

Statement on AS and A Level Results and Appeals

What is the current situation regarding appeals?

With late announcements from the Department for Education last week and guidance that has been published and then withdrawn the same day, it is currently unclear what the grounds for appeal are outside of the pre-published information on clerical errors.

Previously, we advised you that students were unable to appeal a grade. Students could ask the school to appeal a grade on their behalf if there was:

- A clerical error by the school
- A clerical error by the board

This is still the case; students are still able to ask the school to appeal on these grounds. Checking for a clerical error by the school is a straightforward process. Checking for a clerical error by the board is less straightforward: if a student's result is different to the centre-assessed grade submitted by the school, we are unable to know in advance if this was due to a clerical error by the board or part of the board's standardisation model.

Can I appeal if my mock examination grades are higher?

In addition to the two grounds for appeal shown above, the Education Secretary has announced that students who would like to use a valid mock result will be able to do so through the appeals process, with individuals notifying their school or college who will provide evidence of their mock results to their exam board. At the time of writing, neither schools nor exam boards have been provided information on what constitutes a 'valid' mock result.

Can I appeal directly to the examination board or OFQUAL?

Students cannot appeal directly to the examination board or OFQUAL. An appeal must be done through school. Considering the 'triple lock' system meaning that awarded grades cannot go down and the cost to schools being reimbursed, the school will enter every valid appeal for a student's results. When the guidance is updated to reflect ministerial and departmental announcements, particularly with regard to the valid mock examination result, we will advise you further.

Can the school appeal about all of its results or a whole cohort subject's results?

Yes, but these are on the same grounds of maladministration and malpractice. There are a few other limited instances where the school is able to appeal and we are considering every one of them that is in a student's interest to do so.

What happens next?

We will continue to update you with government announcements that affect the appeals process and as I am sure you are aware it is a very dynamic situation. Mock results are available on My Child At School (for parents) and the VLE (student portal). Staff, parents, carers, and students are united in our desire that students get the grades that they rightfully deserve. To support students in this and for purposes of transparency, on results day we published students' centre assessed grades along with exam board results. These are both available in the 'reports' section of My Child At School (for parents) and the VLE (student portal).

How do I appeal?

To ask the school to appeal on a student's behalf (clerical error or mock result being higher), students should follow this process:

1. Register your intent by emailing bl.exams@brineleas.co.uk by Wednesday 9th September.

2. You will receive a confirmation reply within 24 hours, with a link to an online form. If you have not received a confirmation reply within 24 hours, please call school (01270 625663) and ask for the exams office. Since timescales on these entries are very tight, this is 'back up' to ensure that all requests are received and no emails are lost through typos in the address, for example.
3. The form will ask you to supply the grounds for your appeal (see above). Complete all details in the form and return it electronically by 3:15 on Thursday 10th September. This form constitutes Candidate Consent as required by JCQ. Please be aware that an appeal cannot be submitted without this completed form.
4. You will receive confirmation that your appeal form has been received and the grounds on which you are appealing.
5. You will receive confirmation when your appeal form has been submitted.
6. From that point, a member of staff will liaise with you directly as the appeal progresses. Candidates will be eligible for any fees incurred through appeals.

It is the policy of Brine Leas School and BL6 to support families where financial hardship may preclude a student from requesting an appeal. Students in receipt of a bursary should contact Mrs K Bradshaw on the school number and for confidential support.

How do I take an exam in the autumn?

Some students may wish to be entered for the autumn exam series. Students are encouraged to read [this document](#) (detailing the scope of the exams, the role of NEA, etc.) before requesting entry. In order to be entered for the autumn exam series, students should then follow this process:

1. Register your intent by emailing bl.exams@brineleas.co.uk by Tuesday 1st September (A-level and AS level) / Monday 14th September (GCSE)
2. You will receive a confirmation reply within 24 hours, with a link to an online form. If you have not received a confirmation reply within 24 hours, please call school (01270 625663) and ask for the exams office. Since timescales on these entries are very tight, this is 'back up' to ensure that all requests are received and no emails are lost through typos in the address, for example.
3. Complete all details in the form and return it electronically by 3.15 on Wednesday 2nd September (A-level and AS level) / Tuesday 15th September (GCSE). This form constitutes Candidate Consent as required by JCQ. Please be aware that an entry cannot be made without this completed form.
4. You will receive confirmation of the qualifications for which you are being entered.
5. From that point, a member of the Examinations team will liaise with you regarding exam times, dates and venues.