

AQA City & Guilds CCEA Edexcel OCR SQA WJEC

Produced on behalf of: AQA, CCEA, Edexcel, OCR and WJEC.

Notice to Centres

Reminder of change to the GCE, Applied GCE and GNVQ certification and decline rules

January 2008 and Subsequent Examinations

1. In order to reduce the bureaucratic burden placed upon centres, a change to the 'Entry, Aggregation and Certification Rules' for GCE, Applied GCE and GNVQ will come into effect after the completion of the June 2007 examination series.
2. The significance of this change is that, from the January 2008 examination series, a candidate who wishes to re-use unit scores in an effort to improve a grade is no longer required, nor will be able, to decline the original award. This means that, after certification, candidates will not have to retake the whole qualification to improve performance but may do so through re-sitting individual units.
3. Candidates will simply have to make an entry for at least one of the contributing units for the award and make an entry for certification (cash-in). The unit scores that contributed to the original award will then be taken into consideration when the subsequent award is calculated. The new aggregation will be based upon the best available score for each contributing unit.
4. **This change renders the facility to decline grades redundant and it will be removed from GCE, Applied GCE and GNVQ after 20 September 2007.**
5. For the June 2007 examination series, centres will still be able to request the decline of a published grade up to 20 September 2007. However, any grade that has not been declined by this deadline will be published on a certificate and it will not be possible to change this subsequently. Candidates who do not decline will not be penalised as they will be able to make use of the new facility in the January 2008 series.
6. Because the original grade awarded will remain on the student's record, an awarding body will no longer require the return of the original certificate. Subsequent awards will simply be added to that record and associated with the examination series in which the certification has been requested.

Note: Unit scores that have been used to count towards a previous award cannot be re-used, at the same level, for an award in a specification with a different subject title. For example, a student who uses unit scores for an award in AS Biology cannot re-use those scores when claiming AS Biology (Human), although the unit scores can be re-used when claiming either A level Biology or A level Biology (Human).

Further examples of the way in which this simplification of regulations will affect particular subjects (for example, English Literature and Mathematics) are given in 'Entry, Aggregation and Certification Procedures and Rules', will be available on the JCO website in September.