



# How learning outcomes will be awarded for 2019/20 academic year?

## Access Qualifications



As of 17 April 2020

# ACCESS Qualifications

## Background

The Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education (QAA) has been working closely with the Department for Education (DoE) and other organisations to produce a clear, fair and consistent approach to assessment for the award of the Access to HE Diploma 2019/20.

On 03 April 2020, QAA announced that an extraordinary regulatory framework would be applied for students who planned to complete their Access to HE courses by 31 July 2020.

## How will the Extraordinary Framework be applied?

*For work due on or before 20 March 2020:* the standard QAA grading scheme will be applied to all assessments with a planned submission date on or before this date. It is QAA's expectation that students will have completed a minimum of 50% of planned assessed work by this date.

*For work due after 20 March 2020:* learners will receive calculated grades for the remaining assessments with submission dates after 20 March.

## How will the Extraordinary Framework work?

The Extraordinary Framework will consist of three things:

1. Estimated Assessment Grades
2. Calculated Unit Grades
3. Tutor Reference

### *Estimated Assessment Grades*

These will be awarded for all remaining assessments with submission dates due after 20 March 2020. They will be based on your performance over the course of study and

will make a realistic judgement of the assessment grades (ie. pass, merit, distinction) you would have been most likely to achieve for each of the grade descriptors assigned to each assessment, had you completed it. Your teachers will draw on a range of evidence, including prior attainment, performance on any formative assessments (even if these aren't fully completed) and any other records of performance over the course of study.

Although continuing learning is important for your progression, work submitted after 20 March will not be formally considered when awarding estimated grades.

### *Calculated Unit Grades*

Your teachers will review all the grade indicators that you've been given for a unit and will determine the final grade for the unit using the standard method (as per your Grade Scheme Handbook - section C). This is likely to include both actual and Estimated Assessment Grades.

### *Tutor Reference*

Your tutor will also provide you with an academic reference to support your application to higher education or employment. You can expect to receive this reference no later than 27 July 2020. Your Tutor Reference will not be included in the range of evidence to inform Estimated Assessment Grades.

## **Will my agreed reasonable adjustment be considered?**

If you're a student who is eligible for special arrangements for examinations, these will be taken into consideration in the grades that you're awarded, so you will not be disadvantaged by the new process

## **Will my teacher tell me my grades?**

Your teachers are not able to share estimated grades until final results have been confirmed. This is to protect the integrity of the teachers' judgements, and to avoid teachers feeling under pressure to submit a grade that is not supported by the evidence.

## **What happens to this information once it is complete?**

This information will be submitted to the awarding body by 05 June 2020. Access Validating Agencies (AVA) will then complete a moderation and standardisation process before confirming final outcomes. Once this process is complete, teachers can inform their learners of their grades.

## **What if I'm unhappy with my grades?**

The normal arrangements for appeals will not apply and we're awaiting further guidance on this from the awarding body.

## **Process and Timeline**

All assessment grades (actual and estimated) will be submitted to Agored by 05 June 2020.

Academic references will be provided to learners by 27 July 2020.

Results expected to be confirmed from the end of July 2020.

## **Further Information**

For further information please follow updates on the following website:

[https://www.accesstohe.ac.uk/docs/access/news-and-events-documents/access-to-he-diploma---how-to-calculate-grades-for-students-april-2020.pdf?sfvrsn=2ccfcd81\\_14](https://www.accesstohe.ac.uk/docs/access/news-and-events-documents/access-to-he-diploma---how-to-calculate-grades-for-students-april-2020.pdf?sfvrsn=2ccfcd81_14)