



The A* grade for GCEs

A* grade has been introduced to the grading of A levels to recognise and reward exceptional performance. The award will be issued for the first time for all A levels in August 2010 and subsequent exam series.

What happens to the old grading structure?

It's important to note that your students will not achieve the A* grade at AS level or at unit level. Also, the current standards of AS and A level will be maintained. This means that, for example, the level of performance awarded a grade B on the old specification will also be awarded a grade B on the new specification.

How do students achieve a grade A*?

To be awarded the A* grade students will need to achieve 90 per cent of the maximum uniform marks on their aggregate of all the A2 unit results.

Are any subject areas different?

For the Applied GCE A level (double award), there will be an A*A* and an A*A grade. In each case students will need to achieve an AA grade overall. To be awarded the A*A* grade, students will need to achieve 90 per cent of the maximum uniform marks on the aggregate of all of the A2 units results. The A*A grade will be awarded to those achieving 90 per cent of the maximum uniform marks on the aggregate of the three best A2 units.

For the Applied GCE A level with AS level, there will be an A*A grade. Again, students will need to achieve an AA grade overall. To be awarded the A*A grade students will need to achieve 90 per cent of the maximum uniform marks on the aggregate of all of the A2 units results.

A level mathematics

Changes were made to A level Mathematics subjects relatively recently. Consequently, these subjects (Mathematics, Further Mathematics, Pure Mathematics, Additional Further Mathematics) have not been restructured as part of this review and will remain at six units. A level mathematics subjects are to be revised for first teaching in September 2011.

It is possible to achieve an A Level Mathematics with different combination of applications units.

For this reason, the A* grade will be awarded in A level mathematics qualifications as follows:

- for mathematics it will be awarded to students achieving a grade A overall at A level and 90 per cent of the maximum uniform marks on the aggregate of the two A2 pure mathematics units C3 and C4 results.
- for further mathematics and additional further mathematics students will be awarded following two criteria. These are achieving a grade A overall at A level and 90 per cent of the maximum uniform marks on the aggregate of their three best A2 unit results.
- for pure mathematics, it will be awarded as for all other A level subjects.



Inside this issue:

Page 2

Invoices
Post Results Services

Page 3

Changes to JCQ EDI formats for September 2010
March 2010 GCSE and Functional Skills results
Upcoming Key Dates
Top Tips for Late Entries

Page 4

Get Updates on Funding changes
Key Skills Entry Dates and BTEC EDI Results Dates
BTEC Firsts and Nationals re-accréditation information

Invoices

A detailed breakdown of your invoices can be seen on **Edexcel Online** using the **View Invoices** menu on the main homepage. If you cannot see the View Invoices menu then you will need to speak to your Edexcel Online Account Administrator and ask them to add the profile called **Invoice Enquiries** to your account.

Log into the system at www.edexcelonline.com, from the menu on the left hand side of the page select the **View Invoices** menu, then **View Summary Invoices**. This will show you two ways of searching for invoices.

To search by invoice number, type the number in the invoice number field and click the **Search** button. Alternatively to search by dates, type the dates and click the **Search** button.

Once you have searched, you will be able to see a summary. It will show the invoice number, a brief description of what the invoice was for, a date issued and a date due, and finally the amount.

To see a detailed breakdown of each invoice, just click on the **View** button.

- You will be able to view the first 10 items on your selected invoice.
- You can use the arrow buttons at the bottom of the Description column to view the next 10 items.
- To see all the items on one list tick the **Display All** box.
- The **Export to File** button will open up a new window and allow you to see the complete item list in the form of a spreadsheet.

Click the **Candidates** button to view a list of candidates to whom the invoice item relates. This will again show you 10 candidates at a time with arrow buttons at the bottom to scroll through the list. The screen also has a **Display All** box as before and an **Export to file** button to see the candidate list in spreadsheet format.

Post Results Services

During April there are some key dates for our Post-Results services. These include **Enquiries About Results** and **Access to Scripts** for the January Series. These requests can be submitted using Edexcel Online.

All applications submitted online will be automatically acknowledged online. An additional confirmation email will be sent to the Edexcel Online user's registered email address confirming receipt of the request. If an email acknowledgement is not received on the same day please contact us immediately on the phone numbers listed on page 4.

The Enquiries About Results (EAR) services available are:

- EAR Service 1 Clerical re-check
- EAR Service 2 Post-results review of marking of externally assessed components
- EAR Priority Service 2 (2P) Post-results review of marking of externally assessed components
- EAR Service 3 Post-results review of moderation of internally assessed/externally moderated coursework components

Access to Script

Where possible the Access to Scripts (ATS) service is available for all GCE, AEA, GCSE and IGCSE externally assessed components. Not all components may be available.

