/or when learners cannot access the assessments, eg teacher assessed grades (TAG)

# List of SCQF programmes which are eligible for TAGs

Sector	Qualifications number	Qualifications Title
Automotive	3902-71	SCQF Level 3 Award/Certificate/Diploma in Introduction to Vehicle Systems Maintenance
Automotive	3902-72	SCQF Level 3 Certificate/Diploma in Introduction to Vehicle Body & Paint Maintenance
Automotive	3902-74	SCQF Level 4 Award/Certificate/Diploma in Introduction to Vehicle Systems Maintenance
Hospitality and Catering	4779-01	Introduction to the Hospitality Industry at SCQF Level 3
Construction	6619-01	Award in Construction Skills at SCQF Level 3
Construction	6619-02	Certificate in Construction Skills at SCQF Level 3
Construction	6619-03	Extended Certificate in Construction Skills at SCQF Level 3
Construction	6619-04	Award in Construction Skills at SCQF Level 4
Construction	6619-05	Certificate in Construction Skills at SCQF Level 4
Construction	6619-06	Extended Certificate in Construction Skills at SCQF Level 4
Construction	6619-07	Diploma in Construction Skills at SCQF Level 4
Construction	6619-08	Construction Skills (trade specific pathway) at SCQF Level 4





# Categories explained

## Category B2 - Qualifications with components of critical occupational competence used for progression

For some vocational qualifications that also support progression into employment, it may be the case that some assessments must continue for the awarding of the qualification to remain valid.

- Centres should make use of **agreed adaptations wherever possible**
- TAG only in exceptional cases, where all other options to complete assessments are not possible (including using permitted adaptations or delaying assessments)

**Not relevant for Scotland, but may be useful context**



# Adaptations update

- We have produced a series of sector guides outlining the assessment adaptations which can be applied for qualifications in each sector. <https://www.cityandguilds.com/covid-19/adaptations>
- There is also a generic guidance document to help explain our approach to adaptations. [Adaptations guidance](#)
- Where possible, arrangements have been developed and agreed across AOs, often with the input of sector or professional bodies, to ensure consistency of approach.
- Adaptations have been kept under review and have recently been updated for some sectors where additional flexibilities have been added, particularly in relation to the assessment of knowledge and understanding. Please ensure you are signed up for notifications.
- **You must inform City & Guilds of your intention to apply any adaptations or if you are having any difficulty applying them.**

# Adaptations update

To support delivery and assessment, particularly for qualifications where Teacher Assessment Grades are **not** permitted, or where they are only permitted as a last resort, we have explored and included additional flexibility. We have updated our sector adaptations guides and there is a summary of key changes for each sector below. This summary does not replace the sector guides which you must read very carefully to check for full details of any current or recently added adaptations.

2020-21 Sector adaptations guide	Summary of recent updates	Links to sector adaptations guides
Automotive and Transport maintenance	Alternative evidence for some e-volve tests permitted for some qualifications <b>Further updates expected by 14 May 2021</b>	<a href="#">Guidance for assessment approaches - in relation to Covid-19 for 2020-21 (cityandguilds.com)</a>
Beauty and Complimentary therapies	Additional adaptation guidance added for 7607-303 & 3003 & 3004 evolve tests Adaptation guidance updated for multiple practical tasks in 3003 & 3004	<a href="#">Microsoft Word - 20-21 Mitigation guide - Beauty v1.4 (cityandguilds.com)</a>
Building Services	Adaptations for specific e-volve exams Adaptations available for specific e-volve exams Level 3 Diploma in Refrigeration, Air-Conditioning and Heat Pump Systems added Level 3 Heating and Ventilating Craftsperson Qualification (Industrial and Commercial) added	<a href="#">Building Services Industry - Guidance for assessment approaches - in relation to Covid-19 for 2020-21 (cityandguilds.com)</a>
Built Environment	Indication that these qualifications are not eligible for Teacher Assessed Grades (TAGs)	<a href="#">Built Environment Services - Guidance for assessment approaches - in relation to Covid-19 for 2020-21 (cityandguilds.com)</a>
Business Skills	Additional adaptation guidance added for 4835-201 <b>Further updates expected by 14 May</b>	<a href="#">Built Environment Services - Guidance for assessment approaches - in relation to Covid-19 for 2020-21 (cityandguilds.com)</a>
Construction	Additional adaptation available for specific e-volve exams - Levels 2 and 3 construction trade VRQs and L1 construction trade VRQs Adaptation available for specific practical assessments - 6219, Levels 1, 2 and 3 construction trade VRQs	<a href="#">Construction - Guidance for assessment approaches - in relation to Covid-19 for 2020-21 (cityandguilds.com)</a>
Digital and IT	<b>Further updated expected by 14 May</b>	<a href="#">Microsoft Word - FY21 Adaptations 202021 digital and IT v1.1 (cityandguilds.com)</a>
Engineering	Additional adaptation available for specific e-volve exams - 1272, 2850 Levels 2 and 3, 3268, 4715 and Level 1 2850 Adaptation available for specific practical assessments - 2850, 3268, 7682, 7689	<a href="#">Engineering - Guidance for assessment approaches - in relation to Covid-19 for 2020-21 (cityandguilds.com)</a>

