

Appeals 2023 outcomes FAQs

Following careful consideration of the views of 3,500 learners, parents, carers, teachers and lecturers, the Appeals 2023 service was different to the service used in 2022. Alternative assessment evidence was not considered as part of the appeal. This year learners with concerns about a grade or grades on their certificate could request a review of their SQA-marked exams and coursework.

If you submitted an appeal, your school, college or training provider will receive the outcome from SQA and will share it with you from Tuesday 31 October 2023. If your grade has changed, your new certificate will arrive by post in November.



How was my appeal outcome decided?

If you had concerns about a grade on your certificate in August, you may have decided to submit an appeal. Experienced markers – the teachers and lecturers appointed and trained by SQA – then carried out a marking review of your SQA-marked assessments.

A marking review is not a re-mark of your exam. It is a check to make sure that:

- all parts of your SQA assessments have been marked;
- the marking is in line with national standards;
- the marks given for each answer have been added up correctly; and
- the correct result has been entered on our system.

Following a review of your SQA-marked assessments your grade could go up, stay the same or go down.



Why was my appeal successful / unsuccessful?

Experienced SQA markers awarded your grade based on a marking review of your SQA-marked assessments. Following careful consideration, if they determined the marking was in line with the national standard, your grade did not change. However, if the marking was not in line with the national standard, then your grade may have gone up or down.





Can I get feedback on my appeal result, or challenge the result of an appeal?

The Appeals 2023 process involved a marking review of your exam paper and SQA-marked coursework. The marking review was carried out by our most experienced markers. This helps to ensure fairness for all learners submitting an appeal.

These markers are teachers and lecturers and are the same individuals involved in creating SQA assessments and supporting the marking process during the year. They are our most experienced subject specialists.

Outcomes are final, and you cannot appeal the result further.

In line with the results issued in August, we cannot provide feedback about individual appeals.



Why did SQA not review alternative assessment evidence as part of Appeals 2023?

Following extensive evaluation of the appeals service in 2022, which considered the views of 3,500 learners, parents, carers, teachers, lecturers, alternative evidence was not required for Appeals 2023.

Decisions were based on ensuring fairness to all learners whilst maintaining the integrity and creditability of learners' qualifications.



What SQA-marked assessments were reviewed as part of my appeal?

Senior markers carried out a marker review of all relevant SQA-marked assessments for each subject. This included exam papers and coursework.





When will we find out appeals information for 2024?

We are currently exploring dates for services attached to the 2024 exam diet and aim to share more information about this in early 2024 via our website.



What was the difference between Appeals 2023 and the Examinations Exceptional Circumstances Consideration Service (EECCS)?

We recognise that there are times when learners cannot sit an exam for reasons outwith their control. The EECCS was available to learners who needed help the most due to exceptional circumstances.

The EECCS involved a senior marker, a subject specialist, reviewing all the available alternative assessment evidence submitted by a school, college or training provider. An EECCS request was submitted by a school, college or training provider and outcomes were issued to learners on Results Day on 8 August 2023.

Appeals 2023 involved a senior marker carrying out a marking review of SQA-marked assessments and alternative assessment evidence was not considered. Learners could submit an appeal directly to SQA or ask their school, college or training provider to do this on their behalf.

Both services were free of charge.

