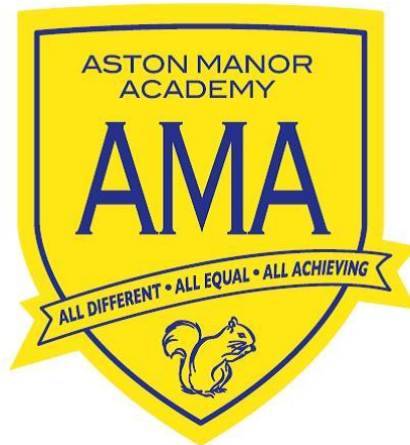


ASTON MANOR ACADEMY



BTEC ASSESSMENT POLICY AND ACADEMIC APPEALS PROCEDURE FOR STAFF

Review Date: December 2019
To be Reviewed: December 2020
Agreed: Raising Standards Board
Policy Lead: Jasbir Kular

BTEC ASSESSMENT POLICY AND ACADEMIC APPEALS PROCEDURE FOR STAFF

1. INTRODUCTION

Aston Manor Academy takes its responsibility for ensuring the quality and reliability of assessment very seriously. It recognises that high quality assessment practices are an important element of the student experience and that the outcomes of assessment influence students' future lives.

This policy and procedure relates to the following BTEC programmes:

- BTEC level 2 Music (NQF)
- BTEC level 2 Business Studies (NQF)
- BTEC level 2 Sport (NQF)
- BTEC level 2 Work skills (NQF)
- BTEC level 3 Health and Social Care (NQF) and (QCF)
- BTEC level 3 Applied Law (NQF) and (QCF)
- BTEC level 3 Business Studies (NQF)
- BTEC level 3 Applied Science(NQF)
- BTEC level 3 Sports (QCF), and Sports (NQF)
- BTEC level 3 IT (NQF)
- BTEC level 3 Art & Design (NQF)

The BTEC qualification is a vocational qualification that involves a learning and assessment style that is different to traditional GCSE and A Level courses. Courses are assessed through teacher-marked assignments rather than end-of-module exams. Students should be aware of the volume of work that needs to be generated on an on-going basis to complete these assignments and the importance of getting that work handed in for assessment by the given deadline.

2. ASSESSMENT ENTITLEMENT

If you are a student of Aston Manor Academy you are entitled to:

- Fair and open assessment practices in line with the Schools Equal Opportunities policy for learners
- An Assignment Brief indicating the criteria against which you will be assessed.
- Regular advice, counselling and guidance through teachers.
- Access to an open and fair appeals procedure.
- Assessments being carried out regularly and outcomes reported within 2 weeks with written and/or verbal feedback.

3. ASSESSMENT PROCEDURES

Submitting Assignments

It is recommended that each unit is assessed through a number of different assignments. Students are given a hand-in date for each assignment. Staff are required to mark

assignments and provide students with feedback within 2 weeks. The feedback must be sufficient to give clear information on achievement and how to improve.

Failure to meet deadlines

Students who fail to hand in work by the agreed deadline will be required to provide evidence of extenuating circumstances e.g. doctor's certificate.

Failure to do so may result in student's failure to meet all criteria required to pass the course.

Recording Progress

Staff are required to record student grades on a grade tracking sheet within three weeks of the assignment being completed.

Academic misconduct and plagiarism

It is the responsibility of assessors to explain what constitutes plagiarism in their courses and the seriousness of the issue.

Teachers should be on the look out for plagiarism and run internet checks etc to guard against it. Students need to know that this will be done. Students will need to develop the habit of acknowledging sources through footnotes and bibliographies, lists of sources and acknowledgement of assistance.

Awarding bodies regulations on academic misconduct and plagiarism will be followed. All coursework must be authenticated as original by the student and the teacher. The School cannot authenticate work it does not believe to be original.

If a teacher suspect's plagiarism or academic misconduct has taken place it must be acted upon. The Programme Leader should be informed.

The Programme Leaders for the BTEC courses are as follows:

- BTEC level 2 Music (NQF) – L. Derrick
- BTEC level 2 Business Studies (NQF) – A Shokar
- BTEC level 2 Sport (NQF) – C. Reed
- BTEC level 2 Work skills (NQF) – A. Shaid
- BTEC level 3 Health and Social Care (NQF) and (QCF) – J. Kular
- BTEC level 3 Applied Law (NQF) and (QCF) – H. Kaur and M. Chajnus
- BTEC level 3 Business Studies (NQF) – M. Chajnus and A. Shokar
- BTEC level 3 Applied Science(NQF) – M. Astle
- BTEC level 3 Sports (QCF), and Sports (NQF) – D. Brown and K. Pawar
- BTEC level 3 IT (NQF) – F. Khanom
- BTEC level 3 Art & Design (NQF) – L. Latham

If plagiarism or academic misconduct is discovered prior to the date for final entry, the assessor should resolve the matter internally and, in consultation with the Programme Leader, decide whether or not to submit work for that unit:

Where work leans too heavily on a source but stops short of plagiarism this should be reflected in the mark awarded and the comments made on the work.

If plagiarism is detected early enough it may be possible to submit a replacement assignment, but none of the work which contributed to the misconduct must be submitted.

If plagiarism is discovered at a late stage and the work of a student cannot be authenticated, then no mark should be given for that work and no work will be submitted for that unit or part of a unit. Where possible a meeting with the student should take place and the student will be informed of the appeals procedure. A letter will go to the student and to their parents with a copy placed on file.

Serious assessment malpractice will be dealt with J Kular (Quality Nominee) or N. Turner (Deputy Head) and this will be reported to Edexcel.