# Adaptations update

2020-21 Sector adaptations guide	Summary of recent updates	Links to sector adaptations guides
Hair	Additional adaptation guidance added for 3002 e-volve tests Adaptation guidance updated for multiple practical tasks in 3002 and 3001-215	<a href="#">Microsoft Word - 20-21 Hairdressing Mitigation guide v1.4 (cityandguilds.com)</a>
Hospitality and Catering	Additional adaptation guidance added for 7091 and 7108 e-volve tests Additional adaptations guidance added for practical tasks for 7100, 7120, 7138, 7103, 7105, 7102 & 7106.	<a href="#">Microsoft Word - FY21 Hosp Cat Adaptations v1.4 (cityandguilds.com)</a>
Land	Clarification on supervision requirements for internally marked (short answer question) assessments in some L3 qualifications Alternative evidence for some e-volve tests permitted for some L2 qualifications. <b>Further updates expected by 14 May 2021</b>	<a href="#">Guidance for assessment approaches - in relation to Covid-19 for 2020-21 (cityandguilds.com)</a>
Manufacturing	Additional adaptation available for specific e-volve exams - 0610, 5405, 5780 Adaptation available for specific practical assessments – 0610, 5789	<a href="#">Manufacturing - Guidance for assessment approaches - in relation to Covid-19 for 2020-21 (cityandguilds.com)</a>
Retail, Logistics and Warehousing	Additional adaptation evidence added for 1013 and 1012 e-volve tests	<a href="#">Microsoft Word - 20-21 Retail Mitigation guide V1.3 (cityandguilds.com)</a>
Security	Alternative evidence for some e-volve tests permitted for 1853-02 and 1853-03 <b>Further updates expected by 14 May 2021</b>	<a href="#">Guidance for assessment approaches - in relation to Covid-19 for 2020-21 (cityandguilds.com)</a>
Travel, Tourism and Aviation	Additional adaptation guidance added for evolve tests for 4849, 4976 Additional adaptation guidance added for practical assessments/tasks for 4849, 4883, 4955 & 4976	<a href="#">Microsoft Word - 20-21 Mitigation guide - Travel v1.2 (cityandguilds.com)</a>
Utilities	No updates made	<a href="#">Utilities - Guidance for assessment approaches - in relation to Covid-19 for 2020-21 (cityandguilds.com)</a>



