

FAQs for VI Book 1 and V Book boys on TAGs and SAGs (April 2021)

We have now received further guidance from the Joint Council for Qualifications (JCQ) and the exam boards (the awarding bodies, including CAIE) and are in a position to outline in more detail the school's approach to awarding grades.

JCQ guidance can be found [here](#). The main JCQ page is [here](#).

CAIE guidance can be found in three key documents: [1](#), [2](#) and [3](#). The main CAIE page is [here](#).

A letter outlining the school's general approach will accompany this FAQ document and will be sent to your parents later on this week. This document attempts to address some of the questions that have been forthcoming since the start of term. It will not be exhaustive, if there are other queries, please direct them to me, not to your subject don.

What is the difference between a Teacher Assessed Grade (TAG) and a School Assessed Grade (SAG)?

TAGs will be awarded by the exam boards which fall under JCQ's authority (GCSE, IGCSE (Edexcel) and A-level). SAGs will be awarded by CAIE (Cambridge Assessment International Education: IGCSE and Pre-U).

Will my grades be arrived at in the same manner? Is a different approach to TAGs and SAGs indicated?

Yes - The key message from JCQ is that for TAGs we will need to be consistent in the evidence that we use to support a grade assignment across a cohort. The key message from CAIE is that for SAGs there can be a wider range in the evidence that we can select, we do not need to use the same pieces of work for each boy studying the subject, and only three pieces of evidence will be used to support a grade assignment.

Does that make it more difficult to obtain a grade in GCSE/A-level compared to IGCSE/Pre-U?

No - There is no limit to the number of pieces that can be used to support this judgement (but the evidence does have to be consistent across the cohort). That means that all cohort-wide evidence could potentially be used to support your dons' judgements. HoDs are giving careful consideration to all of the evidence that they have recorded.

Have departments selected the evidence used to support my TAGs or SAGs?

Not yet as we don't have all of the evidence - Heads of Department have already reviewed all of the potential sources of supporting evidence available and have considered how best to arrive at TAGs/SAGs in their subject.

I'm concerned that my performance in Mocks I might not be considered in arriving at my TAGs/SAGs? Is that true?

No – if you have performed well in Mocks I then it will positively impact your TAG/SAG; within a TAG it's another piece of cohort-wide evidence to support your teacher's judgement; within a SAG it will provide a piece of evidence that can be included within your portfolio of evidence.

I'm concerned that my performance in Mocks I might be considered in arriving at my TAGs/SAGs? Is that true?

If you felt that you underperformed in Mocks I, and you are worried about your TAG, you have the opportunity to perform in the exams over the course of the next few weeks and your teachers will also have cohort data from earlier in the academic year. Your teachers will then reach a holistic professional judgement based on all the cohort wide evidence selected.

Are all departments going to use the same evidence to support my TAGs/SAGs?

No. All subjects are different and Heads of Department will have selected the approach they feel is most appropriate to their subject (and reflects the widest possible syllabus and assessment objective coverage).

What will I be told about the evidence that's going to be used to support my TAGs/SAGs?

Once the second set of exams is complete, and marks have been moderated, you will be informed as to the types of evidence that are being used to underpin teacher judgements. You will also be told of the marks awarded to all pieces of evidence. You will not be told your grade, and you must refrain from asking about your grade.

You will be able to raise at that stage any concerns about the types of evidence being used (for example if you feel that a piece of evidence was impacted by mitigating circumstances or incidents that might warrant special consideration).

When will that take place?

In the week beginning 24th May, the week prior to Leave-out.

Who do I raise concerns with about the evidence being used?

You should raise concerns with your classroom don and the Head of Department by e-mail. You should also inform Mrs Ridley and myself (cc' us both in).

Will I know what weighting is going to be given to individual pieces of evidence in supporting judgements of TAGs and SAGs?

No – We're prohibited by the boards from sharing that information with you. We also can't tell you your final TAG/SAG grade.

Will there be an opportunity to sit further assessments after the 24th May to generate further evidence should it be needed?

In exceptional cases, where circumstances warrant it, a small number of boys may be asked to produce further supporting evidence. We're fully expecting that most boys will not need any further supporting evidence at that stage.

How will the school ensure that the evidence generated is consistently and accurately marked and then properly moderated?

There will be careful quality control at departmental level. All Heads of Department have discussed their approaches with the Director of Studies in one-to-one meetings at the start of this term. A variety of techniques: cross marking of groups, one don marking the same question for all boys, sampling of scripts by the Head of Department will be operation to ensure that no errors are made.

What happens after that?

There will be a system of internal quality assurance to make sure that judgements made on the basis of evidence are fair and consistent to all boys. The exam board will also undertake external quality assurance.

Any concerns?

We know how important this process is to you and we're determined to get everything right so that you get grades that are fair, objective and accurate. Your dons, HoDs and the Senior Team will all be working hard so that you can be confident of getting the grades which you deserve on the basis of the evidence that you've produced.

TNT April 2021