



Exceptional arrangements for Technical and Vocational qualifications in 2020

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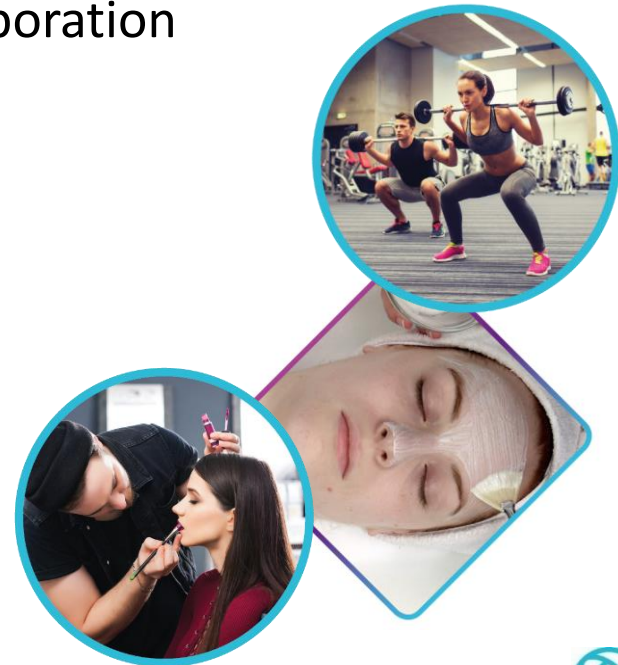
Aims

- The situation to date
- Ofqual consultation
- Qualification purposes
- Mitigation options:
 - Estimation
 - Adaptation
 - Delay
- VTCT's proposals
- Next steps



Collaboration

- First of a series of webinars to share information
- Action required will depend on purpose of qualification and mitigation
- Different categories of learners
- Mitigation approaches will require collaboration



Government announcement

18 March 2020

- Government announced that all educational settings will close and exams due to take place in summer 2020 have been cancelled

9 April 2020

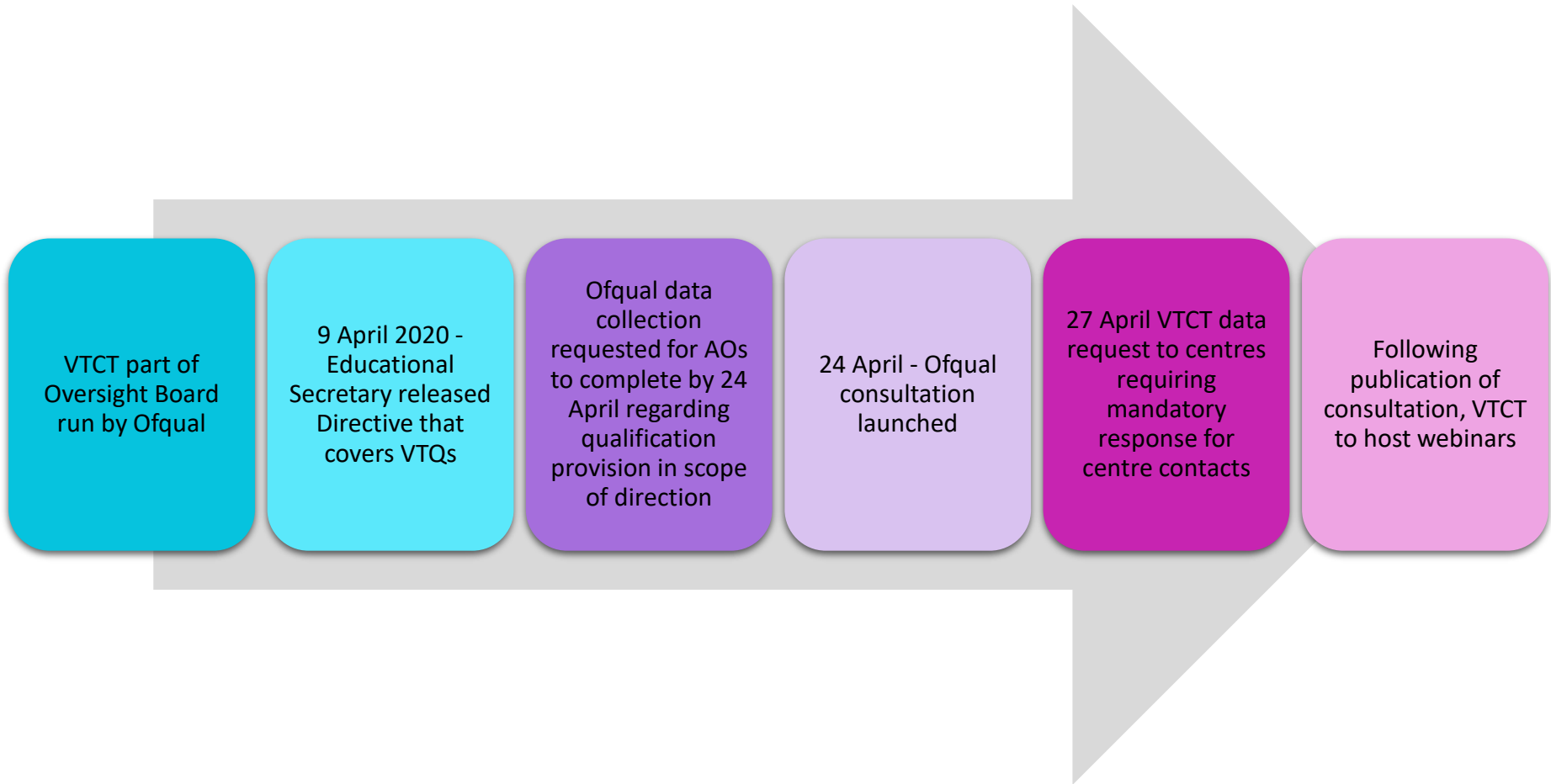
- Government announced that they extended this to include vocational and technical qualifications and assessments planned for spring and summer 2020 cannot proceed

