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

## **Delivery of hard copy GCSE results - June 2010 series**

### **1. Introduction**

Earlier this year the regulators and Departmental officials for England, Wales and Northern Ireland recommended that all GCSE candidates should receive their results at the same time. In light of this recommendation, it was collectively agreed that **Tuesday 24 August 2010** would be the date for the publication of GCSE results. This date will enable all candidates in the UK to receive their GCSE results before returning to school or college for the autumn term 2010.

The revised arrangements have naturally affected the traditional pattern of issuing electronic results to centres on a Wednesday, with publication to candidates on a Thursday. This has required awarding bodies to consider carefully the most appropriate way of publishing GCSE results in August 2010.

It was felt necessary to consult with centres, identifying whether they would wish to manage all results data electronically or to continue to receive some or all results documentation in hard copy paper format from awarding bodies.

In September 2009 the Joint Council for Qualifications (JCQ) launched a seven week consultation in relation to the publication of hard copy (paper) GCSE results in August 2010.

### **2. Outcome of consultation**

The consultation asked centres to select one of the following options.

- Option 1      Hard copy results documentation to be delivered on Thursday 26 August 2010, two days after the official publication date;
- Option 2a     A full set of hard copy results documentation to be delivered on Thursday 9 September 2010;
- Option 2b     Summary results documentation, i.e. result broadsheets, to be delivered on Thursday 9 September 2010;
- Option 3      No hard copy results documentation provided for the GCSE June 2010 series.

**A total of 1619 centres responded to the consultation**, with the breakdown of responses as follows:

- Option 1      - selected by 1318 centres**
- Option 2a     - selected by 166 centres**
- Option 2b     - selected by 135 centres**
- Option 3      - selected by 192 centres**

**A further 91 centres responded anonymously to the survey, of which:**

**Option 1 - selected by 24 centres**

**Option 2a - selected by 27 centres**

**Option 2b - selected by 23 centres**

**Option 3 - selected by 17 centres**

**49 centres did not select an option,** but instead chose to send letters to the JCQ Office.

### **3. Arrangements for August 2010**

Having analysed the outcome of the consultation, the awarding bodies have collectively agreed to issue hard copy results documentation for release on **Thursday 26 August 2010**. The awarding bodies will therefore be providing hard copy results to centres on what would have been the traditional day for the issue of GCSE results – one week after the publication of GCE AS and A level results.

Electronic results will effectively be supplied to centres two days earlier than normal at **00:01 hours on Monday 23 August 2010**. **Electronic data will be the source of results which centres issue to candidates on Tuesday 24 August 2010.**

This will significantly help to reduce the number of issues which typically arise from mismatches between the more up to date electronic results and the hard copy.

### **4. Arrangements for November 2010 onwards**

It is intended that with effect from the GCSE November 2010 examination series, results will be issued solely in an electronic format.

Results data generated from an awarding body's secure extranet site or via a centre's MIS system is not only more up to date, but significantly there is no distinction between a consolidated results slip, generated from a centre's MIS system, and an individual awarding body's candidate statement of provisional results. **Both documents have exactly the same status: they are interim and provisional documents.** It is the candidate's certificates which are the final and definite record of their achievements.