


Webinar housekeeping

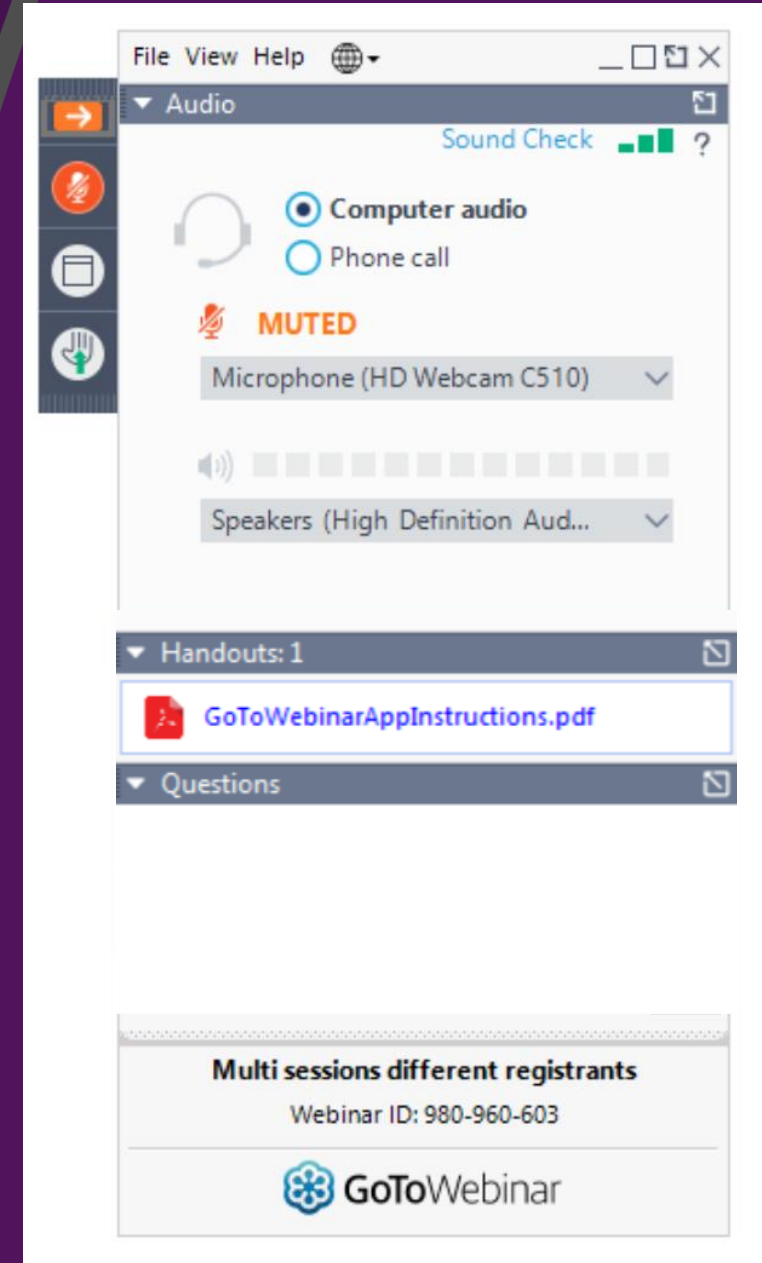
Before we begin the session:

- View, Select, and Test your audio

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- Raise hand button 
- Questions and comments

Note: This session is being recorded and the link to this recording will be sent to you in an email after this webinar.



Vocational and Technical Awarding Arrangements 2021

11th March 2021

With
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Agenda

- Background
- VTQ Contingency Regulatory Framework
- Learner eligibility
- Teacher Assessed Grades
- Results and Appeals
- Next steps



Background

May 2020

- Ofqual implemented the Extraordinary Regulatory Framework as an emergency

January 2021

- Government announced the cancellation of GCSE, AS and A level exams in 2021

October 2020

- Ofqual implemented the Extended ERF

January/February 2021

- DfE and Ofqual consulted jointly on arrangements for the awarding of qualifications in 2021

VTQ Contingency Regulatory Framework (VCRF)

