

Adaptation Addendum

Academic Year 2021-2022

Introduction

The government's intention is that work placements, exams and assessments will take place in the academic year 2021 to 2022, therefore moving away from results being based on Teacher Assessed Grades (TAGs) used in 2020 to 2021, where this was permitted. This is because assessments and exams continue to be the fairest way for students to evidence what they know, all other things being equal.

The government recognises, however, that students who will be taking exams and assessments have experienced significant disruption to their education and that these students may also need continued support in the face of any further disruption.

We recognise that students who will be taking exams and assessments in 2021 to 2022 have had significant disruption to their education since March 2020, and we remain committed in continuing to support students in the face of any further disruption.

In the academic year of 2021 to 2022 under the 'Vocational and Technical Qualifications Contingency Regulatory Framework' (VCRF) all qualifications will move into Category A. This means all assessments are expected to continue but we are permitted to continue to make adaptations to assessments and qualifications to take account of the ongoing impact of the pandemic, where we can do so without undermining the validity and reliability of our qualifications.

Students must only access permitted adaptations where they are needed to mitigate the impact of learning loss, continued disruption and / or ongoing public health restrictions. This will be monitored through our external quality assurance process to support the validation of any adaptations adopted, ensuring they are not applied where not needed. Where adaptations are applied unnecessarily, centres may be given an action or downgraded in their EQA reviews, therefore be sure to check with your allocated EQA on the application of any adaptations.

This addendum contains further information on what specific adaptations are permitted for this qualification in the academic year of 2021 to 2022, please see further details below.

Assessment adaptation

No.	Assessment	2021/2022 Academic Year Adaptations
6	Set date assessments	This qualification has an external assessment that must be sat on a set date and time and at your centre. External assessments will go ahead in academic year 2021 – 2022, unless public health measures deteriorate in which case this will be reviewed by the government. Previously, when assessments were timetabled for a set date and time, we: • updated our assessment variation process to allow centres to use additional test centre locations Where possible, we have now implemented further adaptations, which may include: • added additional assessment opportunities • the provision of advanced notification of test topics where possible In the 2021 to 2022 academic year, students will be permitted a first initial attempt, then up to two retake opportunities for external assessments for all four categories of performance table VTQs (i.e., for Applied General, Tech Level, Technical Certificate and Technical Awards). Assessment opportunities where students have received results based on teacher assessed grades (TAGs) and centre assessment grades (CAGs) do not count towards these retake opportunities. The highest achieved grade will count across all submissions, regardless of whether these are CAGs, TAGs or assessments undertaken under normal circumstances. For further information on additional assessment opportunities or extended assessment windows and advanced notice of exam topics, please see our updated external assessment timetable guide available on our website here: https://www.qualhub.co.uk/delivery-and-Student-support/external-assessment-timetable/

8	Controlled assessment/synoptic project	These assessments are completed in a set number of hours and the centre arranges supervised periods of external assessment within a set window. Synoptic projects are externally set by NCFE, internally graded by the centre and externally quality assured by NCFE. We have updated our assessment variation process to allow centres to use additional test centre locations. We've adapted our assessments so they can be delivered in line with public health guidelines. All relevant qualification content must still be delivered. To further support centres significant adaptations have been made to the conditions of the V Cert Technical Award synoptic project. We have • adapted the delivery and completion conditions so that it can now be completed by Students remotely where required • removed the requirement to complete within a set number of hours • removed the requirement for completion under controlled conditions • removed the timescales around submission deadlines and brought forward the release of the synoptic project brief so centres can plan their delivery timescales around their own delivery plan. The 2021-22 synoptic projects for our V Certs will be released earlier in the session, in line with adaptations published on our website and in this adaptation addendum. The synoptic projects will be available from 1st November 2021. Bookings will then remain open until the final submission deadline which is the 27th May 2022. EQA activity will then need to be carried out before 31st July 2022 to ensure results are confirmed for performance tables.
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	Can learners still have a resubmission? Yes, learners will still be able to have a resubmission opportunity, this will be managed internally by the centre. Learners should have opportunity to undertake two submissions (first submission and resubmission) but the final grade only should be entered onto the portal. Grades for a learners first submission do not need to be entered on the portal, but assessment and IQA records should be kept up to date to provide a full audit trail of the resubmission. For further information, please see our updated external assessment timetable guide available on our website here: https://www.qualhub.co.uk/delivery-and-Student-support/external-assessment-timetable/
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Contact us

NCFE
Q6
Quorum Park
Benton Lane
Newcastle upon Tyne
NE12 8BT

Tel: 0191 239 8000*
Fax: 0191 239 8001
Email: customersupport@ncfe.org.uk
Website: www.ncfe.org.uk

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