

Arrangements for assessment 2021

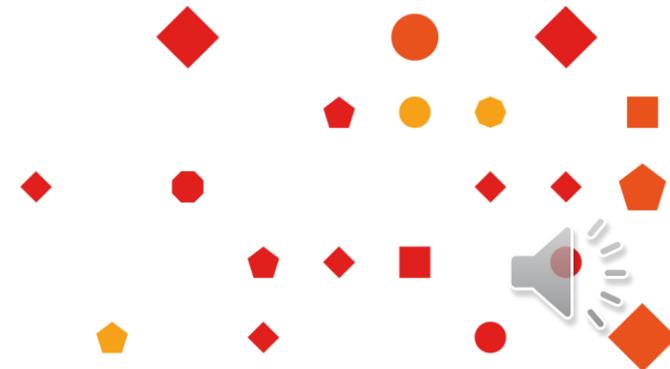
Vocationally-related qualifications (VRQs)

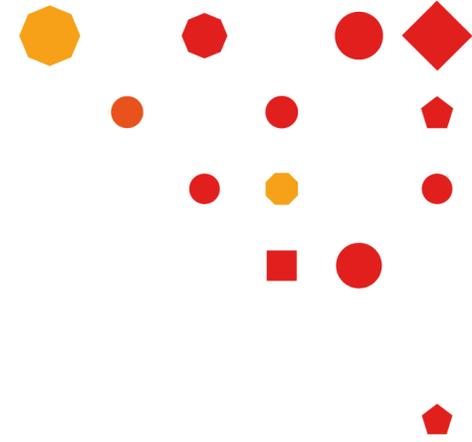
April 2021 V2.0 – Recorded presentation



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Policy directive summary

[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 GCSE, AS, A Levels
- 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 the Department for Education and 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 many 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.





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 the Department for Education and 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, following Government direction, 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.





How arrangements are different in 2021

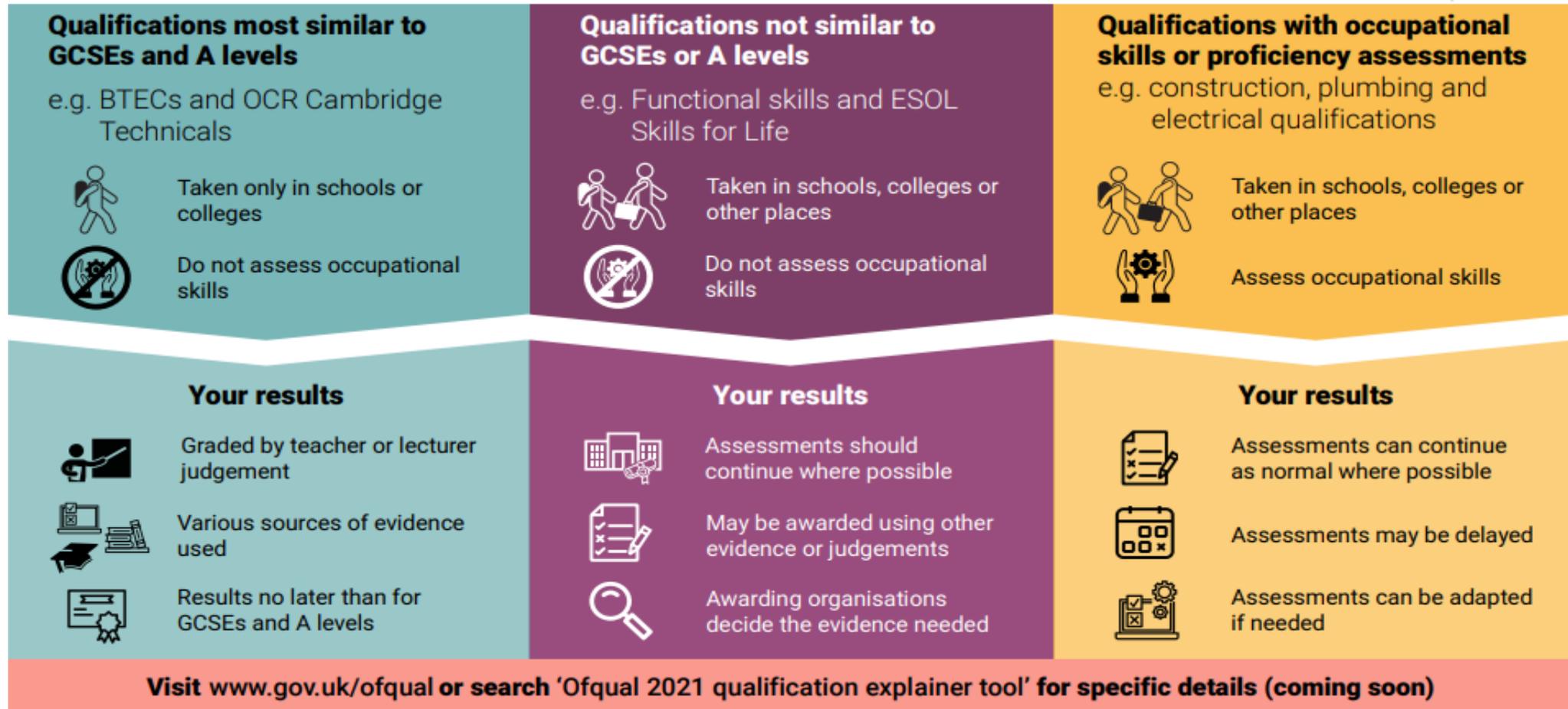
- In 2021 **some**, not all, externally set and marked assessment have been cancelled, eg GCSEs, AS and A levels and some qualifications similar to GCSEs, AS and A levels, eg Technicals
- In March, Ofqual consulted on and published the VTQ Contingency Regulatory Framework (VCRF) Ofqual set out a number 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



