

Digital Skills Newsletter

SPECIAL: Alternative Assessment 2

Alternative Assessment 2021

Policy update

The new VTQ Contingency Regulatory Framework (VCRF) covers certificating and non-certificating students who were expecting to take assessments (for 'in-scope' qualifications) between 1 August 2020 and 31 August 2021.

The VCRF will allow awarding organisations to use alternative arrangements when exams do not take place and/or when students cannot complete all internal assessment. This includes issuing results based on teachers' judgements of students' performance, to be referred to as Teacher Assessed Grades (TAGs).

Link to high level summary for Technical Qualifications 2021:

[alternative-assessment-arrangements-for-technical-qualification-summer-2021-pdf.ashx](https://www.cityandguilds.com/~/media/2021/04/alternative-assessment-arrangements-for-technical-qualification-summer-2021-pdf.ashx)
([cityandguilds.com](https://www.cityandguilds.com))

Government categories

DfE/Ofqual and the other regulators has assigned categories to qualifications on the VCRF, based on the purpose of those programmes. These are **Category A** and **Category B**, the latter being split in to **B1** and **B2**.

Category A test occupational or professional knowledge and/or skills, or proficiency in a skill area. Students must be assessed on their competency in these areas so that they can be effective and safe within the workplace.

Category B1 are used to support progression to further or higher study or into employment. They are used instead of, or alongside, GCSEs and A levels. TAGs are permitted and can support progression for certain assessment components and specific conditions.

Category B2 are typically either short-course qualifications, qualifications typically delivered on a 'roll-on/roll-off' basis, or which may be smaller than those in B1 (for example, Entry Level or Award sized qualifications).

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Centre Assessment Grade (CAG) vs Teacher Assessed Grade (TAG)

- Centres should not make comparisons to the Centre Assessment Grades (CAG) approach adopted last year which were a **prediction** of the grade that students would most likely have achieved had they sat their assessment as normal.
- TAGs are different and must be determined based on actual assessment **evidence** covering the knowledge, understanding or skills that would normally have been assessed (i.e. the evidence must be valid for that particular assessment). Centres should familiarise themselves with the information provided in the guidance document and not rely upon last years' experience.

City & Guilds Digital and IT VRQs

Classification

City & Guilds Digital and IT qualifications have been placed in **Category A** where they have been determined to be required to prove competence to undertake a job – this applies to NVQ products and some of the qualifications that are the only one in a Credit Based apprenticeship, as well as some Level 4 qualifications.

All the on-programme qualifications for Apprenticeship Standards have been placed in this category, as they are part of an apprenticeship and have reasonable options of *Adaptation* have been provided.

Category A does not allow for Teacher Assessed Grading (TAG).

The rest of the qualifications sit in **Category B1** where TAG may be used as a last option based on a number of criteria. Please check the latest publication for VRQs and B1 qualification on the Covid-19 webpage.

TAG must be based on evidence that you have and are getting now, it can not be on a prediction of what might have been from evidence that was only collected at the start of their programme.

Centres should continue teaching and learning with assessments as normal, where it is safe to do so. You are going to have complete a *Centre Policy Approach* form that will show your approach for all VRQ qualifications within category B1 that you deliver and that you intend to submit a TAG.

You will be expected to provide further detail around your process for determination of TAGs and the internal quality assurance (IQA) procedures relating to this, in order to ensure we have confidence in the approach to determining TAGs.

NOTE: *Assessment, either remotely or in person, throughout must always be the primary option.*

Adaptations to delivering some assessments have been made so centres must explore these options before considering a TAG for a student.

TAG is the assessment of last resort.

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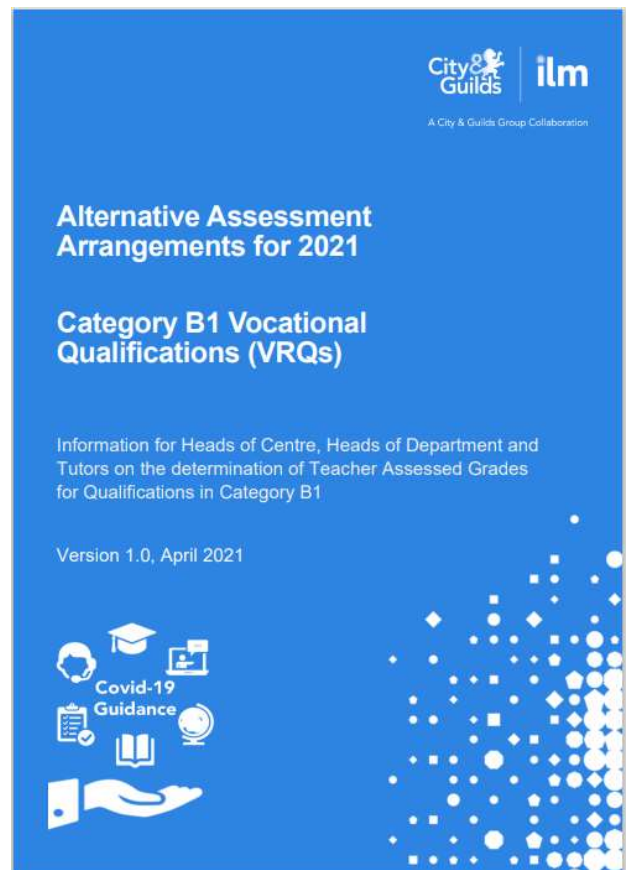
Using TAG

