



Holmer Green Senior School

Internal Appeals Policy

April 2025

Appeals relating to internal assessment decision (centre assessed marks)

Certain GCSE, GCE and other qualifications contain components of non-examination assessment (or units of coursework) which are internally assessed (marked) by Holmer Green Senior School and internally standardised. The marks awarded (the internal assessment decisions) which contribute to the final grade of the qualification are then submitted by the deadline set by the awarding body for external moderation.

Holmer Green Senior School (HGSS) is committed to ensuring that whenever its staff mark candidates' work this is done fairly, consistently and in accordance with the awarding body's specification and subject-specific associated documents.

HGSS ensures that all staff follow a robust Non-Examination Assessment policy (for the management of GCE and GCSE non-examination assessments). This policy details all procedures relating to non-examination assessments for GCE and GCSE, Project qualifications, Cambridge Nationals and WJEC Level 2/3 qualifications, including the marking and quality assurance processes/ internal standardisation which relevant teaching staff are required to follow.

Candidates' work will be marked by staff who have appropriate knowledge, understanding and skill, and who have been trained in this activity. HGSS is committed to ensuring that work produced by candidates is authenticated in line with the requirements of the awarding body. Where more than one subject teacher is involved in marking candidates' work, internal moderation and standardisation will ensure consistency of marking.

On being informed of their centre assessed marks, if a candidate believes that the above procedures were not followed in relation to the marking of his/her work, or that the assessor has not properly applied the marking standards to his/her marking, then he/she may make use of the appeals procedure below to consider whether to request a review of the centre's marking.

N.B: an appeal may only be made against the assessment process and not against the mark to be submitted to the awarding body

HGSS will:

1. Ensure that candidates are informed of their centre assessed marks so that they may request a review of the centre's marking before marks are submitted to the awarding body.
2. Inform candidates that they will need to explain on what grounds they wish to request a review of an internally assessed mark as a review will only focus on the quality of their work in meeting the published assessment criteria
3. Inform candidates that they may request copies of materials (generally, as a minimum, a copy their marked assessment material (work) and the mark scheme or assessment criteria plus additional materials which may vary from subject to subject) to assist them in considering whether to request a review of the centre's marking of the assessment.
4. Having received a request for copies of materials, promptly make them available to the candidate (or for some marked assessment materials, such as art work and recordings, inform the candidate that the originals will be shared under supervised conditions) within **2 working days**.
5. Inform candidates they will not be allowed access to original assessment material unless supervised
6. Provide candidates with sufficient time in order to allow them to review copies of materials and reach a decision, informing candidates that if their decision is to request a review, they will need to explain what they believe the issue to be.
7. Provide a clear deadline for candidates to submit a request for a review of the centre's marking. Requests will not be accepted after this deadline. Requests must be made in writing

within **3 calendar days** of receiving copies of the requested materials by completing the **internal appeals form**.

8. Allow **5 working days** for the review to be carried out, to make any necessary changes to marks and to inform the candidate of the outcome, all before the awarding body's deadline for the submission of marks.
9. Ensure that the review of marking is carried out by an assessor who has appropriate competence, has had no previous involvement in the assessment of that candidate for the component in question and has no personal interest in the outcome of the review. This may be non-centre staff.
10. Instruct the reviewer to ensure that the candidate's mark is consistent with the standard set by the centre.
11. Inform the candidate in writing of the outcome of the review of the centre's marking.

The outcome of the review of the centre's marking will be made known to the head of centre who will have the final decision if there is any disagreement on the mark to be submitted to the awarding body. A written record of the review will be kept and made available to the awarding body upon request.

The awarding body will be informed if the centre does not accept the outcome of a review.

The moderation process carried out by the awarding bodies may result in a mark change, either upwards or downwards, even after an internal review. The internal review process is in place to ensure consistency of marking within the centre, whereas moderation by the awarding body ensures that centre marking is in line with national standards. The mark submitted to the awarding body is subject to change and should therefore be considered provisional.

Appeals relating to centre decisions not to support a clerical check, a review of marking, a review of moderation or an appeal.

Following the issue of results, awarding bodies make post-results services available. Full details of these services, internal deadlines for requesting a service and fees charged are provided by the exams officer and are published on the school website

Candidates are also made aware of the arrangements for post-results services prior to the issue of results.

If the centre or a candidate (or his/her parent/carer) has a concern and believes a result may not be accurate, post-results services may be considered.

Reviews of Results (RoRs):

- ▶ Service 1 – clerical re-check
- ▶ Service 2 – review of marking
- ▶ Priority Service 2 – review of marking – only available for externally assessed components of A level specifications (an individual awarding body may also offer this priority service for other qualifications)
- ▶ Service 3 – review of moderation (this service is not available to an individual candidate)

Access to Scripts (ATS):

- ▶ Copies of scripts to support reviews of marking
- ▶ Copies of scripts to support teaching and learning

Where a concern is expressed that a particular result may not be accurate, the centre will look at the marks awarded for each component part of the qualification alongside relevant result reports, grade boundary information etc. when made available by the awarding body to determine if the centre supports any concerns.