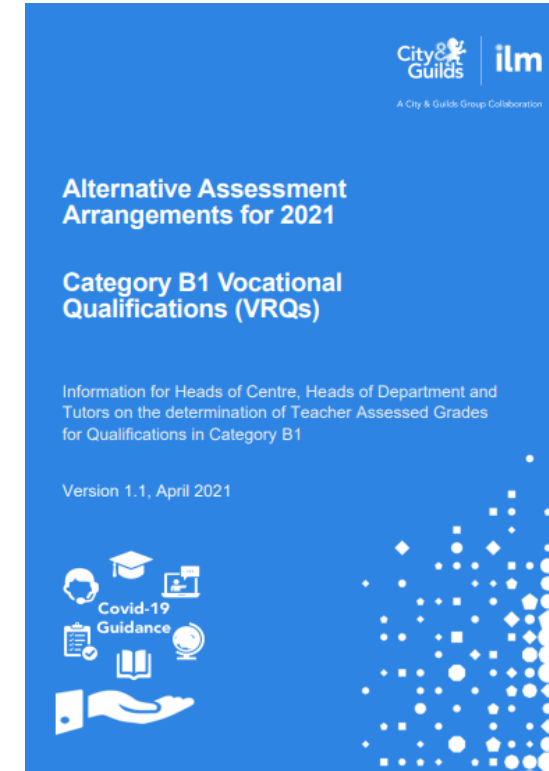
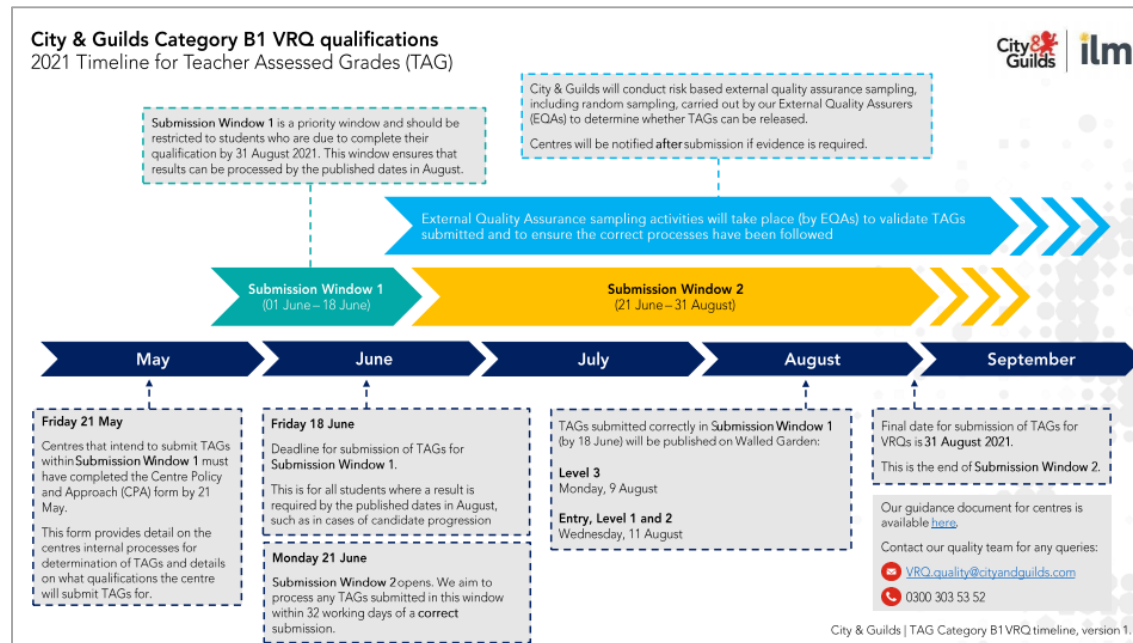
# Teacher Assessed Grades (TAG)

- Where TAGs are permitted for other qualifications, this will be as a last resort. Centres will be required to confirm the eligibility and provide evidence of how the results were determined.
- All TAGs will be subject to internal quality assurance and external quality assurance by City & Guilds.
- TAGs are different from CAGs. A TAG is **not a predicted grade**. It is a grade judgement based on a learner being ready for assessment, which is supported by trusted, sufficient, relevant and authenticated evidence which demonstrates this.
- Where TAGs are permitted, detailed guidance on the TAG process, types of trusted, sufficient, relevant and authenticated evidence, and related quality assurance are available on our Covid-19 web pages.
- Internal quality assurance within the centre, including effective standardisation of marking and grading judgements, will be vital to supporting the validity of the process. As such we will provide guidance for centres supporting this and will monitor it as part of our external quality assurance activities.
- City & Guilds will sample the evidence used by a range of centres prior to releasing results, and all evidence must be retained for 12 months.



