

# Exceptional Arrangements for Vocational & Technical Qualifications

An overview of assessment approaches, in  
relation to Covid-19 disruption.

Summer 2020



# Exceptional Arrangements for Vocational & Technical Qualifications

It is recognised that the vocational qualifications landscape, like its GQ counterpart, has been equally impacted by these unprecedented times during the Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic.

Following Ofqual's publication of exceptional arrangements for providing students with grades for GCSEs, AS and A levels this summer, they launched a consultation on Friday 24 April, for awarding other general, vocational and technical qualifications.

The overarching aim of the proposal is to allow learners to receive results, where possible, for the summer period so they can progress onto further education and employment without delay by:

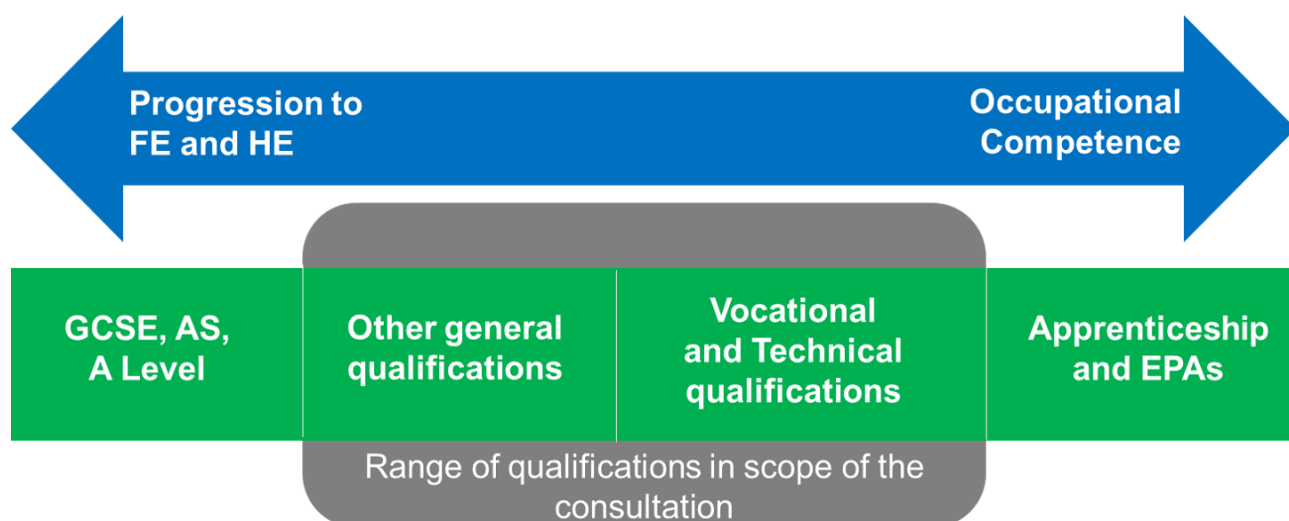
- providing a temporary extraordinary regulatory framework for qualifications that sets out how an awarding organisation (AO) should calculate results or adapt or delay assessments
- allowing AOs to provide clarity to schools, colleges and training providers about what evidence they should gather and consider, and what evidence they will submit, where required to calculate a grade
- allowing AOs to make clear which learners should receive a calculated result (and how it will be awarded), or be required to complete an assessment
- enabling AOs to access, adapt, or build the systems needed to issue results this summer and adapt assessments where this is necessary

Therefore, as an Awarding Organisation, City & Guilds has a responsibility to support our centres in ensuring that:

- the maximum number of candidates possible receive the results that they would have most likely achieved had they been able to take their assessments in summer 2020; and
- these candidates are protected, as far as is possible, from being systematically advantaged or disadvantaged by the current situation.



## Which qualifications & learners are in scope?



- Learners in scope – those due to receive results between 20th March 2020 and the 31st July 2020
- Qualifications from Entry level to level 6
- Those approved for public funding and delivery, irrespective of the age of the learner
- Those qualifications which are not A Levels, AS levels, GCSEs, EPAs and AEA
- Included functional skills – legacy qualification end date has been extended until December 2020

## Qualification categories & approaches

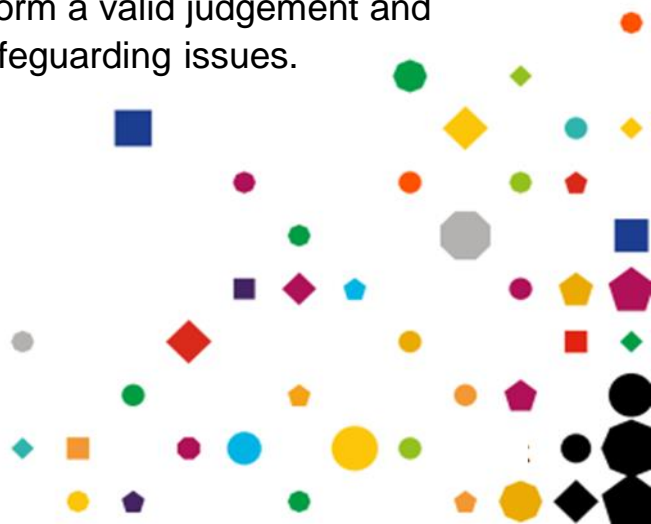
Ofqual has set out permitted approaches in their ‘**Extraordinary Regulatory Framework**’ to promote consistency and fairness and in line with this guidance we are now working through the details for each qualification we offer, which fall into the following categories:

<b>Category 1</b>	Qualifications used for progression to further or higher education
<b>Category 2</b>	Qualifications serving a mixed/dual-purpose (progression to further or higher education or employment)
<b>Category 3</b>	Qualifications signalling occupational competence or license to practice

In line with the government’s stated aim of ensuring parity between GQ and VTQ learners and to ensure VTQ learners can progress to HE/FE/employment, we are determining for each qualification if assessments/results can be **estimated/calculated**, **adapted** or in some cases need to be **delayed**.

We have proposed **Estimation** for qualifications where:

- they fall into category 1
- progression to either further or higher education is the primary purpose of the qualification. Candidates will receive a calculated result for assessments they were due to complete this academic year.
- there is sufficient evidence available to form a valid judgement and where there are no health & safety or safeguarding issues.



**Calculated results** will draw appropriately on a range of trusted evidence and will be based primarily on tutor judgements of what result each candidate would most likely have achieved had they had sat their assessments this summer.

These will then be subject to quality assurance by City & Guilds. City & Guilds will also quality assure the judgements across different centres once they have been submitted. Where there are banked assessment results already achieved for candidates, these will be used.

We have proposed **Adaptation** for qualifications where:

- they fall into either category 2 or category 3
- estimation is not possible
- learners are completing programmes of study where the primary aim is linked directly to occupational or professional competence
- the validity of the assessment will remain protected
- it does not conflict with identified health and safety or safeguarding issues

Details of permitted adaptations to assessments will be released at qualification level in the coming weeks.



We have proposed **Delay** for qualifications as a last resort where it is clear neither estimation nor adaptation is possible.

This is very much based on the purpose and nature of the qualification.

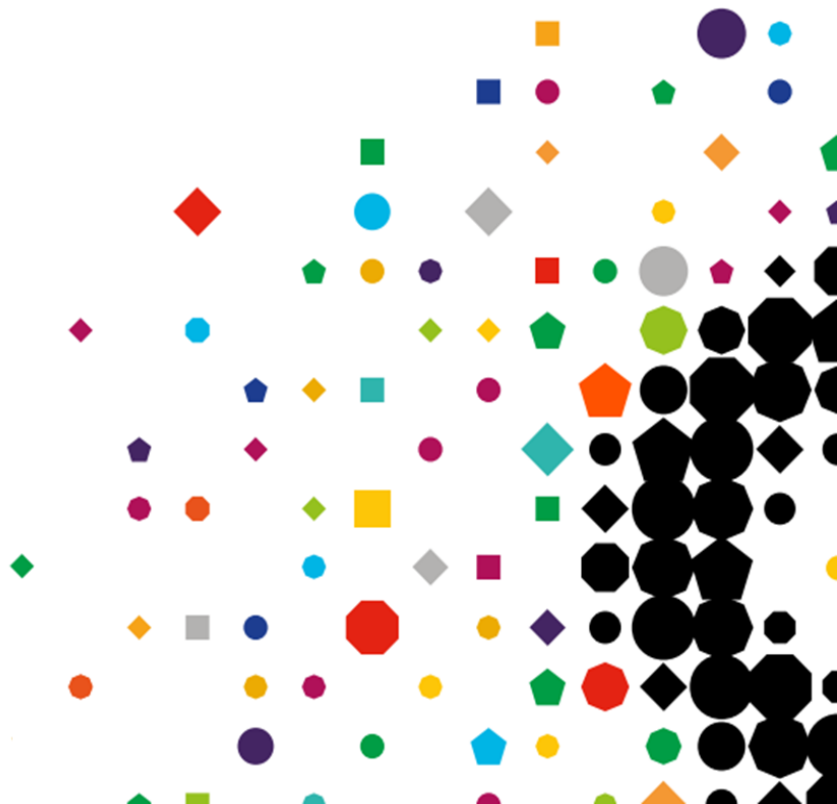
Qualifications such as licence to practice qualifications or those qualifications considered 'high risk' will fall under this approach.

### **More information**

We will be publishing further information shortly on our Covid-19 pages, including sector guidance.

Please look out for updates on our website and via our email communications.

<https://www.cityandguilds.com/covid-19/>



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