- An emphasis on judgements/grades being based upon actual performance rather than 'potential'
- The likelihood that, even though many VTQs are unitised, learners certificating this summer will have had less opportunity to complete and 'bank' assessments compared to learners in March 2020
- The need for parity between learners who did not take assessment they were due to sit in January, as well as for those that did sit assessments but feel that their performance was adversely affected by the lockdown
- Greater flexibility in the timescale around eligibility for Teacher Assessed Grades compared to 2020, due to the longer period of disruption

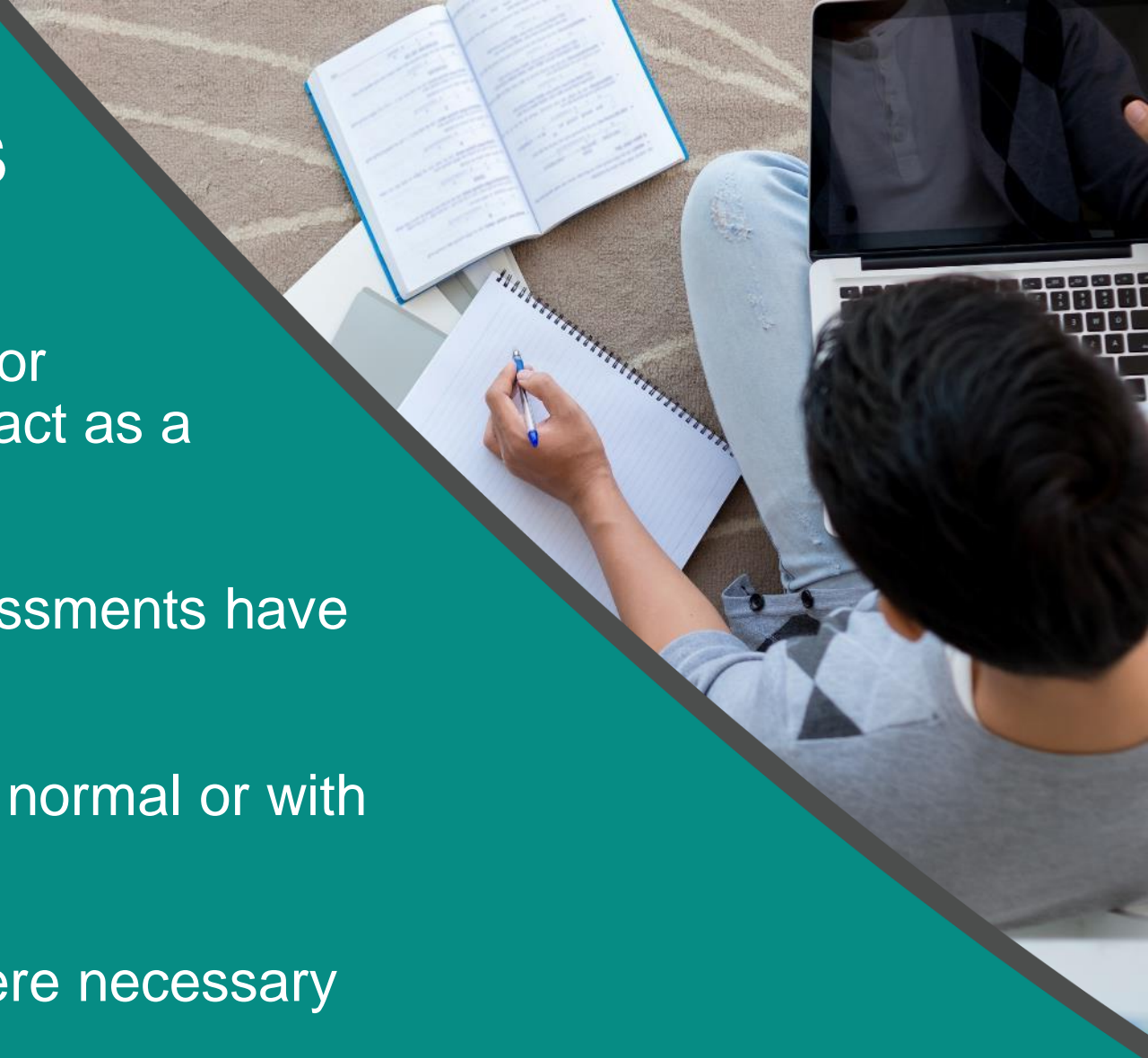
VCRF Technical Consultation

- Applies to all regulated qualifications (Entry level to Level 6)
- will replace the ERF and the Extended ERF which Ofqual proposes to close down
- Learners with calculated results (received or deferred) from last summer would still be able to carry them forward to their award in 2021
- Principles-based
- Within the draft VCRF, Ofqual has included provisions relating to 2 broad categories of qualifications