4. APPEALS PROCEDURE

In the event of a student wishing to make an appeal against an assessment decision, the following steps outlined below must be followed: -

- Within 3 days student must contact the assessor to arrange an informal meeting to discuss the assessment decision.
- If student is still dissatisfied, then appeal to the Programme Leader.
- This will allow the student to put forward reasons why his / her assignment should be re-assessed. This should be done within 3 days of meeting with the assessor.
- The assignment will be reassessed by an Internal Verifier who will provide the student with feedback within one working week.
- If the student is still dissatisfied, then he / she may appeal to the External Verifier via the Head of Department.

Grounds for Appeal

Appeals may be made under the following circumstances:

- If the student is dissatisfied with individual assessment outcomes for a unit element or individual performance criteria.
- If the student is dissatisfied with their assessment outcome at the end of the course.
- If the student has any personal circumstances which may have affected his / her ability to complete assignments and meet deadlines.

5. ASSESSMENT

Assessment Aims

The purpose of assessment within BTEC programmes is:

- To identify the positive achievements of each student and the areas of their work that needs to be improved. This involves both formative and summative assessment.
- To further identify learning and additional support needs so that appropriate help and guidance can be provided.
- To enable the tutor and student to know how the quality of a student's work relates to the standards of external awarding bodies.
- To inform the process by which students set targets for attainment.

- To allow teachers to evaluate students' understanding and progress and decide whether the way in which the course is taught and managed needs refinement or modification.

Assessment Processes

Assessment processes will aim to promote learning and achievement of all learners from entry, through to on-programme and achievement.

The Assessor is responsible for ensuring that assessment processes are consistent and transparent, that evidence is valid, sufficient, and authentic and that judgement of evidence is valid and reliable.

The role of the Teacher / Assessor is to: -

- Ensure that learners are fully briefed on assessment methods and procedures' including Student Appeals Procedures and guidance on what constitutes plagiarism.
- Involve learners in the assessment planning process and agreement of assessment deadlines.
- Provide constructive feedback to learners on assessments (conveying levels of achievement using awarding body criteria / grading); discuss targets and areas for development on an individual basis.
- Adhere to the Awarding Body's assessment specification in the judgement of evidence towards an award.
- Record outcomes of assessment using appropriate documentation.

Each unit is assessed using the grading grid and grading criteria at Pass, Merit and Distinction. There is also an overall qualification grade calculated from the unit grades. To achieve the BTEC all units have to be achieved at least to Pass level.

6. INTERNAL VERIFICATION – LEAD INTERNAL VERIFIER

The Lead Internal Verifier is at the heart of quality assurance in all programmes. The role, in terms of managing assessment is that it consistently meets national standards.

Lead Internal Verifiers will have the knowledge and qualifications relevant to the vocational qualification for which they are responsible to enable accurate judgements to be made regarding candidate performance in relation to competence criteria. They will be required to complete the training and exam set by Edexcel in order to carry out the role of the Lead Internal Verifier.

Internal Verification will be carried out by using the revised national standards: -

- Carrying out and evaluating internal assessment and quality assurance systems.
- Supporting assessors.
- Monitoring the quality of assessors' performance.
- Meeting external quality assurance requirements.

7. IMPLEMENTATION OF INTERNAL VERIFICATION (IV)

Verification of Assessment Decisions:

- Students work will be marked by unit / assignment tutor (in the case of a unit / assignment having more than one tutor, the class will to be split with each tutor taking assessment responsibility for half of the class).
- IV will 'sample' work assessed (top, middle and bottom).
- IV will feedback to assessor on awarding of criteria, accuracy, feedback to learner and grading decision. If remedial action is needed, this will be discussed and allocated a timeframe of review.
- IV will follow up action recommended ensuring high quality standards are being met and maintained. IV will 'sign off' assessment decisions form once satisfied.
- IV will initial and date 'IV Schedule-Assessment Decisions' form to document sampling. Form will ensure Internal Verification coverage of all pupils and all criteria within units within each academic year.

Verification of Assignment Briefs:

- Assessor / unit leader will write assignment brief.
- IV will check assignment is 'fit for purpose' incorporating deadline for assessment, assessment criteria, task mapping against criteria, relevance of tasks, evidence, vocational context / scenario, timescale and language / presentation.
- IV will suggest remedial action, if any, needed before brief is issued. Assessor and IV will confirm actions have been met.
- Brief will be signed and dated by IV.
- Brief will be distributed to students.

Provision will be made within Aston Manor Academy for communication between programme teams to share 'best practice' and areas of concern. This will be achieved through meetings of Internal Verifiers, standardisation meetings and team meetings.

All teachers, assessors and internal verifiers on Aston Manor Academy BTEC programmes will be issued with a copy of this documentation.

Internal Verifiers will meet with assessors on a regular basis.

These meetings will concern themselves with resolving issues of interpretation, validity, sufficiency and reliability of evidence.

8. EXTERNAL VERIFICATION (EV)

All units are internally assessed and subject to external verification through National Standards Sampling (NSS). External verifiers will be responsible for carrying out the sampling process. Verifiers, through consultation with their centres, will agree dates when the sampling process will take place.

The verifier's role is to monitor assessment practice to ensure that all:

- assessment decisions are valid and reliable
- evidence is attributable to the learner
- evidence is current.

In addition, the verifier will offer advice and guidance on the above where the centre is not meeting the criteria.

Aston Manor Academy

Verification of assessment practice will normally be carried out either through postal sampling or a centre visit.

Next review date: December 2020