

# AQA Level 3 Project – Extended Project – 7993:

## WBHS Summer 2021 Assessment Record

### Record produced and finalised by:

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Signature: J. Brandon

Date: 6/7/21

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## **EPQ Assessment Rationale 2021**

### **Course Delivery**

Due to the nature of the delivery of the EPQ at WBHS, we have been able to fully deliver the EPQ course. This is due to the taught section of the course being delivered between September and December 2020, when students were on school site. In comparison to a normal year the only element missing from the student's experience was the trip to the Robinson Library at Newcastle University. Students were supplied with resources by the university itself to make sure that they did not miss out on the information that they would have gained through the visit.

Whilst in lockdown, communication between supervisors and students was maintained via email. From January 2021 onwards, students were in the writing phase of their EPQ and therefore did not miss any taught lessons. Feedback was given (in line with JCQ regulations) to students after the February half term.

The EPQ runs to deadlines set by the centre co-ordinator for all candidates, so all students have been able to fully complete their EPQ projects for the centralised deadline of the 14<sup>th</sup> May 2021.

### **EPQ Assessment**

Since the students have been able to complete their projects in full, we can mark them in the same manner we would in any other year. This means that we can mark the evidence supplied by the students for all the required assessment strands (A01, A02, A03 and A04). The data can be found in the attached table.

All projects that have been submitted for assessment in the Summer window have been assessed by the centre co-ordinator and not by the individual supervisors. The reasons for this decision are the centre co-ordinator was successfully moderated by AQA in the November 2020 examination series and therefore has the most up to date experience of the marking requirements and the standard required by AQA.

Considering this, Michael Knott, an experienced former EPQ supervisor has sampled the marking that has been carried out by the centre co-ordinator to ensure that marking has been checked by two members of staff who have been fully trained in the delivery and assessment of the EPQ. This process was carried out on the 18<sup>th</sup> of May and the details discussed can be seen in the attached data sheet.

### **Grade Boundaries**

AQA have specifically requested in their support documentation that centres use the grade boundaries for the June 2019 examination series for students who are entered in the 2021 summer exam window. This is as the November 2020/January 2021 examination series used adjusted boundaries to reflect the disruption caused by the pandemic. We have therefore used these boundaries.

## **Appeals Process**

On the 23<sup>rd</sup> of April 2021, the centre co-ordinator was informed by the AQA centre Adviser (Michael Carr) that the centre should run our normal appeal request process (as required by JCQ). We were also informed on the same day that students can be told their EPQ score but not their grade (even though the boundaries are accessible on the internet). We therefore have run our usual appeals process as required by JCQ. The advice received on the 23<sup>rd</sup> of April was a direct contradiction of the advice we received via email from AQA on the 13<sup>th</sup> of April where we were informed that telling students their marks would be classed as malpractice by JCQ.

Finally, on the 10<sup>th</sup> May the centre was informed that we should disregard all information received previously and that the centre should not:

1. Provide any numbers or grades to students
2. Conduct an internal appeals process and that students can appeal their grades in the summer along with their other subjects.

## **Moderation**

Moderation of the marking carried out by the centre was carried out on the 18<sup>th</sup> of May 2021. This process looked at 6 of the 12 pieces of work to be submitted. The sample included the top and bottom scoring projects as well as those on the borderline between grades. The findings of the moderation of each project looked at can be seen on the overall EPQ data sheet that is attached.