For written components that contributed to the final result, the centre will:

1. Where a place at university or college is at risk, consider supporting a request for a Priority Service 2 review of marking
2. In all other instances, consider accessing the script (priority or online if available):
3. Collect informed written consent/permission from the candidate to access his/her script
4. On access to the script, consider if it is felt that the agreed mark scheme has been applied correctly in the original marking and if the centre considers there are any errors in the marking
5. Support a request for the appropriate RoR service (clerical re-check or review of marking) if any error is identified
6. Collect informed written consent from the candidate to request the RoR service before the request is submitted
7. Where relevant, advise an affected candidate to inform any third party (such as a university or college) that a review of marking has been submitted to an awarding body

Written candidate consent is required in all cases before a request for a RoR service 1 or 2 is submitted to the awarding body. Consent is required to confirm the candidate understands that the final subject grade and/or mark awarded following a clerical re-check or a review of marking, and any subsequent appeal, may be lower than, higher than, or the same as the result which was originally awarded. Candidate consent must only be collected after the publication of results.

For any moderated components that contributed to the final result, the centre will:

- Confirm that a review of moderation cannot be undertaken on the work of an individual candidate or the work of candidates not in the original sample submitted for moderation
- Consult the moderator's report/feedback to identify any issues raised
- Determine if the centre's internally assessed marks have been accepted without change by the awarding body – if this is the case, a RoR service 3 (Review of moderation) will not be available
- Determine if there are any grounds to submit a request for a review of moderation for the work of all candidates in the original sample]

Where a candidate disagrees with a centre decision not to support a clerical re-check, a review of marking or a review of moderation, the centre will:

- For a review of marking (RoR priority service 2), advise the candidate he/she may request the review by providing informed written consent (and the required fee) for this service to the centre by the deadline set by the centre
- For a review of marking (RoR service 1 or 2), first advise the candidate to access a copy of his/her script to support a review of marking by providing written permission for the centre to access the script and any required fee for this service
- After, or instead of, accessing the script to consider the marking, inform the candidate that if a request for a review of marking (RoR service 1 or 2) is required, this must be submitted by the deadline set by the centre by providing informed written consent and the required fee for this service
- Inform the candidate that a review of moderation (RoR service 3) cannot be requested for the work of an individual candidate or the work of a candidate not in the original sample

If the candidate (or their parent/carer) believes there are grounds to appeal against the centre's decision not to support a review, an internal appeal can be submitted to the centre, in writing, at least **one week prior to** the internal deadline for submitting a request for a review.

The candidate will be informed of the outcome of his/her appeal before the internal deadline for submitting a RoR.

Appeals procedure following the outcome of an enquiry about results

Following the RoR outcome, an external appeals process is available if the head of centre remains dissatisfied after receiving the outcome and believes there are grounds for appeal. The JCQ publications *Post-results services* and *JCQ Appeals Booklet (A guide to the awarding bodies' appeals processes)* will be consulted to determine the acceptable grounds for a preliminary appeal.

Where the head of centre is satisfied after receiving the RoR outcome, but the candidate (or their parent/carer) believes there are grounds for a preliminary appeal to the awarding body, a further internal appeal may be made to the head of centre. Following this, the head of centre's decision as to whether to proceed with a preliminary appeal will be based upon the acceptable grounds as detailed in the *JCQ Appeals Booklet*. Candidates or parents/carers are not permitted to make direct representations to an awarding body.

An internal appeals form should be submitted to the centre within **10 calendar days** of the notification of the outcome of the RoR. Subject to the head of centre's decision, this will allow the centre to process the preliminary appeal and submit to the awarding body within the required 30 calendar days of receiving the outcome of the review of the results process. Awarding body fees which may be charged for the preliminary appeal must be paid to the centre by the appellant before the preliminary appeal is submitted to the awarding body. If the appeal is upheld by the awarding body, this fee will be refunded by the awarding body and repaid to the appellant by the centre. Appeals regarding centre decisions relating to access arrangements and special consideration

HGSS will:

- comply with the principles and regulations governing access arrangements and special consideration as set out in the JCQ publications *Access Arrangements and Reasonable Adjustments* and *A guide to the special consideration process*
- ensure that all staff who manage and implement access arrangements and special consideration are aware of the requirements and are appropriately supported and resourced

Access arrangements and reasonable adjustments

In accordance with the regulations, HGSS:

- recognises its duty to explore and provide access to suitable courses, through the access arrangements process submit applications for reasonable adjustments and make reasonable adjustments to the service the centre provides to disabled candidates.
- complies with its responsibilities in identifying, determining and implementing appropriate access arrangements and reasonable adjustments

Failure to comply with the regulations have the potential to constitute malpractice which may impact on a candidate's result(s).