Vocational and technical landscape is complex:

- There is a large number of vocational and technical qualifications taken by a diverse range of learners. These qualifications serve a number of purposes, such as progression to further study, signalling occupational competence, or are linked to occupational regulation, such as licence to practise



The situation so far



Ofqual consultation overview

Overview

- Consultation launched Friday 24 April
- Closing date Friday 8 May
- Ofqual are seeking views on the exceptional arrangements they have set out for awarding vocational and technical qualifications, and general qualifications (other than GCSEs, AS and A Levels)

Centres will be able to feed back on the Temporary Extraordinary Regulatory Framework, which will include:

- How awarding organisations (AOs) should estimate, adapt or delay assessments depending on a qualification's purpose
- Evidence awarding organisations will require centres to gather, consider and potentially submit
- Which learners are eligible for the different mitigation approaches



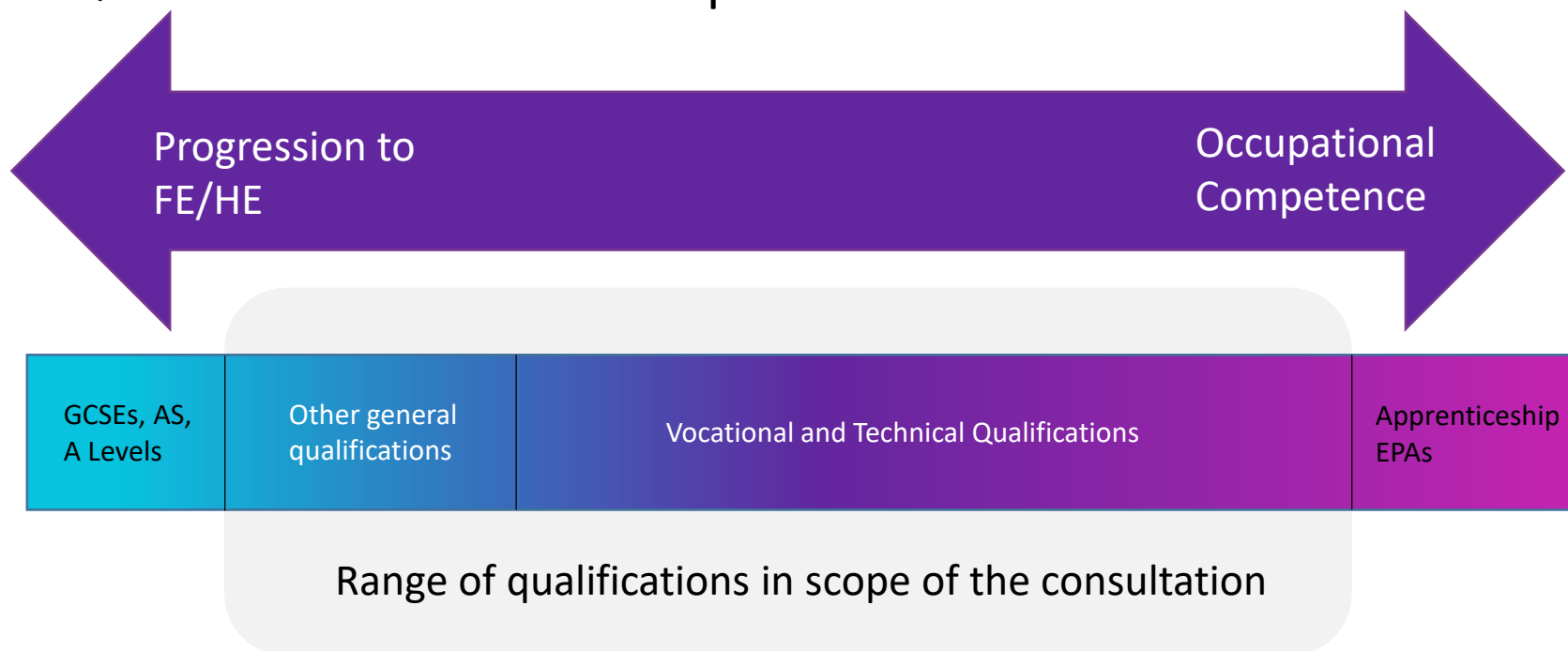
Ofqual's Principles

As an awarding organisation we are required by Ofqual to:

- Issue results to as many learners as possible
- Ensure that each result issued is sufficiently reliable and valid
- Maintain standards, as far as possible, within the same qualification in line with previous years
- Maintain standards, as far as possible, across similar VTCT qualifications and other similar qualifications made available by other awarding organisations
- Learners in scope – those due to receive results between March and the end of July 2020



Qualifications in scope



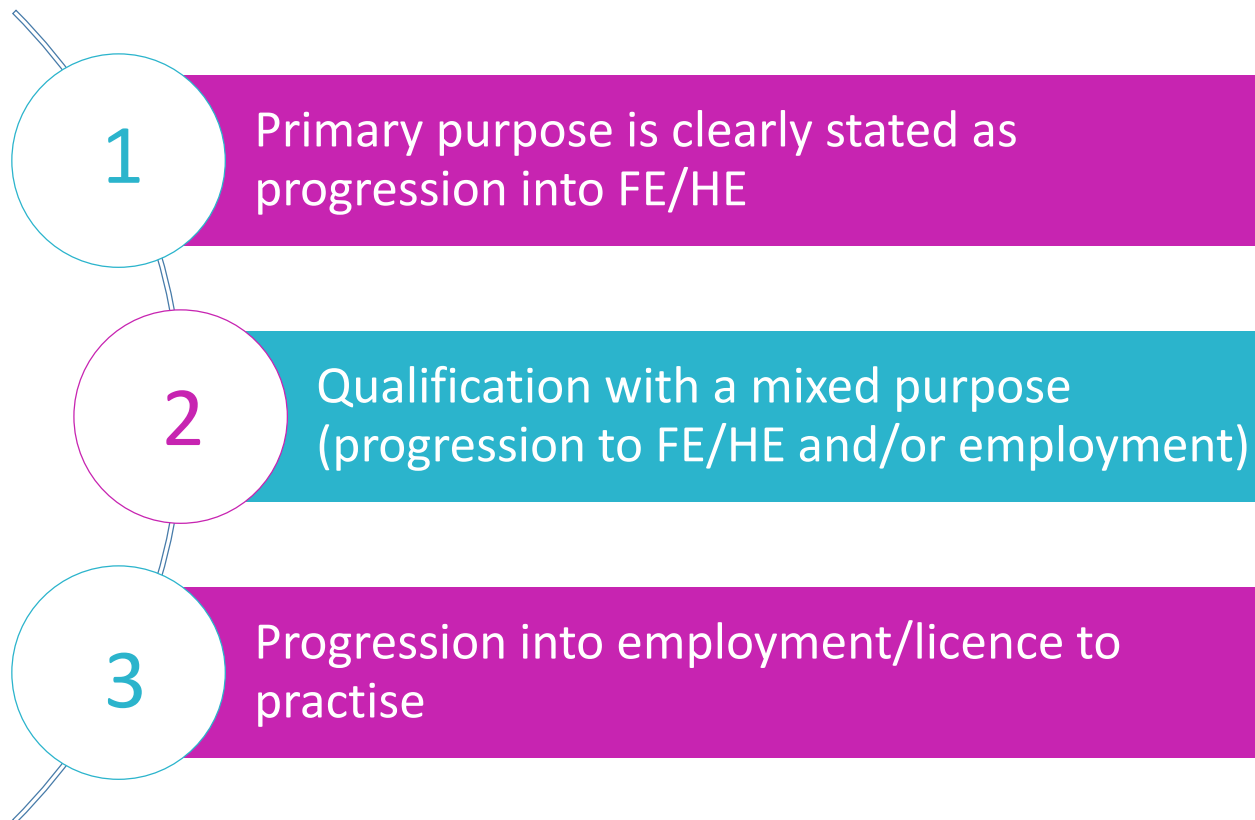
- Qualifications from Entry level to level 6
- Those approved for public funding and delivery, irrespective of the age of the learner
- Those qualifications which are not A Levels, AS levels, GCSEs, EPAs and AEA
- Included functional skills – legacy qualification end date has been extended until December 2020