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/regulatory-arrangements-for-the-awarding-of-vocational-and-technical-and-other-general-qualifications-in-2020-2021>

Category A Qualifications

- Qualifications which signal occupational or professional competency, proficiency or act as a license to practice
- Results can only be awarded when assessments have taken place
- Assessments may be made available as normal or with adaptations
- Some assessments may be delayed where necessary to comply with public health guidance



Category B Qualifications

Qualifications most similar to GCSEs, AS and A levels

- Qualifications used for progression to further/higher education and/or employment
- Exams will not go ahead, and results will be awarded using similar arrangements to GCSEs and AS or A levels

Qualifications not like GCSEs or A levels

- May also be used for progression to further/higher education and/or employment
- Expectation that assessments will continue remotely, or in person, in line with public health measures
- Where assessments cannot take place on public health grounds or remotely, teacher assessed grades (TAGs) for awarding will be made available

Qualifications Category Finder

Last updated: 5 March 2021



Qualification Awarding Arrangements 2021 - Qualification List

We have reviewed our qualifications against Ofqual criteria to establish which qualifications can (Category B), and cannot (Category A), be awarded through Teacher Assessed Grades. Should there be any changes we will communicate these to you as quickly as possible.

Qualification Number	Qualification Title	Level	Category	Can this qualification be awarded through a Teacher Assessed Grade?
603/5985/7	Gateway Qualifications Entry Level 3 in Essential Digital Skills	Entry 3	Category B	Yes
603/2903/8	Gateway Qualifications Entry Level Award in British Values (Entry 3)	Entry 3	Category B	Yes
603/6551/1	Gateway Qualifications Entry Level Award in Building and Construction (Entry 3)	Entry 3	Category B	Yes
603/6471/3	Gateway Qualifications Entry Level Award in Business and Retail (Entry 3)	Entry 3	Category B	Yes
603/6546/8	Gateway Qualifications Entry Level Award in Childcare (Entry 3)	Entry 3	Category B	Yes
603/5316/8	Gateway Qualifications Entry Level Award in Digital Skills for Life (Entry 1)	Entry 1	Category B	Yes
603/5315/6	Gateway Qualifications Entry Level Award in Digital Skills for Life (Entry 2)	Entry 2	Category B	Yes
603/5314/4	Gateway Qualifications Entry Level Award in Digital Skills for Life (Entry 3)	Entry 3	Category B	Yes
603/4239/0	Gateway Qualifications Entry Level Award in Digital Skills for Work (Entry 1)	Entry 1	Category B	Yes
603/4240/7	Gateway Qualifications Entry Level Award in Digital Skills for Work (Entry 2)	Entry 2	Category B	Yes
603/4241/9	Gateway Qualifications Entry Level Award in Digital Skills for Work (Entry 3)	Entry 3	Category B	Yes
600/9072/8	Gateway Qualifications Entry Level Award In Directing Own Support (Entry 2)	Entry 2	Category B	Yes

Qualification Awarding Arrangements 2021 – Qualification List

Ofqual infographic

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

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

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



Graded by teacher or lecturer judgement



Various sources of evidence used



Results no later than for GCSEs and A levels

Your results



Assessments should continue where possible



May be awarded using other evidence or judgements



Awarding organisations decide the evidence needed

Your results



Assessments can continue as normal where possible



Assessments may be delayed



Assessments can be adapted if needed

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

Adaptation

- Making more teaching and learning time available, e.g. alternative conditions under which assessments could take place
- Changing the way in which assessments are delivered, e.g. by carrying out an assessment remotely rather than face-to-face
- Adapting assessment methods to take account of social distancing and public health guidance, e.g. by using a practical simulation in place of an observation
- Changing the way in which a qualification is quality assured, e.g. by allowing for standardisation or EQA to take place remotely or on-line

