



## SQA Assessment 2020-21 Timeline – FAQ's

### How does the school arrive at an overall grade?

We are working on a “best of” system this year, meaning that the final grade that is entered will be based on the best possible performance of young people across the entire 2020-2021 session. That means the results of different assessments will be considered on a holistic level and all materials from **robust assessments** (not past papers or class groups tasks) will be used to select the best evidence which matches the criteria that SQA require in each individual subject area. The tasks completed throughout lockdown counts as evidence of learning, but **not** for assessment purposes.

### Will there be prelims?

Not in the traditional sense, no. “Prelim” comes from Preliminary Examination, meaning something that comes before an SQA external examination. As there are no SQA examinations this year, all assessments will be taking place in school, with **Phase 1** taking place within **timetabled class time (weeks beginning 26<sup>th</sup> April, 3<sup>rd</sup> May and 10<sup>th</sup> May)** and **Phase 2 within classes during timetabled assessment days (19<sup>th</sup> - 28<sup>th</sup> May 2021).**

### Where will pupils be sitting assessments?

All assessments will be taking place within classes, during timetabled periods in Phase 1 and at specific times on assessment days in Phase 2. Pupils will attend all timetabled classes during Phase 1 as Learning and Teaching will continue to take place at the same time as low predictive value <sup>1</sup> assessments are being completed. In Phase 2, pupils will only attend school for their timetabled assessment time and leave the school when the assessment is over. Practical subjects may take the opportunity to have pupils in all day during Phase 2 to complete a written paper and then complete practical assessments.

### Do pupils still have to sit papers which cover entire courses?

No. All courses have had their content reduced in response to the pandemic and we have been given permission to separate papers which would have previously taken longer to complete. We will only be assessing what has been taught. We do still have to work around strict guidelines regarding how secure and robust the papers are and there is a certain percentage level of coverage in all subject areas that we need to comply with.

### How many assessments will each department give?

That very much depends on different subject areas and the materials that they need to gather evidence for. Specific information will be communicated to young people, parents and carers by Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> April 2021 via e mail, on our website and via our Twitter feed.

### How will the dates and times for assessments be communicated to pupils and parents/carers?

The assessment period will run from Monday 26<sup>th</sup> April to Friday 14<sup>th</sup> May (Phase 1) and Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> May to Friday 28<sup>th</sup> May 2021 (Phase 2). All dates and times will be communicated to young people in classes and via electronic communication **by end of day on Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> April.**

---

<sup>1</sup> Low predictive value is a term used by SQA to indicate evidence that has derived from an assessment that is smaller or focussed on a small amount of the course covered. Therefore, the grade produced from this evidence is of less value than of a larger assessment piece.

### **Will alternative assessment arrangements still be met?**

*Yes. If a young person is entitled to alternative arrangements for examinations, these same arrangements will be in place for all assessments they sit in **both Phases 1 & 2**. Please note, this might mean that certain arrangements dictate your child sitting the paper at a different time from others in their class.*

### **Will there be more than one opportunity to gather evidence?**

*Formal assessments are taking place during the identified assessment times. There are opportunities for young people to demonstrate attainment at other times in classes as well, but this very much comes down to individual subject areas, what still needs taught and how assessments can be administered. There may be opportunities within classes to generate other materials which could be used as evidence as required. As mentioned previously, the system this year is very much focused on a “best of” approach. **The general advice would be for young people to try their best within all class and assessment tasks between now and the end of May.***

### **How will final results be communicated to pupils and parents?**

*Young people should be made aware at all stages of what their working grade is and how to improve upon it. That information will come from learning conversations between pupils and teachers. At present discussions are on-going as to how the final provisional grade information will be shared consistently across the city; not just at Harris Academy. When this has been decided we will communicate this information to parents/carers. Parents and carers will receive official notification of the final provisional awards by mid-June.*

### **When do final results have to be submitted?**

*We are required to submit our final results to Dundee City Council on the 4<sup>th</sup> of June. DCC staff will complete some further quality assurance and return to schools with feedback. The final provisional awards are sent to SQA by the 25<sup>th</sup> of June.*

### **Will there be an option to appeal grades?**

*Yes. How exactly that will look is still to be determined. SQA have consulted with all stakeholders via a survey which closed on Friday 26<sup>th</sup> March and will feedback to schools on their preferred model in due course. We encouraged as many of our staff to take part in the consultation as possible. Further information will follow once it becomes available.*

### **When will the timetable change?**

*There will be a city-wide change to timetable on **Monday 7<sup>th</sup> of June 2021**. All year groups will move up a stage at that point and start their 2021-2022 timetables.*

### **What if I have to self-isolate during Phase 1 or Phase 2 assessments?**

*Communication with the relevant guidance teacher will be crucial should this situation occur. The guidance teacher will be in the best position to support families. We are committed to organising catch-up assessment sessions at the end of school days (4-6pm) to support young people who miss assessments for any reason. More information will be communicated by end of day on Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> April.*

### **Where can I access more information?**

*[bit.ly/3cHPMif](https://bit.ly/3cHPMif) - this is an SQA produced guide to assessments for this session which has already been tweeted (@harrisacdundee) and uploaded to our school website.*