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, licence to practise qualifications and qualifications that form part of an apprenticeship framework

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.

- 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)

[Technical Qualifications - Assessment Arrangements - Covid-19 | City & Guilds](https://www.cityandguilds.com)
 [\(cityandguilds.com\)](https://www.cityandguilds.com)





Categories explained

Category B1 - 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)

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





VTQ categories explained

Category B2 – Qualifications with some occupational competence, eg Functional Skills, ESOL

Qualifications which are important for progression to further or higher study or employment, but which are different from GCSEs, AS and A levels and are mainly delivered as on-demand short courses.

- These assessments will continue remotely or in person, where it is safe to do so, and in compliance with Public Health requirements.
- We will continue to offer them on paper, on screen and on demand.
- Centres should make use of **agreed adaptations wherever possible**
- Where a learner is unable to access the assessment live, either remotely or in person, Centres can request teacher assessed grades (TAGs) where a learner meets the eligibility criteria.

[Functional Skills - Covid-19 | City & Guilds \(cityandguilds.com\)](https://www.cityandguilds.com)

[ESOL - Covid-19 | City & Guilds \(cityandguilds.com\)](https://www.cityandguilds.com)

[Nations - Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland - Covid-19 | City & Guilds \(cityandguilds.com\)](https://www.cityandguilds.com)

(Note: Different arrangements and terminology₂ used in Wales and Northern Ireland)

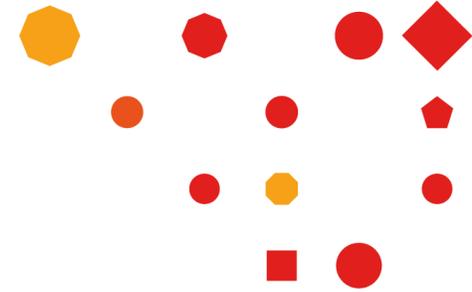




Adaptations update

- 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.**





Teacher Assessed Grades (TAG)

Technicals, Core Maths and Extended Project Qualifications

- Dated examinations have been cancelled for the spring and summer 2021 series, following a ministerial directive and therefore all eligible candidates will be required to have a result determined by TAGs.
- Centres will use their professional judgements to determine grades, supported by sources of trusted, sufficient, relevant and authenticated evidence.
- For internal assessments, such as the synoptic assignments for our KS5 Technical Certificates and Tech Levels, these assessments should continue to be taken as normal or via the published adaptations where it is safe to do so. Where this cannot happen, TAGs may be used where there is sufficient evidence to do so. If there is not sufficient evidence of occupational skills, then they may need to be delayed.

Other vocational qualifications used for progression

- Where TAGs are permitted for other qualifications, this will be as a last resort. Centres will be required to confirm the eligibility provide evidence of how the results were determined.
- For some qualifications in category B2, eg FS and ESOL, centres must also be able to demonstrate a candidate's eligibility for TAG. This is where a candidate is not able to access the assessment and a TAG is required to allow progression.
- All TAGs will be subject to internal quality assurance and external quality assurance by City & Guilds.