<https://www.gatewayqualifications.org.uk/news/supporting-centres-in-2020-2021/>

Delaying

- Should be kept to a minimum so that the majority of learners can obtain a result
- Most relevant to practical assessments required to demonstrate occupational competence for employment and where an assessment cannot be delivered safely in line with public health guidance



Teacher Assessed Grades (TAGs)

- A realistic professional judgement derived from a range of evidence
- Judgements must be objective and only take account of evidence relevant to learner performance
- Must consider the evidence requirements we specify
- Submit based on an assessment of the standard at which the learner is performing
- Must undertake effective quality assurance arrangements of TAGs before submitting claims
- Both Teachers/Assessors and the head of dept/head of Centre must review
- Consider if there is a difference in the results profile in 2021, to past performance (higher or lower)

TAGs – sources of information

- Performance on any assessment for the qualification even if not fully completed or banked
- Performance on any centre-marked class or homework assessments including mock assessments
- Records of learners' performance over the course of study e.g.: informal assessment, progress review data, classwork, participation in practical activities, demonstrations and/or performances
- Evidence from specialist teachers and other educational professionals who have worked with the learner

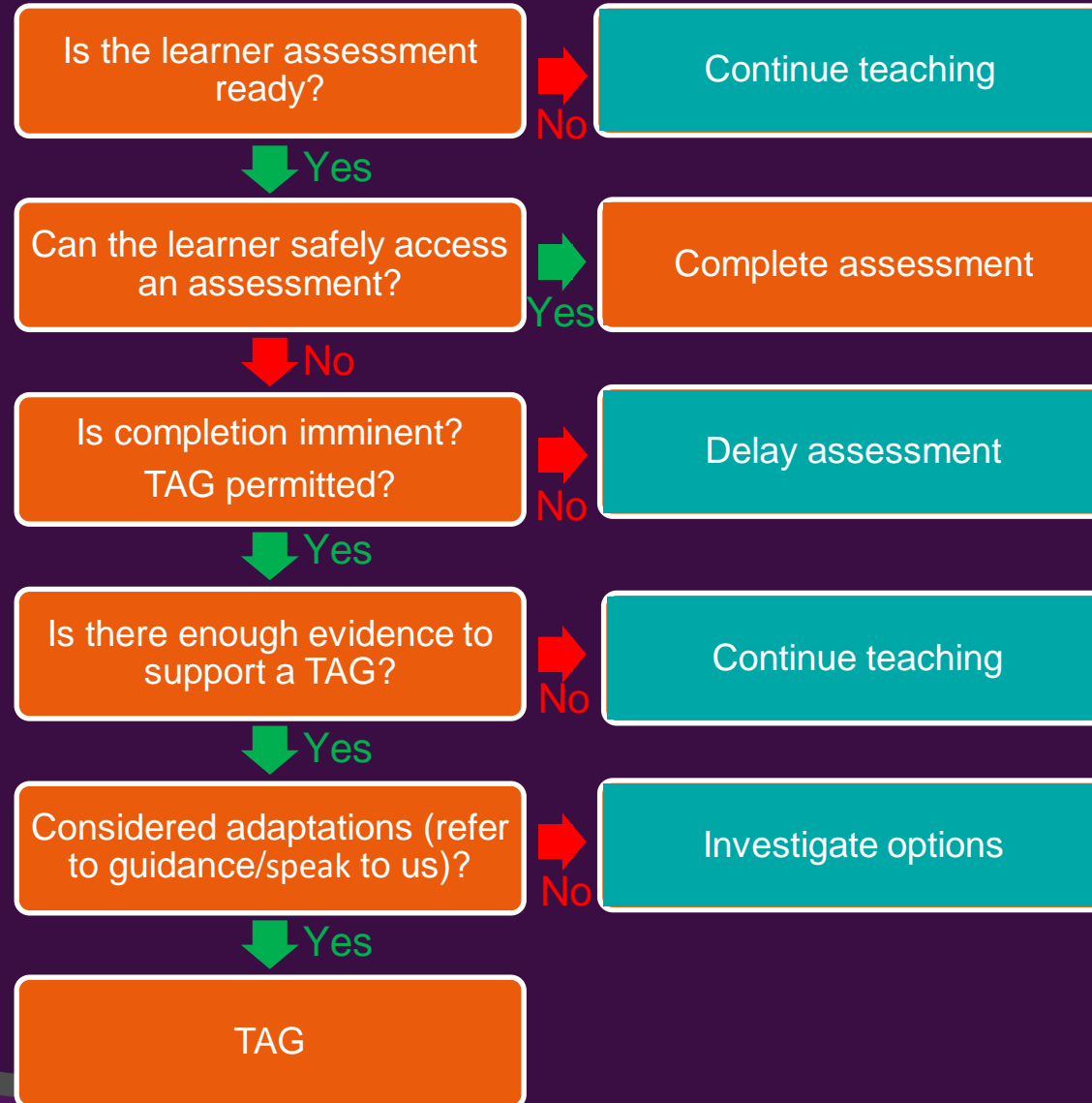
TAGs – External Quality Assurance

- Direct Claims Status will not apply
- We will consider information such as historical centre performance profiles, centre risk profiles, plausibility of results based upon banked components
- Process will seek to ensure the Centre's approach and evidence is appropriate

Mixed and parallel approaches to awarding

- Can provide results determined by banked components, adapted assessments, TAGs (where relevant)
- We can take a different approaches in respect of different learners taking the same component

BAU v TAG



Learner eligibility

- 2020, the eligibility window to receive a calculated result, was for learners expecting to sit an assessment(s) between 20 March to 31 July 2020
- Extended ERF – no set eligibility window and there will be no need for an eligibility window for learners taking Category A qualifications
- For **Category B** qualifications, Ofqual is proposing that the **eligibility window** to receive a result using a Teacher Assessed Grade or other alternative evidence, will be for those learners expecting to sit an assessment(s) between **1 August 2020 to 31 August 2021**

Our approach

- Encourage centres to support learners and continue learning as long as possible to minimise any learning gaps and carry out assessment where feasible
- Implement a process that is manageable and minimises burden as far as possible for centres and us
