

[REDACTED]

From: Jeremy Benson <Jeremy.Benson@Ofqual.Gov.Uk>
Sent: 24 August 2012 21:24
To: PAIGE, Anna; Fiona Pethick; Adrian Long
Cc: BEGOL, Hardip; [REDACTED] FREEDMAN, Sam; Dennis Opposs
Subject: RE: AQA/Edexcel

Anna

Thanks - yes we will pick this up and talk to [REDACTED]. Do you know any more about what the 10 mark change refers to? Any exam will have its own boundaries reflecting the difficulty of the particular questions used in the paper, so there's nothing obviously problematic in this paper having a different grade boundary from the equivalent paper in an earlier series, if that's what it means.

Jeremy

Jeremy Benson
Deputy Director, Policy, Ofqual
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-----Original Message-----

From: Anna.PAIGE@education.gsi.gov.uk [mailto:Anna.PAIGE@education.gsi.gov.uk]
Sent: 24 August 2012 18:25
To: Jeremy Benson; Fiona Pethick; Adrian Long
Cc: Hardip.BEGOL@education.gsi.gov.uk; [REDACTED]
Sam.FREEDMAN@education.gsi.gov.uk
Subject: RE: AQA/Edexcel

[REDACTED]

Could you copy Sam (cc'd here) into any response, please?

Thanks

Anna

Anna Paige
Deputy Director, Qualifications Systems and Reform Division

-----Original Message-----

From: PAIGE, Anna
Sent: 24 August 2012 18:22
To: jeremy.benson@ofqual.gov.uk; 'Fiona Pethick'; adrian.long@ofqual.gov.uk
Cc: BEGOL, Hardip; [REDACTED]
Subject: FW: AQA/Edexcel
Importance: High

Jeremy, Fiona, Adrian

Please see Sam's email below. This is a rather different take on things from the one we've been discussing over the past 24 hours. Would one of you be able to speak to [REDACTED] (I'm sure we can get contact details if you don't have them)? It would also be helpful to have your analysis of this as a plausible scenario.

Thanks

Anna

Anna Paige
Deputy Director, Qualifications Systems and Reform Division

-----Original Message-----

From: FREEDMAN, Sam
Sent: 24 August 2012 18:16
To: BEGOL, Hardip; DEZOETE, Henry; PAIGE, Anna; [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: AQA/Edexcel

I just had a very long call with [REDACTED]

His argument is that a small group of high performing schools (like his) that have comprehensive intakes and took the AQA foundation written unit in June, and don't use early entry, have been hugely, unfairly, whacked because that was the paper that had a 10 mark change. (NOT the controlled assessment - which in his words has led to "disappointing" drops for schools but not catastrophic ones).

This would explain anomalies like the ARK schools (if that's what they did too) which have been bugging me since Thursday. It is also, I think, consistent with everything AQA have told us if they were choosing to be a bit selective.

So I think we (or Ofqual) need to get from AQA a list of schools that took this particular foundation paper in June and compare their results with the national picture.

If AQA have unfairly hit that particular group of schools that hard it will, of course, be very apparent when school-level data is released.

I think it would also be a good idea if someone from Ofqual spoke to [REDACTED]

Sam

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