Please check part 10 of the post results section of the Information Manual for component availability before completing an ATS request. For all GCE requests please ensure that the component is specified.

Copied scripts

Copied scripts are only available for GCE, AEA and Principal Learning Level 3 units, and you can use them to make a decision on whether to go ahead with an EAR Service 2 request.

Please note that these advance copy services are NOT available if requesting Priority Service 2 Enquiries About Results.

Original Script

An original script service is available for all components with an ATS facility.

Please note that we cannot provide original scripts for papers that were marked online. Instead, an electronic copy of the script in PDF format will be sent to the user's Edexcel Online mailbox.

Once an original script/PDF has been returned to you, an EAR request cannot be carried out. Where a script is subject to an Enquiry About Results it cannot be returned until the enquiry has been completed.

Original scripts/PDFs will not be made available to centres before the deadline for receipt of Enquiries About Results. You may however request copies of reviewed scripts at the same time as requesting an Enquiry About Results.

Where appropriate, examiners may write comments on traditionally marked scripts indicating the way in which candidates have met the requirements of the marking scheme. Examiners are asked to refer scripts to a more senior examiner where they are doubtful about how to apply the mark scheme. A script might have a note to that effect.

Scripts marked online do not show any comments when they are returned.

Please refer to the JCQ Post-results services booklet for detailed information regarding access to scripts and the use of script material for teaching purposes. This is available from the JCQ website www.jcq.org.uk

For more information about post-results services please check section 23 of the Information Manual

March 2010 - GCSE and Functional Skills results

Electronic results for the March 2010 examination series will be available on **15 April 2010**. The results will be available via EDI and Edexcel Online. Please be aware that paper results **will not** be available for this examination as confirmed by the JCQ. You will be able to access all usual results documentation using Edexcel Online. We will contact you via email with guidance in the next few weeks.

Changes to JCQ EDI formats for September 2010

The JCQ EDI formats group have made changes to the basedata format for 2010/11. From September 2010 the JCQ will be introducing **version 13** of the format to incorporate these changes and has been working with providers to update EDI software packages.

These changes will apply to **all qualification** types including BTEC.

Your software provider should automatically let you have an **upgrade prior to September** to allow you to operate with **version 13**.

EDIFACT EDI format is unchanged for 2010/11.

Upcoming Key Dates:

Date	Information	Qualification	Series
1 April 2010	Access to Scripts Service arrive in centres	GCE and Level 3 Principal Learning Units	January 2010 series
4 April 2010	Amendment fees may be charged from this date	GCE and AEA, Applied GCSE and GCSE History	June 2010 series
12 April 2010	Final date to apply for late subject (cash-in) awards	GCE	January 2010 series
12 April 2010	Final date for Enquires About Results	GCSE and GCE, DiDA, Principal Learning, Functional Skills	January 2010 series
15 April 2010	Publication of provisional GCSE results (online and EDI)	GCSE and Functional Skills	March 2010 series
19 April 2010	Final date for requesting transferred candidate arrangements	GCSE and IGCSE, GCE and AEA	June 2010 series
21 April 2010	Withdrawal deadline	Principal Learning	June 2010 series
22 April 2010	Higher late fees may be charged	GCE and AEA, GCSE / Applied GCSE and IGCSE, DiDA, ELC (Academic), Functional Skills, Project and Extended Project, Principal Learning	June 2010 series
28 April 2010	Final date for requesting return of original scripts- Access to Scripts service	GCSE, GCE, Principal Learning, Functional Skills	January 2010 series

Top Tips for Late Entries

Edexcel understands the submission of late entries can be unavoidable, however in the unlucky scenario that a late entry is made, here are some top tips to ensure the process goes as smoothly as possible.

Inform us when you make any late entries by either email serviceoperations@edexcel.com or by telephone on the phone numbers listed on page 4. This is to ensure that test materials will be dispatched. Edexcel will not dispatch test materials until entries have been submitted. In a scenario where your centre may be not be able to make late entries on Edexcel Online due to the entry facility being greyed out, your centre will be required to contact our Customer Service teams to make the entry on your behalf.

If your candidate was not given a pre-printed answer sheet because the entry was late, make sure the candidate UCI number, candidate number, qualification, and subject code are written clearly on the answer sheet as this will help us

process your answer sheets quickly and ensure that your candidate receives their results on time.

