Term-time checkpoints: what you need to know
A centre's guide to ensure the timely delivery of VTQ results in August

JCQ awarding organisations have measures in place that support Ofqual's arrangements to ensure the timely delivery of results for Vocational and Technical Qualifications (VTQs). This is particularly important for those students expecting outcomes in a summer assessment series.

These measures are essential to:

- Ensure students undertaking VTQs receive the results they need to progress in education or employment
- Provide Ofqual with the necessary evidence to monitor student progress
- Uphold quality standards
- Protect the fairness and reliability of results.

One of the key measures is the collection of student data through a term-time checkpoint process.

What are the timelines?

For the academic year 2026/27 all JCQ awarding organisations will run their own term-time checks process between 1 December and 30 April. See the table below for more information, and you can also refer to Ofqual's VTQ information hub.

Term-time checkpoints: the timeframes for each awarding organisation

	No.	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug
AQA	1												
Cambridge OCR	1												
City & Guilds	2												
NCFE	2												
Pearson	2												
VQA	2												
WJEC	2												

Please note that;

- awarding organisations may still contact centres after the end of their term-time check process to ensure any queries are resolved, to avoid impacting the release of results.
- awarding organisations who run a winter series may need to perform checks relating to that series too.

Processes

At each term-time checkpoint (TTC), your centre must complete the following actions:

	Confirm accuracy of estimated completion date/planned end date		Withdrawal of expired students		Signing of declaration/ confirmation of terminal rule understanding		Verify exam bookings		Cash-in or claim certification entry	
	TTC1	TTC2	TTC1	TTC2	TTC1	TTC2	TTC1	TTC2	TTC1	TTC2
AQA	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	✓	N/A
**Cambridge OCR* ** **	N/A	✓	N/A	✓	N/A	✓	N/A	✓	N/A	✓
City & Guilds	✓	✓	✓	✓	N/A	✓	✓	✓	N/A	✓
NCFE* **	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Pearson* **	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	N/A	✓	N/A	✓
VQA	✓	✓	✓	✓	N/A	N/A	✓	✓	N/A	✓
WJEC** **	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	✓	N/A	N/A	✓	✓

* Cambridge OCR has a separate process to collect confirmation of terminal rule understanding.
** Cambridge OCR Cambridge Technicals results are automatically issued once the awarding rules are met.
*** NCFE and Pearson will only ask centres to complete our second term-time checkpoint if we identify you may need further support, for example missing external assessment entries.
****WJEC will share T Level registration and Occupational Specialism information for confirmation in checkpoint 1.

What is the terminal rule?

The terminal rule applies to all Technical Awards for 14-16 years old, across all awarding organisations. It requires the externally assessed component – the exam – to be taken at the end of the qualification. After the exam, no further assessments are permitted.

What is a senior designated contact?

A senior designated contact must be nominated by each centre. This person is responsible for exam and assessment delivery, has authority to resolve qualification-related issues, is available for contact outside of term-time by awarding organisations, and has access to relevant information.

Awarding organisations will annually request and verify the current details of your centre's senior designated contact; this will either be as part of the JCQ collection process or as part of term-time checks.

What happens if my centre doesn't comply with the process?

If you don't complete the term-time checkpoint set by an awarding organisation within the specified timescales they may need to take further action. The awarding organisation will have its own processes and policies in place for non-compliance. Missing your checkpoint could delay students' results and negatively impact their progression opportunities.

What communications will I receive from awarding organisations?

Awarding organisations will communicate their requirements for term-time checkpoints. These communications will align with their individual operational processes while ensuring consistency with **JCQ's glossary of terms**.

AQA	aqa.org.uk/level-3-vtqs
Cambridge OCR	teach.ocr.org.uk/vtq-updates
City & Guilds	cityandguilds.com/delivering-our-qualifications/vtq-information-hub/vtq-timely-results
NCFE	ncfe.org.uk/qualifications/timely-delivery-of-results
Pearson	qualifications.pearson.com/en/campaigns/vq-assessment-hub/teaching-learning-and-assessment.html
VQA	vqa.org/delivery-of-vtq-results-2026
WJEC	eduqas.co.uk/home/delivery-of-vtq-results-for-2024-and-beyond