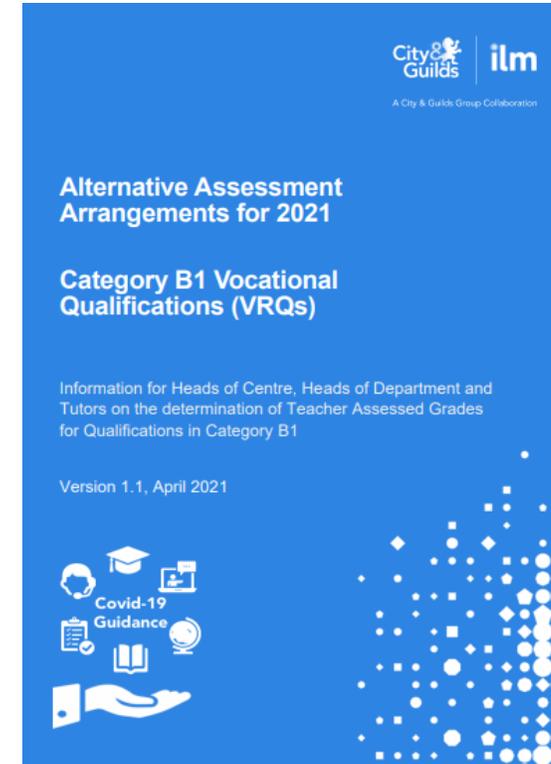
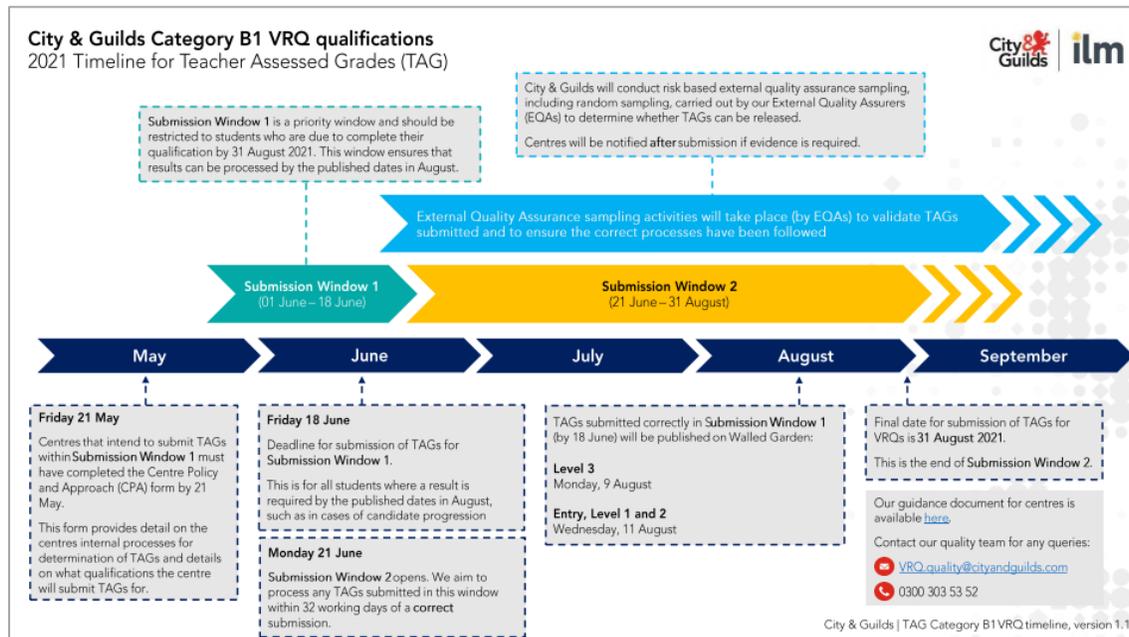
Teacher Assessed Grades (TAG)

- 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

Vocational Qualifications - Assessment arrangements 2021 - Covid-19 | City & Guilds (cityandguilds.com)



