

What we are proposing

Our proposal

What this means

Amend our definition of Moderation and provide a new definition for the term Verification

Moderation will continue to require awarding organisations to check results and make adjustments if needed, for each group of learners, before results are issued. Verification will allow for periodic checking of centre assessment judgements by awarding organisations, but these will not necessarily have to take place for every group of learners, and may take place either before or after results are issued.

Require that all centre assessment judgements are subject to either moderation or verification

Awarding organisations will need to have controls in place to ensure the quality of centre assessment judgements. Centres may see some changes to the controls awarding organisations have in place.

Require that centre assessment judgements in certain qualifications must always be subject to moderation

Centre assessment in qualifications such as GCSEs and A levels must continue to be moderated.

Require that for all other qualifications where centres make assessment judgements, moderation should be the starting point

Awarding organisations must consider, for all centre assessment judgements, whether they can moderate these.

Allow for verification where an awarding organisation can justify why moderation cannot be implemented for a qualification

If it cannot moderate an assessment, an awarding organisation must justify why it cannot do so and why the verification it proposes is appropriate.

Set minimum requirements that an awarding organisation's verification process must meet

Where verification is used, there must be a consistent minimum level of awarding organisation control, for example checks on centres' ability to apply the awarding organisation's standard accurately and consistently, including a minimum of two monitoring visits and an additional unannounced visit by the awarding organisation, which include a review of centres' assessment judgements. Centres may experience changes such as an increased number of awarding organisation visits.

Where verification is used, to provide guidance on the circumstances in which an enhanced verification approach should be considered

Awarding organisations should consider enhanced verification controls (for example more frequent visits and closer monitoring) in particular circumstances, such as for new centres or where weaknesses in centre controls have been identified.

To require all awarding organisations to have in place a centre-assurance strategy, explaining its approach and rationale for its moderation or verification controls

Awarding organisations must set out their approach to centre-assessment, the controls they have in place, and the rationale for these controls, for example how they approve centres to make assessment judgements and their approach to moderation or verification. They must follow their own centre-assurance strategy and must provide it to Ofqual on request.

Set requirements that an awarding organisation's centre-assurance strategy must meet

The centre-assurance strategy an awarding organisation produces must cover, as a minimum, the requirements set by Ofqual.

Put in place guidance about the actions an awarding organisation should take where it discovers through its verification process, that a learner has been issued with an incorrect result

Where an awarding organisation discovers that incorrect results have been issued by a centre between verification visits, they should consider whether to revoke those results (and any others that may have been affected). Revocation is likely to be appropriate in particular for licence to practise qualifications.

Allow awarding organisations to revoke certificates that have been issued in reliance on an incorrect result

If an awarding organisation has issued a certificate on the basis of an incorrect result, it should revoke the certificate.

Require awarding organisations to meet these requirements by January 2021

After our final decisions are announced and our rules are published, all new qualifications will need to meet them immediately. For existing qualifications we are proposing to allow a period of time to implement them and are seeking views on requiring awarding organisations to be fully compliant by January 2021.