Qualifications out of scope

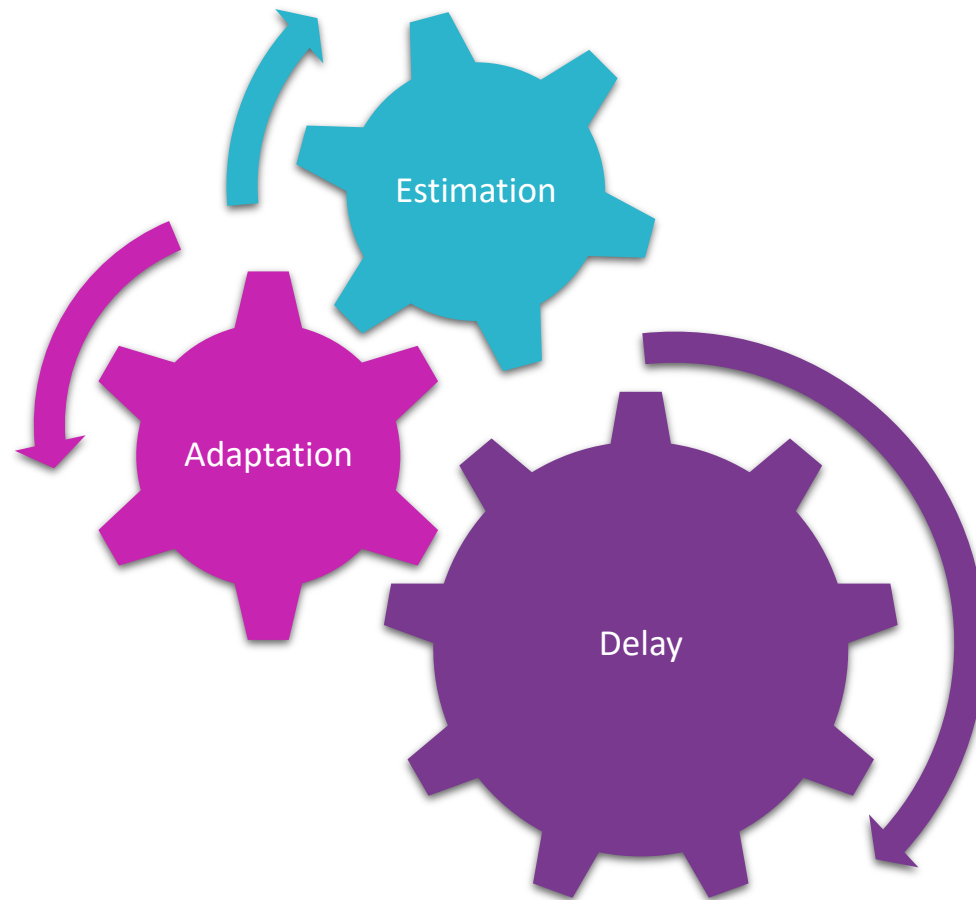
- Qualifications at level 7 and above
- Qualifications that are not publicly funded
- Qualifications that are not used for progression to FE/HE or to and through employment
- The qualifications will sit outside of the extraordinary regulatory framework