# Arrangements for VRQs/ select\* SCQF programmes

## Vocational Qualifications - Assessment arrangements 2021 - Covid-19 | City & Guilds ([cityandguilds.com](https://cityandguilds.com))

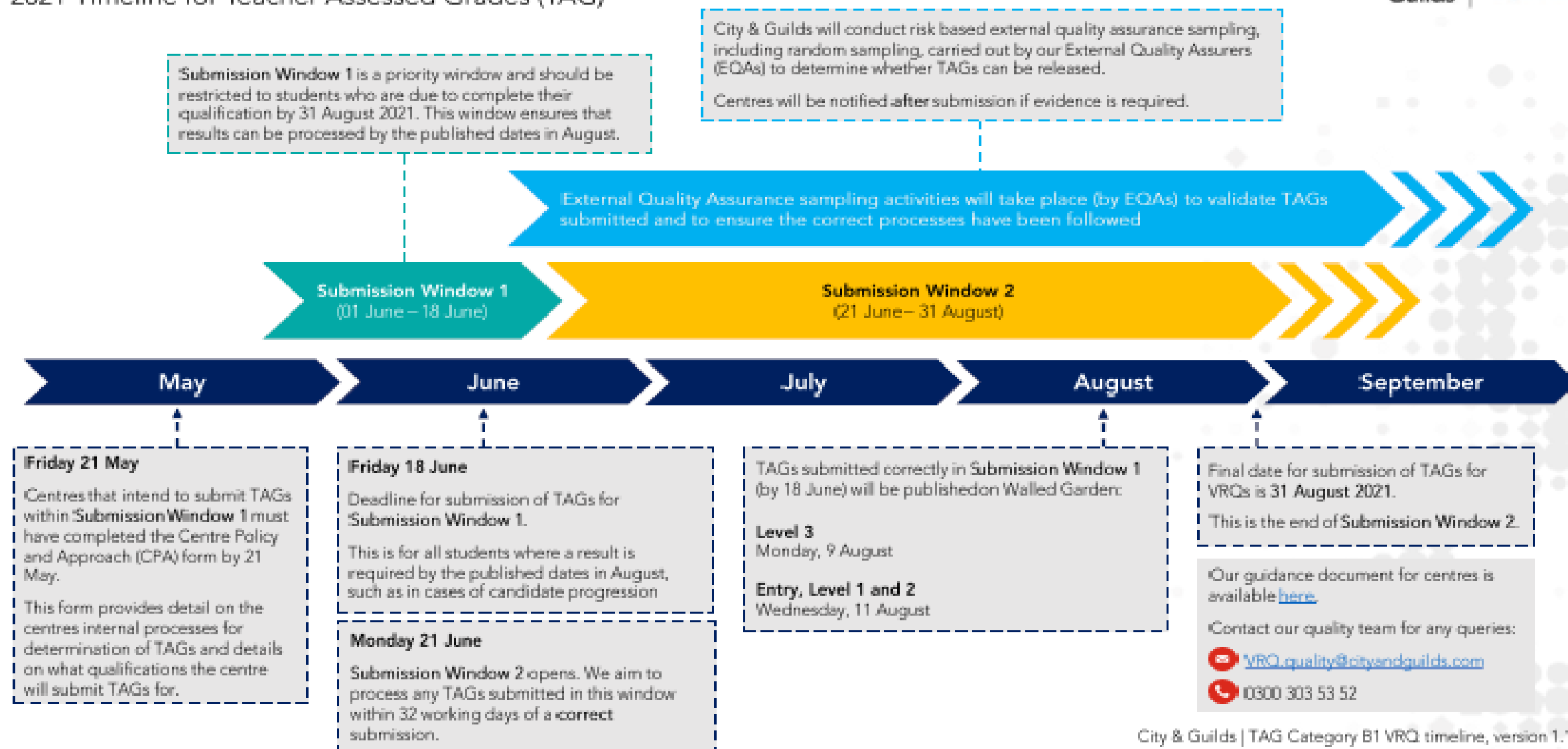


### Qualification category lists

You can find detailed information on qualification categories on our [Assessment arrangements for 2021 page](#).

Access the list >

## City & Guilds Category B1 VRQ qualifications 2021 Timeline for Teacher Assessed Grades (TAG)



City & Guilds | TAG Category B1 VRQ timeline, version 1.1

[Timeline for VRQs](#)

Same timeline is applicable for select SCQF programmes

# Where to find consolidated guidance for Scottish qualifications

The assessment guidance for all Scottish qualifications and SCQF programmes can be found in our [Covid-19 pages](#).