In order to use TAG for qualifications in Category B1, students must:

- Have a valid registration for the qualification the centre wishes to submit a TAG for
- Be due to complete their qualification or assessment between 01 August 2020 and 31 August 2021
- Have a body of evidence that a tutor can use to form the basis of their judgement.

Students who have completed their course of study are considered eligible for a TAG when:

- The students would have been eligible for a TAG at the time they intended to take a live assessment
- The centre has supporting evidence to demonstrate the student has had the required teaching and learning
- The centre can demonstrate it is not safe for students to take assessments as normal and has explored all possible adaptations to assessments.



Quality process

- Centre Policy & Approach (CPA) form goes live w/c 03 May. Centres need to complete this by 24 May if submitting in Submission Window 1 (01 June – 18 June). They also provide high level details of what they are intending to submit here.
- Centres submit TAGs, City & Guilds requests evidence where required after submission.
- Submissions are on-demand in window 2 (21 June onwards) and will be processed within 32 working days of correct submission.

What about Category A qualifications?

Further Adaptations are being added to those published in October 2020. These will look at offering the following (please note this is draft information):

- For Evolve online tests a possible option to use portfolio of evidence
 - judgement must be on evidence that exists and cannot be a prediction
- Practical assignments to use evidence that has and is being produced by a learner, marked against a City & Guilds Set assignment
 - Cannot be a portfolio of evidence-based judgement, the evidence must be able to be shown to meet the criteria required by the assignment it is replacing.

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

[Vocational qualifications assessment arrangements - TAG guidance and qualifications list available \(cityandguilds.com\)](https://www.cityandguilds.com)

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

[Vocational and technical qualifications contingency regulatory framework - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk)

[Guidance for assessment arrangements – Teacher Assessed Grades 2021 \(cityandguilds.com\)](https://www.cityandguilds.com)

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

[Technicals – Overview of the TAG process - YouTube](https://www.youtube.com)

[Technicals – How to determine TAGs - YouTube](https://www.youtube.com)

[Technicals – Evidence requirements for TAGs – YouTube](https://www.youtube.com)

HOT OF THE PRESS

We have been waiting for the news of when the new/revised Apprenticeship Standards will be released and some indication of funding. The news is now starting to come through and here is the latest:

- Information Communication Technician
 - Funding: £15,000 (remains the same as Infrastructure and Unified Communications Technician)
 - IfATE Publish: beginning of June
- Network Engineer
 - Funding: £18,000 (remains the same as now)
 - IfATE Publish: mid to end of May
- Cyber Security Technologist
 - Funding: £18,000 (increased from January 2021 original)
 - IFATE Publish: first week of May
- Data Analyst
 - Funding: £15,000 (same as now)
 - IFATE Publish: beginning of June
- Software Developer
 - Funding: £18,000 (same as now)
 - IFATE Publish: beginning of June

Note that City & Guilds will not initially be offering the new Cyber Security Technologist for registration, planned development is starting FY22 (September).

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Updates and webinars – and more

Are you still a bit unsure as to how some of the things around Apprenticeship Standards work or just want a reminder of some of the things we have discussed at events and on webinars? Then, please visit our Updates and Webinars page.

<http://bit.ly/CGDigitalUpdate>

Please check out the information held there as this may answer many of the questions you have.

Next webinars

11 May 2021 (09.30 – 10.30) <https://bit.ly/CGDigital11May>

1 June 2021 (09.30 – 10.30) <http://bit.ly/CGDigital1June>

If you have any specific topics you would like discussed at these events, please forward your suggestions to:

Ken Gaines ken.gaines@cityandguilds.com

OR

David Wackett david.wackett@cityandguilds.com

Essential Digital Skills Qualifications

City & Guilds is planning to launch its EDSQs later this year, for first registration from September. Available at Entry level and Level 1, they will be centre assessed and externally quality assured, and funded through the new Digital Entitlement. We will be providing more information about what they will look like and running webinars for centres in the coming weeks and months.

For details on how to join these webinars and how to get involved, look out for announcements in future editions of this newsletter, email alerts and on the City & Guilds website:

<https://www.cityandguilds.com/qualifications-and-apprenticeships/it/essential-digital-skills-qualifications>

To contact City & Guilds directly about getting involved, email us at:

pre-employment@cityandguilds.com

Note from David and Ken

We always urge you to Stay Alert and Stay Safe. Please make sure you check the Covid-19 webpage.

www.cityandguilds.com/covid-19