

COCKBURN SCHOOL

Specialist status in the Performing Arts



Internal Appeals Procedures

Reviewed by: Governors

Date of Policy: September 2020

To be reviewed: September 2021

Cockburn School Internal Appeals Procedures (2020/21)
Hyperlinks provided in this document were correct as at September 2020

Key staff involved in internal appeals procedures

Role	Name(s)
Executive Headteacher	Mr David Gurney
Head of Centre/School	Mr Robert Dixon
Senior Leader: Exams & Curriculum	Mr Angus Smith
Exams officer	Mr Peter Cooke

1. Appeals against internal assessment decisions (centre assessed marks)

Certain GCSE, Vocational and other qualifications contain components of non-examination assessment (or units of coursework) which are internally assessed (marked) by Cockburn 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.

This procedure confirms Cockburn School's compliance with JCQ's *General Regulations for Approved Centres 2020-2021*, section 5.7 that the centre will:

- have in place and be available for inspection purposes, a written internal appeals procedure relating to internal assessment decisions and to ensure that details of this procedure are communicated, made widely available and accessible to all candidates
- before submitting marks to the awarding body inform candidates of their centre assessed marks and allow a candidate to request a review of the centre's marking

Deadlines for the submission of marks

Date	Qualification	Details	Exam Series

Cockburn School 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.

Cockburn School ensures that all centre staff follow a robust *Non-examination assessment policy* (for the management of GCSE non-examination assessments). This policy details all procedures relating to non-examination assessments, including the marking and quality assurance processes 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. Cockburn School is committed to ensuring that work produced by candidates is authenticated in line with the requirements of the awarding body. Where a number of subject teachers are 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 mark scheme 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.

Cockburn School 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 (for example, 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 these will be shared under supervised conditions) within 5 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 5 calendar days of receiving copies of the requested materials by completing the internal appeals form**
- 8. allow 10 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.**

9. will 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 and has no personal interest in the review. The assessor may be a member of staff from another School within Cockburn Multi-Academy Trust.

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.

2. Appeals against the centre's decision not to support a clerical check, a review of marking, a review of moderation or an appeal

This procedure confirms Cockburn School's compliance with JCQ's *General Regulations for Approved Centres 2020-2021, section 5.13* that the centre will:

- *have available for inspection purposes and draw to the attention of candidates and their parents/carers, a written internal appeals procedure to manage disputes when a candidate disagrees with a centre decision not to support a clerical re-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 can be provided by the exams officer upon request.

Candidates are also informed of the arrangements for post-results services and the **availability of senior members of centre staff immediately after the publication of results, before** they sit any exams by the School website and through internal communications (examination briefings and the VLE).

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.

The JCQ post-results services currently available are detailed below.

Reviews of Results (RoRs):

- Service 1 (Clerical re-check)
This is the only service that can be requested for objective tests (multiple choice tests)
- Service 2 (Review of marking)
- Priority Service 2 (Review of marking)
This service is only available for externally assessed components of GCE 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 any mark schemes, 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 a 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 by:
 - a) (where the service is made available by the awarding body) requesting a priority copy of the candidate's script to support a review of marking by the awarding body deadline or
 - b) (where the option is made available by the awarding body) viewing the candidate's marked script online to consider if requesting a review of marking is appropriate
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 (informed consent via candidate email is acceptable) is required in all cases before a request for a RoR service 1 or 2 (including priority service 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 the centre to submit this request
- After 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 the centre to submit this request
- 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 his/her parent/carer) believes there are grounds to appeal against the centre's decision not to support a review of results, an internal appeal can be submitted to the centre by writing to the centre at least 5 calendar days prior to the internal deadline for submitting a request for a review of results.

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

Following the RoR outcome, an external appeals process is available if the head of centre remains dissatisfied with 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 his/her 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.

Internal appeals should be completed and submitted to the centre within 10 working 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 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 (fees are available from the exams officer). 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.

BTEC/RSL Internal Assessment Appeals Policy and Procedure

The appeals policy and procedure is designed to provide learners with a formal avenue for appeal against an internal assessment decision.

Stage 1:

When an Assessor is unable to recommend to the learner that the evidence provided meets the required standard, the learner may request for the work to be part of the Internal Verification (IV) sample. The Assessor will arrange for IV of the work as per the IV schedule, and this will be without prejudice to the learner i.e. the Assessor will advise the learner that the work does not meet the criteria but will arrange for the IV sampling to go ahead as requested.

Stage 2:

The Lead Internal Verifier (LIV) will then decide if the learner's work can be assessed as meeting the criteria. If the appeal is upheld, the new grade will be awarded and the LIV will provide further standardisation training to the Assessor. In all cases where the LIV is unable to verify that the work meets the standard, learners will be given feedback in writing by the LIV concerned, with the reasons given for the decision and with advice given as to how future work can be brought to the required standard. The learner will be offered a re-submission or re-take opportunity if appropriate. The centre's aim is to support learners to achieve the required standard, not to confirm failure.

Stage 3:

If a learner disagrees with the decision of the LIV, the learner may wish to appeal against the decision and the procedure is:

- a) Within 5 working days of receiving written feedback from the LIV, the learner should inform his/her personal tutor that he/she is not satisfied with the decision and should give the reasons for this. The tutor will then explain the appeals procedure to the learner.
- b) Within 10 working days of receiving the written feedback from the LIV, the learner should make a request to the Subject Leader that the evidence be re-assessed. The request should be in writing with the reasons given for dissatisfaction with the assessment decision and should be accompanied by the evidence concerned.
- c) Within 5 working days of receiving the learner's request, the Subject Leader will confer with the Assessor and LIV concerned and refer the assessment, together with the evidence and the learner's, LIV's and tutor's comments to a further Lead Internal Verifier (hereafter known as the Appeal Verifier). This may be the Lead Internal Verifier for the same subject area at another centre that forms part of the Cockburn Multi-academy Trust). The Appeal Verifier may wish to interview the learner, the tutor and the LIV to gain further information on the assessment. The Appeal Verifier will make a further assessment of the evidence and will give his/her decision, the reasons for the decision, and recommendations for further action in writing, to the Subject Leader within 10 working days of the assessment being referred to him/her. A copy of the Appeal Verifier's report and recommendations will be given to the learner, the tutor and the LIV.

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 – informing candidates of their centre assessed marks*
<https://www.jcq.org.uk/exams-office/non-examination-assessments>

Ofqual publications

- ▶ *GCSE (9 to 1) qualification-level conditions and requirements*
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/gce-qualification-level-conditions-and-requirements>
- ▶ *GCE qualification-level conditions and requirements*
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/gce-qualification-level-conditions-and-requirements>