- Provide guiding principles on evidence requirements on which to base results claims for learners who are unable to complete all assessments
- TAGs need to be supported by assessment evidence which centres will need to provide upon request
- Maintain support through webinars, guidance (include checklist, guidance on key features of what evidence is required) and EQAs

Results and Appeals

For those VTQs and other general qualifications most like GCSEs, AS and A levels:

- L3 results will be issued on or before 10 August, in line with AS and A levels.
- L2 results issued on or before 12 August, in line with GCSEs.

This is to ensure VTQ learners are not disadvantaged compared to their peers and are able to progress to the next stage of their lives in a timely way.

Students taking VTQs or other general qualifications who are unhappy with the results that they receive will be able to appeal following our usual arrangements.

Students awarded qualifications in a similar way to GCSEs, etc. should have access to a right of appeal on the same basis as those set out for GCSEs, etc.

Special Considerations

Special Consideration will not apply to learners who are not able to sit assessments because they have not been taught the content for the assessments.

In this situation, learners may be able to be awarded a result on the basis of the approach to awarding put in place for those qualifications in Category B.

Centres will not, therefore, need to separately apply for Special Consideration for these learners.



Key messages

- Carry on teaching and learning
- Assess learners as normal where this is possible
- Check whether a TAG is permitted for the qualifications being delivered
- Remember for many qualifications TAGs should not be needed and should only be considered if there are no other options
- No Direct Claims Status for TAGs
- Don't submit certificate claims if any results are subject to TAGs

Next steps

- ❖ Ofqual publishes outcome of the latest consultation
- ❖ We will publish guidance for centres on learner eligibility and minimum evidence requirements for TAGs
- ❖ Further adaptations if appropriate
- ❖ EQAs will contact centres to arrange remote visits



Key information

Supporting centres dedicated web page

Guidance Documents

The following guidance documents have been produced to assist Centres in making decisions about the adaptations which will be appropriate in their situation.

- Centre guidance for adaptations to qualification delivery and assessment 2020-2021
- Centre guidance for adaptations to delivery and assessment of ESOL Skills for Life qualifications 2020-21
- Centre guidance for adaptations for Surpass Online Multiple Choice Assessments 2020-21
- Centre guidance for adaptations to of Essential Digital Skills Qualifications 2020-21

<https://www.gatewayqualifications.org.uk/news/supporting-centres-in-2020-2021/>

Any questions?



Contact information



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