



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

## Vocational Qualifications



As of 22 May 2020

## Vocational Qualifications

### Background

On 09 April, the Secretary of State for Education directed Ofqual as to how they expected vocational and technical qualifications to be awarded for 2019/20. These qualifications are diverse in their nature, offered across many different awarding bodies and across both Wales and England, which presents a complex situation.

The direction is that all learners studying these qualifications should be issued with results this summer so that they can progress on to further education or employment.

### What does this mean for me, as a vocational learner?

This means that wherever possible, you should receive a result that fairly reflects the hard work you have put in this year. This will happen within a framework that ensures standards are maintained as consistently as possible. Results will be set within an 'extraordinary regulatory framework'.

### How will the Extraordinary Regulatory Framework work?

Ofqual has set out permitted approaches in their 'Extraordinary Regulatory Framework'. This allows for three categories of qualification:

Category 1	Qualifications used for progression to further or higher education
Category 2	Qualifications serving a mixed/dual-purpose (progression to further or higher education or employment)
Category 3	Qualifications signalling occupational competence or license to practice

Depending on the above, one of three different approaches will be taken:

#### 1. Estimation/Calculated results

This mainly applies to Category 1 and Category 2 qualifications. This is where teachers will estimate the result you would have received had you finished the course this year, using all the evidence available to them.

## 2. Adaptation

Adaptation applies mainly for qualifications that fall into either category 2 or category 3 where estimation is not possible, and learners are completing programmes of study where the primary aim is linked directly to occupational or professional competence.

There are a number of ways in which adaptation may work, depending on the awarding body. These include changing the way in which assessments are delivered, for example by using an online rather than paper-based test or carrying out an assessment remotely rather than face-to-face.

## 3. Delay

Delay will be used as a last resort only where it is clear neither estimation nor adaptation is possible. Qualifications such as licence to practice qualifications or those qualifications considered 'high risk' will fall under this approach.

### **How do I know which of the above applies to my qualification?**

We're currently waiting for further information from awarding bodies informing us of which qualification fits into which group. We'll publish more information as soon as we receive it, though the Ofqual website includes a toolkit to help with this. See useful links below.

### **When will I get my result?**

We anticipate that you'll receive your results at the same time as AS/A/GCSE level results are published. This may vary depending on the category that your qualification falls into and whether on-site assessment still needs to be completed.

### **Further Information**

For further information please follow updates on the website of your awarding body, for example, City and Guilds, BTEC Pearson, etc. See also the following useful links:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/ofqual-decisions-on-awarding-vocational-and-technical-qualifications-this-summer>