Key changes to be aware of are:

- Extra assessment flexibilities are now available for some of our SCQF programmes: these can be found in the relevant [sector adaptations guides](#).
- Select SCQF programmes assessments are eligible for TAGs\*

There have been **NO changes** in our assessment approach to our **Scottish regulated qualifications**, assessments must carry on as usual with the permitted flexibilities.

All other guidance remain consistent and we encourage all centres to read the relevant guidance available in our website regarding Adaptations and TAGs.



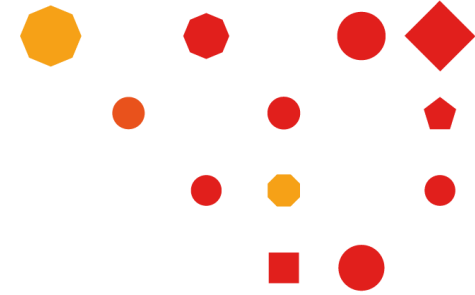
# Scottish qualifications regulated by SQA

## Adaptations permitted

Sector	Group Award	City & Guilds Qualification number	City & Guilds Qualification Title	Approach	Adaptations permitted
Beauty and Complementary Therapy	GL74 22	6011-01	SVQ 2 Beauty Therapy at SCQF level 5	Adapt	<b>Applicable to all Beauty and Complementary qualifications:</b> <a href="#">Adaptations as signed off by Habia and approved by SQA valid until 30.06.2021</a>
Beauty and Complementary Therapy	GL75 23	6011-02	SVQ 3 Beauty Therapy at SCQF level 6	Adapt	
Beauty and Complementary Therapy	GL76 22	6011-03	SVQ 2 Nail Services at SCQF level 5	Adapt	
Beauty and Complementary Therapy	GL77 23	6011-04	SVQ 3 Nail Services at SCQF level 6	Adapt	
Hairdressing	GK7H 21	6009-01	SVQ 1 Hairdressing and Barbering at SCQF level 4	Adapt	<b>Applicable to all Hairdressing qualifications:</b> <a href="#">Adaptations as signed off by Habia and approved by SQA valid until 30.06.2021</a>
Hairdressing	GK7J 22	6009-02	SVQ 2 Hairdressing at SCQF level 5	Adapt	
Hairdressing	GK7K 23	6009-03	SVQ 3 Hairdressing at SCQF level 6	Adapt	
Hairdressing	GK7L 22	6009-04	SVQ 2 Barbering at SCQF level 5	Adapt	
Hairdressing	GK7M 23	6009-05	SVQ 3 Barbering at SCQF level 6	Adapt	

- The only City & Guilds Scottish regulated qualifications for which adaptations are permitted are the SVQs in Hair, Beauty and Barbering.
- Centres can operate the current approved adaptations until 30<sup>th</sup> June 2021.
- City & Guilds will publish the updated guidance, based on the most recent changes in the assessment arrangements for these qualifications, **by 28<sup>th</sup> May** and deliver a webinar/ to approved centres by **June 11<sup>th</sup>** to explain how the new adaptations will work. These changes have just been approved by the SQA Accreditation Co-ordination Group (ACG).





# Appeals

- There will be an appeals process for results based on alternative arrangements. This will be different to the process used for calculated results last year.
- We will publish specific guidance relating to the appeals process as soon as possible.
- For adapted assessments, centres should use the standard appeals documents, which are available on [our dedicated page](#).
- It should be noted however that we will ensure parity between the appeals process so that while they will address the differences in approach to determining learner results, neither process will advantage one candidate over another.



# Support

## Contact us

If you have any questions please contact our Customer Support team:

E: [centresupport@cityandguilds.com](mailto:centresupport@cityandguilds.com)

T: 0192 4930 800

For queries relating to quality assurance please contact:


E: [VRQ.Quality@cityandguilds.com](mailto:VRQ.Quality@cityandguilds.com) or [nations@cityandguilds.com](mailto:nations@cityandguilds.com)

T: 0300 303 53 52

Our Technical Advisors will follow this generic webinar with sector specific webinars where more detail around specific arrangements and adaptations can be covered by sector experts.

### Support webinars

We will be hosting a support webinar that will take place next Tuesday 27 April, to take you through the guidance and answer any questions that you may have. Please find the registration link below.

 Register for the webinar >

# Thank you