Examples of failure to comply include:

- putting in place access arrangements/adjustments that are not approved
- failing to consider putting in place access arrangements (which may be a failure to comply with the duty to make reasonable adjustments)
- permitting access arrangements/adjustments within the centre which are not supported by appropriate evidence
- charging a fee for providing reasonable adjustments to disabled candidates AARA (Importance of these regulations)
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Special consideration

Where HGSS can provide signed evidence to support an application, it will apply for special consideration at the time of the assessment for a candidate who has temporarily experienced illness, injury or some other event outside of their control when the issue or event has had, or is reasonably likely to have had, a material effect on the candidate's ability to take an assessment or demonstrate his or her normal level of attainment in an assessment.

Centre decisions relating to access arrangements, reasonable adjustments and special consideration

This may include HGSS's decision not to make/apply for a specific reasonable adjustment or to apply for special consideration, in circumstances where a candidate does not meet the criteria for, or there is no evidence/insufficient evidence to support the implementation of an access arrangement/reasonable adjustment or the application of special consideration.

Where HGSS makes a decision in relation to the access arrangement(s), reasonable adjustment(s) or special consideration that apply for a candidate or candidates:

- If a candidate who is the subject of the relevant decision (or the candidate's parent/carer) disagrees with the decision made and reasonably believes that the centre has not complied with its responsibilities or followed due procedures, a written request setting out the grounds for appeal should be submitted
- An internal appeals form should be completed within 5 working days of the decision being made known to the appellant

To determine the outcome of the appeal, the head of centre will consult the respective JCQ publication to confirm the centre has complied with the principles and regulations governing access arrangements and/or special consideration and followed due procedures.

The appellant will be informed of the outcome of the appeal within 5 working days of the appeal being received and logged by the centre.

If the appeal is upheld, HGSS will proceed to implement the necessary arrangements/submit the necessary application.

Appeals regarding centre decisions relating to other administrative issues

Circumstances may arise that cause HGSS to make decisions on administrative issues that may affect a candidate's examinations/assessments.

Where HGSS may make a decision that affects a candidate or candidates:

- If a candidate who is the subject of the relevant decision (or the candidate's parent/carer) disagrees with the decision made and reasonably believes that the centre has not complied with the regulations or followed due process, a written request setting out the grounds for appeal should be submitted
- An internal appeals form should be completed within 5 working days of the decision being made known to the appellant

The appellant will be informed of the outcome of the appeal within 5 working days of the appeal being received and logged by the centre.

Further guidance to inform and implement appeals procedures

JCQ publications

- ▶ *General Regulations for Approved Centres*
<https://www.jcq.org.uk/exams-office/general-regulations>
- ▶ *Post-Results Services*
<https://www.jcq.org.uk/exams-office/post-results-services>
- ▶ *JCQ Appeals Booklet*
<https://www.jcq.org.uk/exams-office/appeals>
- ▶ *Notice to Centres - Reviews of marking (centre assessed marks)*
<https://www.jcq.org.uk/exams-office/coursework>
<https://www.jcq.org.uk/exams-office/non-examination-assessments>
- ▶ *Notice to Centres - informing candidates of their centre assessed marks*
<https://www.jcq.org.uk/exams-office/non-examination-assessments>
- ▶ *Suspected Malpractice: Policies and Procedures* <https://www.jcq.org.uk/exams-office/malpractice>
- ▶ *Access Arrangements and Reasonable Adjustments* <https://www.jcq.org.uk/exams-office/access-arrangements-and-special-consideration/>
- ▶ *A guide to the special consideration process* <https://www.jcq.org.uk/exams-office/access-arrangements-and-special-consideration/>

Relevant policies

- Access Arrangements Policy (Exams)
- Equalities Policy (Exams)
- Examination Malpractice Policy
- Examinations Policy
- Non-Examination Assessment Policy
- Whistleblowing Policy (Exams)

Approved at Governors: April 2025

To be reviewed: April 2027

Internal Appeals form

FOR CENTRE USE ONLY

Date received

- ☐ Appeal against an internal assessment decision and/or request for a review of marking
- ☐ Appeal against the centre's decision not to support a clerical re-check, a review of marking, a review of moderation or an appeal
- ☐ Appeal against the centre's decision relating to access arrangements or special consideration
- ☐ Appeal against the centre's decision relating to an administrative issue

Name of appellant		Candidate name (if different to appellant)	
Awarding body		Exam paper code	
Qualification type Subject		Exam paper title	

Please state the grounds for your appeal below:

(If applicable, tick below)

- ☐ Where my appeal is against an internal assessment decision, I wish to request a review of the centre's marking

If necessary, continue on an additional page if this form is being completed electronically or overleaf if hard copy being completed

Appellant signature:

Date of signature:

This form must be signed, dated and returned to the exams officer on behalf of the head of centre to the timescale indicated in the relevant appeals procedure