One of the consequences of late entries is that examination materials will be delivered late to your centre. Exam papers should arrive within 7 working days prior to the examination, however, in the event that your centre have not received their exam papers, you will need to contact our Customer Service team on the phone numbers listed on page 4. We will then check the delivery status and if necessary, make other arrangements for delivery.

Do you know that late entries for some subjects will not be accepted if it is too late for us to allocate an examiner or to send assessment material?

To avoid late entries we recommend that you have the published deadlines in your diary.

Get Updates on Funding changes

Funding affects the breadth of provision you offer, so keep up-to-date with the changes in funding policy by subscribing to our free Edexcel Funding Watch e-newsletter. Email your details to fundingwatch@edexcel.com and we will send you updates.

For more information on our funding watch go to www.edexcel.com/policies and click on Funding Watch. There is also more information on books, training classes and funding topics at www.planningandfunding.co.uk



BTEC and Key Skills key dates

Please be aware of the upcoming key dates: 09 April 2010 Key Skills and ALAN Electronic Entry and Amendment deadline for May 2010 exams. 30 April 2010 BTEC, Entry ALAN, ESOL and Entry Level Functional Skills deadline for submission of EDI entry file board 15 series 7B which will generate results files from Edexcel to centres in August.

Important re-accreditation information

Registration of Learners on BTEC Firsts and Nationals

With the new **BTEC Firsts and Nationals** ready for teaching from September 2010, we need to make sure that all learners studying the current specifications are correctly registered with us. The deadline for registering learners on the current specification is 31st August 2010. After **31st August 2010**, in line with regulatory requirements, it will no longer be possible to register learners onto the current specifications for BTEC Firsts and Nationals as these specifications will no longer be approved for new registrations.

Please double-check with your programme teams that all learners studying the current specifications have been registered. If they are not registered by 31st August 2010, they will have to be registered on the new specifications and this will result in them having to do additional work to meet the requirements of the new courses. You can check the approval end dates for all your BTEC programmes on **Edexcel Online: BTEC > Qualifications > Approved Programmes**.

Last Dates for Claiming Certificates for BTEC Firsts and Nationals

The last date for claiming certificates for a qualification is known as the **Certificate End Date**. The Certificate End Date for learners registered on the **2002 BTEC specifications is 31st August 2010**. Typically, these will be the learners who registered on BTEC Firsts between September 2002 and August 2006 and on BTEC Nationals between September 2002 and August 2007. After **31st August 2010**, it will no longer be possible to certificate learners on the 2002 specifications and they will need to transfer to the new specifications.

The Certificate End Date for students registered on the **current BTEC First specifications is 31st August 2012** and for students registered on the **current BTEC National specifications is 31st August 2013**.

Registration of Learners on NVQs

With the new QCF qualifications currently coming on board, we need to make sure all learners studying the current NVQ specifications are correctly registered with us. **From March 2010, through to December 2010**, the current suite of NVQ qualifications will expire for new registrations. Once expired, no further registrations can be made. You can check the dates to which your NVQ programmes are approved via **Edexcel Online: NVQ > Qualifications > Approved Awards**.

Key Skills accreditation

With the new Functional Skills qualifications being **available from 1 September 2010**, the final date to register learners on the core Key Skills programmes is **31 August 2010**. Core Key Skills programmes are Application of Number, Communication and Information & Communication Technology at levels 1-4. Learners registered on all core key skills programmes will have to complete the course for final certification on **31 August 2012**.

The accreditation for **wider Key Skills programmes at levels 1-3** has been extended with registration available until **31 August 2012**. Wider Key Skills are Improving own Learning and Performance, Working with Others, and Problem Solving. The table below shows the new accreditation dates:

Level	Registration until	Certification until
1	31/08/2012	31/08/2013
2	31/08/2012	31/08/2014
3	31/08/2012	31/08/2015

Level 4 wider Key Skills programmes have the same accreditation dates as core Key Skills.

This information is also available on the **National Database of Accredited Qualifications**.

Edexcel Customer Services: Our general enquiry numbers are as follows:

BTEC and NVQ:	0844 576 00 26	DIDA and other qualifications:	0844 576 00 31
GCSE:	0844 576 00 27	Online services including Results+ and Edexcel Online	0844 576 00 24
GCE:	0844 576 00 25		
DIPLOMA:	0844 576 00 28	International customer (all enquiries)	+0044 (0) 1204 770696

Our contact centre is open between 8am and 6pm from Monday to Friday. www.edexcel.com