



Senior Phase Evidence Gathering SQA



We understand that you will have a range of questions relating to SQA arrangements this year. Below are answers to the most common questions that we have been asked. We hope that these will reassure and help support you. If your question is not covered here, please contact us and we will try our best to support.

As there are no SQA final exams, how will I be assessed?

As you are already aware, the Scottish Government has now decided that National 5, Higher and Advanced Higher exams will not go ahead this school session. This is due to continuing concerns about Covid-19 and also the need to ensure that there is fairness and equity for all young people who have been impacted as a result.

Instead, class teachers will provide the SQA with **provisional results** for each young person. This means they will tell the SQA what grade each young person should be awarded for each course. Throughout the year, including during remote learning, we have focussed on teaching and learning to fully prepare our young people for gathering evidence to determine a provisional grade.

How will Provisional Results be decided?

Provisional results will be based on a range of evidence that is gathered across each of subjects between now and the deadline when grades have to be submitted to SQA. We will endeavour to give our young people as long as possible to gather the strongest possible evidence. So far, we have focussed on teaching and learning to provide every possible opportunity to prepare our young people for gathering evidence.

The final deadline date for submitting provisional grades is 25th June 2021. In order to support quality assurance and moderation, it is likely that the majority of evidence will be collected before this date. Our Evidence Gathering Calendar will provide an overview of when planned evidence gathering will take place.

The range of evidence will depend on each subject and how this is assessed. Further information about each subject and how they gather evidence can be found on the SQA website at <https://www.sqa.org.uk/sqa/45777.html>

We have also produced a PowerPoint that gives information about gathering evidence for each subject.

Will the (class) work we are submitting online, be used to come up with our final grade?

No. Young people will produce evidence to demonstrate ability in line with SQA Guidelines. Within the Senior Phase, all school work from August 2020, including work completed during remote learning, is designed to prepare our young people for producing evidence to demonstrate attainment.

With a planned full time return post Easter break, we will ensure that we build in time for our young people to consolidate learning and prepare for evidence gathering in line with departmental timelines. Our Evidence Gathering Calendar will provide an overview for each subject. Where you have any worries or concerns, please contact us to discuss further.

Will my teacher's provisional grade for me be the grade that I get in August 2021?

Throughout learning, teachers will share with young people how they are progressing as they normally would. This should mean that there are no surprises for the young person when class teachers confirm the provisional results that will be submitted to SQA.

SQA will do some further checks once they receive your provisional results and may ask your school to provide some evidence that the school has used to decide on the provisional result. SQA will then make the final decision about your result.

SQA have confirmed that they will not change any young person's provisional result for a subject without seeing evidence from the school first.

How long will I have to gather evidence towards my provisional results?

In order to support our young people and make sure that they have as much time as possible for evidence gathering towards the provisional results, evidence gathering will take place towards the end of the current session. The 'Evidence Gathering Calendar' and Subject PowerPoint provides information with regards to subject timelines and requirements.

The SQA deadline for receiving provisional results from schools is 25th June 2021. It is likely that the majority of evidence gathering will take place before this date to ensure quality assurance and moderation are in place.

How do I know that my provisional results decided by my school are fair?

It is very important that the process of deciding your provisional results is fair and robust. Each Department will be involved in regular moderation within the school. Across East Dunbartonshire Council we will quality assure and moderate the range of evidence that your teachers will gather and examine when deciding on your provisional results.

Provisional results will all be checked at a number of levels within Bearsden Academy and by East Dunbartonshire Council before they are confirmed to you and sent to SQA. This will ensure that provisional results are a fair and accurate reflection of your achievements.

What if I am ill or have to self isolate and miss an assessment?

We understand that this may cause anxiety for you just now. We have procedures in place to support anyone who is absent during the year, either because they are ill or because they have to self-isolate. Our Evidence Gathering Calendar remains flexible and subject to change so that you will have the opportunity to sit any assessments that you might miss if you cannot attend school.

It is important that you continue to communicate with the school about attendance issues in order for us to build in supports.

How will I manage my workload if I am going to have lots of assessments for all my subjects?

We have developed an 'Evidence Gathering Calendar' that will indicate when evidence gathering will take place. This calendar is subject to change due to the continued impact of Covid-19. It is important to remember that we want to support you and avoid unnecessary pressure on you. It is important that you check this calendar and see when planned evidence gathering will take place for all your subjects. If you have any worries or questions related to when evidence gathering will take place, please make sure that you see your Guidance Teacher as soon as possible in order for supports to be put in place.

What if I am entitled to Special Arrangements for assessments and exams?

You will be entitled to the same supports during a formal assessment in class as you would have in an SQA exam situation. We will discuss this with you and put supports in place where necessary. Should you have any worries or concerns about your arrangements for exams, please contact Mrs Gold, Principal Teacher Support for Learning who will be happy to support and discuss this further.

If I do not think one or more of my provisional results is fair, can I appeal it?

Yes. This process is still under consultation at the moment by the SQA. Please see the SQA link at: <https://www.sqa.org.uk/sqa/96506.html>

What will happen with study leave and timetable changes this year?

There will be no study leave as exams are not going ahead. This means that we can ensure maximum time within school for teaching and learning to ensure that each young person is fully prepared for evidence gathering.

Our school timetable for next session will take place in August 2021.

What if I am still worried about any part of the process?

We are here to help and support. Please contact us as soon as possible and we will endeavour to reassure and sort any issues or questions that you may have.

What if I have any other questions?

Should you have any other questions, please contact your child's Guidance teacher who will be happy to support where possible.

We will be hosting a live webinar after the Easter break via Microsoft Teams to discuss Evidence Gathering in more detail. Further information about this will be with you in due course.