



Ribston Hall High School

Internal Appeals Policy

Date of Procedures:	November 2023
Person(s) responsible:	Headteacher with the Examinations Officer
Date of next review:	November 2024

1. Appeals against internal assessment decisions (centre assessed marks)

This procedure confirms Ribston Hall High School's compliance with JCQ's General Regulations for Approved Centres, section 5.7, that the centre has in place "a written internal appeals procedure relating to internal assessment decisions and ensures that details of this procedure are communicated, made widely available and accessible to all candidates" and that the centre "must inform candidates of their centre assessed marks as a candidate is allowed to request a review of the centre's marking before marks are submitted to the awarding body."

Certain components of GCSE, GCE and other qualifications (GCE coursework, GCE and GCSE nonexamination assessments, Project qualifications) that contribute to the final grade of the qualification are internally assessed (marked) by the subject teacher and internally standardised. The marks awarded (the internal assessment decisions) are then submitted by the deadline set by the awarding body for external moderation.

Ribston Hall High School is committed to ensuring that whenever its staff mark candidates' work this is done fairly, consistently and in accordance with the awarding body's specification and subject-specific associated documents.

Ribston Hall High School ensures that all centre staff follow a robust *non-examination assessment* policy (for the management of GCE and GCSE non-examination assessments). This policy details all procedures relating to non-examination assessments, including the marking and quality assurance/internal standardisation processes which relevant teaching staff are required to follow.

Candidates' work will be marked by staff who have appropriate knowledge, understanding and skill, and who have been trained in this activity. Ribston Hall High School is committed to ensuring that work produced by candidates is authenticated in line with the requirements of the awarding body. Where a number of subject teachers are involved in marking candidates' work, internal moderation and standardisation will ensure consistency of marking.

On being informed of their centre assessed marks, if a candidate believes that the above procedures were not followed in relation to the marking of their work, or that the assessor has not properly applied the mark scheme to their marking, then the candidate may make use of this appeals procedure to consider whether to request a review of the centre's marking.

It is not possible for anyone to alter the work after the internal assessor (teacher) has provided a mark to the candidate. Candidates are not allowed to produce additional work.

- Ribston Hall High School will ensure that candidates are informed of their centre assessed marks so that they may request a review of the centre's marking before marks are submitted to the awarding body.
- Ribston Hall High School will inform candidates that they may request copies of materials (for example, a copy of their marked work, the relevant specification, the mark scheme and any other associated subject-specific documents) to assist them in considering whether to request a review of the centre's marking of the assessment. Requests for copies of materials must be made in writing within 2 working days of receiving marks by completing the requests for copies of materials form and submitting it to the exams officer.
- Ribston Hall High School will, having received a request for copies of materials, promptly make them available to the candidate within 1 working day.
- Ribston Hall High School will provide candidates with sufficient time in order to allow them to review copies of materials and reach a decision.
- Requests for reviews of marking must be made in writing within 4 working days of receiving copies of the requested materials by completing the internal appeals form. Requests will not be accepted after this deadline. Candidates will need to explain on what grounds they wish to request a review. Complaints regarding the quality of teaching will not be accepted as grounds on which to request a review as the review will focus on the quality of work submitted. Having reviewed the copies of materials made available to them, the candidate will need to explain what they believe the issue to be.
- Ribston Hall High School will allow 7 working days for the review to be carried out, to make any necessary changes to marks and to inform the candidate of the outcome, all before the awarding body's deadline for the submission of marks. Marks may go down or go up or remain the same.
- Ribston Hall High School will ensure that the review of marking is carried out by an assessor who has appropriate competence, has had no previous involvement in the assessment of that candidate and has no personal interest in the review.

Ribston Hall High School will instruct the reviewer to ensure that the candidate's mark is consistent with the standard set by the centre. The reviewer is required to correct any marking error. The three types of marking error are: -

- An administrative error
- A failure to apply the marking criteria to the evidence generated by the candidate where that failure did not involve the exercise of academic judgement; or
- An unreasonable exercise of academic judgement.

If the reviewer decides that there has been a marking error, they will indicate where the marking error has occurred and how the mark is not in line with the standard of other candidates at the centre. The centre will determine whether any difference in marking is within any tolerances as the centre would allow during its internal standardisation process. The head of centre will have the final decision if there is any disagreement on the mark to be submitted to the awarding body.