Qualification category lists

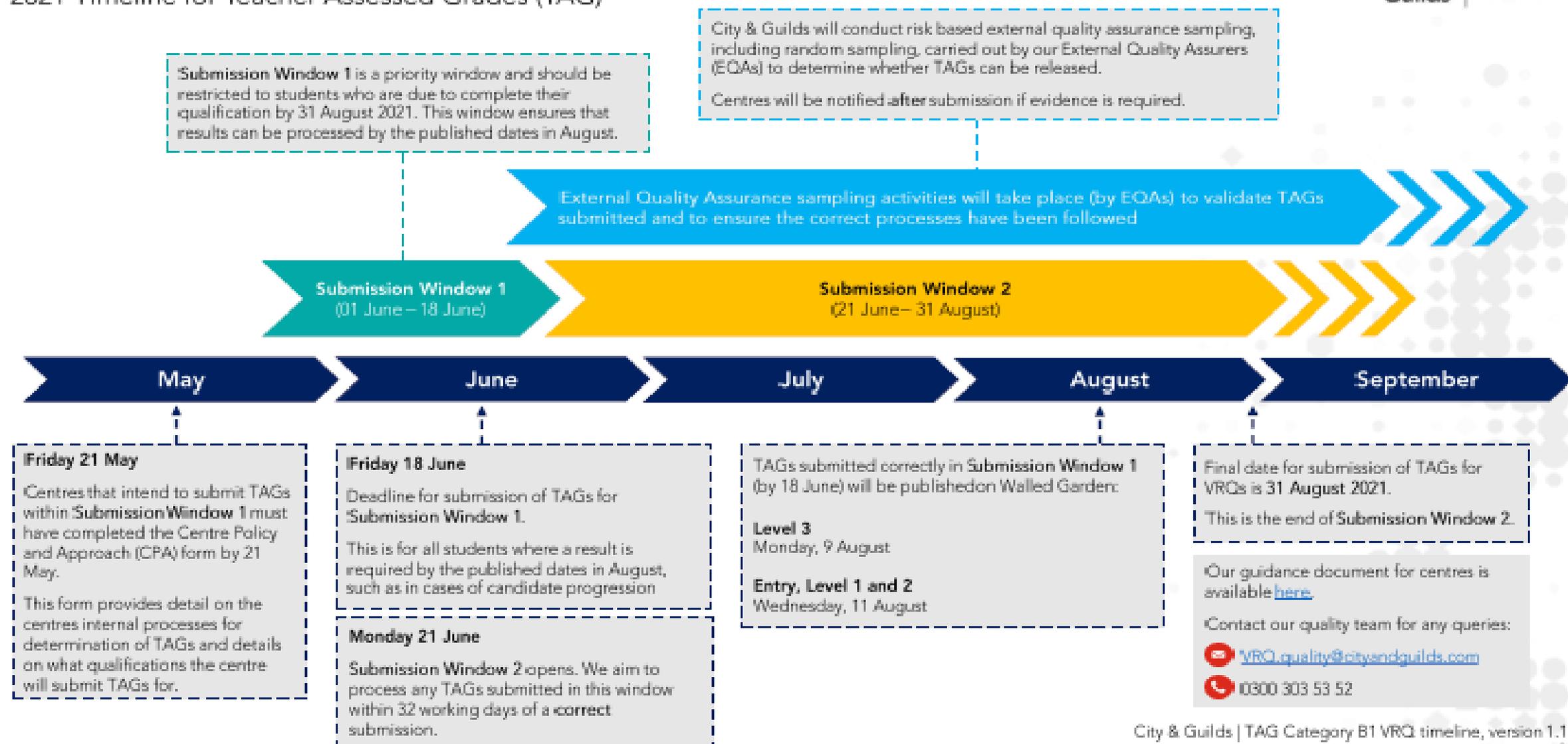
You can find detailed information on qualification categories on our [Assessment arrangements for 2021 page](#).

[Access the list](#) >



City & Guilds Category B1 VRQ qualifications

2021 Timeline for Teacher Assessed Grades (TAG)





Appeals

- The process for TAGs allows candidates to appeal their grade. If a candidate believes they have not received the right grade, they may ask their centre to check if there was an error.
- If the candidate is unhappy with the outcome of the centre's review, they can appeal to City & Guilds. The centre must make the application for the candidate.
- If the centre identifies an error, they should submit the revised result to City & Guilds.
- For missing results, centres should submit it in the next window and it will be subject to QA.
- 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](#).





Support

Contact us

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

E: centresupport@cityandguilds.com

T: 0192 4930 800

For queries relating to quality assurance please contact:

E: VRQ.Quality@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