The reviewer will provide a reason for upholding or changing the mark awarded by the centre. This may be a brief annotation on the record form, showing the reviewer's breakdown of marks per Assessment Objective or section.

- The candidate will be informed in writing of the outcome of the review of the centre's marking.
- The outcome of the review of the centre's marking will be made known to the head of centre.

A written record of the review will be kept and made available to the awarding body upon request. Should the review raise wider concerns, for example, about the centre's general application of the assessment

criteria, the reviewer will discuss these with the curriculum lead/head of centre as required. Further advice would be sought from the awarding body if necessary.

- The awarding body will be informed if the centre does not accept the outcome of a review.
- After candidates' work has been internally assessed, it is moderated by the awarding body to ensure consistency in marking between centres. The awarding body moderation process may lead to mark changes, even after an internal review. This process is outside the control of Ribston Hall High School and is not covered by this procedure. The mark submitted to the awarding body is subject to change and therefore should be considered provisional.
- **Appeals against the centre's decision not to support a clerical check, a review of marking, a review of moderation or an appeal**

This procedure confirms Ribston Hall High School's compliance with JCQ's General Regulations for Approved Centres, section 5.13, that the centre has in place "a written internal appeals procedure to manage disputes when a candidate disagrees with a centre decision not to support a clerical check, a review of marking, a review of moderation or an appeal..."

Following the issue of results, awarding bodies make post-results services available. Full details of these services, internal deadlines for requesting a service and fees charged are provided by the exams officer.

Candidates are also made aware of the arrangements for post-results services and the availability of senior members of centre staff immediately after the publication of results before they sit any exams via the exams noticeboard and exams briefing.

If the centre or a candidate has a concern and believes a result may not be accurate, a review of the result may be requested.

Reviews of Results (RoRs) offers three services.

- Service 1 – clerical re-check
- Service 2 – review of marking
- Service 3 – review of moderation (this service is not available to an individual candidate)

Written candidate consent (informed consent via candidate email is acceptable) is required in all cases before a request for an RoR service 1 or 2 is submitted to the awarding body as with these services candidates' marks and subject grades may be lowered. Candidate consent can only be collected after the publication of results.

If a concern is raised about a particular examination result, the exams officer, teaching staff and head of centre will investigate the feasibility of requesting a review supported by the centre.

Where the centre does not uphold a request from a candidate, the candidate may pay the appropriate RoR fee to the centre, and a request will be made to the awarding body on the candidate's behalf.

If the candidate believes there are grounds to appeal against the centre's decision not to support a review, an internal appeal can be submitted to the centre by completing the internal appeals form at least 10 calendar days prior to the internal deadline for submitting an RoR.

The appellant will be informed of the outcome of their appeal before the internal deadline for submitting an RoR.

Following the RoR outcome, an external appeals process is available if the head of centre remains dissatisfied with the outcome and believes there are grounds for appeal. The JCQ publications *Post-Results Services and JCQ Appeals Booklet (A guide to the awarding bodies' appeals processes)* will be consulted to determine the acceptable grounds for a preliminary appeal.

Where the head of centre is satisfied after receiving the RoR outcome, but the candidate believes there are grounds for a preliminary appeal to the awarding body, a further internal appeal may be made to the head of centre. Following this, the head of centre's decision as to whether to proceed with a preliminary appeal will be based upon the acceptable grounds as detailed in the JCQ Appeals Booklet. Candidates or parents/carers are not permitted to make direct representations to an awarding body.

The **internal appeals form** should be completed and submitted to the centre within 3 calendar days of the notification of the outcome of the RoR.

Subject to the head of centre's decision, this will allow the centre to process the preliminary appeal and submit to the awarding body within the required **30 calendar days** of the awarding body issuing the outcome of the review of results process. Awarding body fees which may be charged for the preliminary appeal must be paid to the centre by the appellant before the preliminary appeal is submitted to the awarding body (fees are available from the exams officer). If the appeal is upheld by the awarding body, this fee will be refunded by the awarding body and repaid to the appellant by the centre.