Ofqual's approach to qualifications



Mitigation approaches



Estimation

- Also referred to as calculating grades
- Same approach that has been implemented for General Qualifications (GCSEs and A Levels)
- Centre staff would estimate learners' grades based on a range of evidence
- Estimated grades are then submitted to the awarding organisation
- Standardisation process by awarding organisations to ensure fairness and reliability of results
- Primarily for qualifications which progress to further or higher education



Estimation

VTCT has proposed to Ofqual that the following types of qualifications are suitable for estimation:

- Performance Table Qualifications (PTQs):
 - Technical Award (AM20530)
 - Technical Certificates
 - Technical Level Qualifications
 - Applied General
- VRQs used to progress to further studies

Requirements:

- Minimum threshold of evidence will be required
- May include year one learners on a two year programme
- If estimation is used, awarding organisations will carry out a standardisation process to validate centre-estimated grades



Estimation

Types of evidence that centres may be required to gather, consider and potentially submit:

- records of each learner's performance over the course of study, including for example progress review data, classwork, bookwork
- performance on any assignments, even if these have not been fully completed
- for re-sitting learners, any information about previous grades achieved
- performance on any class or homework assessments and mock exams taken over the course of study
- previous results in your centre in this subject – these will vary according to a number of factors, including prior attainment of the learners
- the performance of this year's learners compared to those in previous years
- any other relevant information, for example learner progress reviews and attendance records



Adaptation

Ofqual are considering the following options:

- Changing the way the assessments are delivered, for example, using an online method rather than paper-based test
- Adapting assessment design/assessment requirements, for example, using simulation in place of observation
- Changing invigilation requirements, for example, allowing the use of remote proctoring
- Waiving or relaxing work experience or placement requirements
- Changing the way the qualification is quality assured



Adaptation

VTCT has proposed to Ofqual that the following types of qualifications are suitable for adaptation:

- National Vocational Qualifications (NVQs)
- Vocationally Related Qualifications (VRQs)
- Primarily Level 2 and Level 3 qualifications

Requirements:

- Minimum threshold of evidence or progress of learners
- Potential liaison with professional and sector regulatory/oversight bodies, for example HABIA, CIMSPA
- Remote quality assurance process with VTCT's team of EQAs



Adaptation

Types of evidence that centres may be required to gather, consider and potentially submit:

- Witness testimonies
- Formative/summative assessment evidence
- Mock assessment evidence
- Practice papers
- Assignments
- Learner tracking documents



Delay

Ofqual and the Department for Education have indicated this is the last resort option:

- Most appropriate where there are health and safety and/or safeguarding issues
- Most appropriate where qualifications result in licence to practise or licence linked qualifications
- Used where adaptation is not appropriate or which compromises the validity and reliability of the assessment and qualification
- Where learners do not meet the minimum threshold requirements for estimation or adaptation



Delay

VTCT has proposed to Ofqual that the following types of qualifications are suitable for delay:

- Level 4/5 qualifications which involve high risk treatments and/or services, for example, non medical aesthetic suite of qualifications



End-point Assessment for Apprenticeship Standards

- VTCT is an End-point Assessment Organisation (EPAO) for the Hair Professional and Beauty Professional standards
- All EPAOs that currently offer the Hair Professional and Beauty Professional standards (VTCT, City & Guilds, TQUK) released a collaborative statement on 24 April
- The delay of the practical observation is the only appropriate mitigation during the COVID-19 situation, this position is continually under review
- Any further queries regarding End-point Assessments, please email epa@vtct.org.uk



Performance Table Qualifications

- Results dates for the Summer 2020 assessment series will remain as published in the key dates document

Qualification Suite	General Release Date
Tech Award	16.07.2020
Tech Certs and TLQs	16.07.2020
Applied General	02.07.2020

- Currently UCAS data will be processed as normal
- DfE issued guidance on educational performance data for 2020
- Contingency Key Dates were published to support learners where mitigation is not possible



Next steps

Date	Action
4 May	Centres to respond to mandatory VTCT data request
w/c 4 May	VTCT to engage with centres on mitigation approaches
4 May	Ofqual feedback on VTCT data collection
8 May	VTCT to review and confirm Ofqual feedback
8 May	AOs and centres to respond to Ofqual's consultation
TBC	Secretary of State to sign-off qualifications in scope for Framework
TBC	Ofqual confirmation of approved mitigation
TBC	Ofqual to publish Extraordinary Regulatory Framework
TBC	Window for centre activity to provide evidence for mitigation approaches



Questions



Summary

- Webinar available on website (centre login required)
- Collate all FAQs over the course of the three webinars and publish alongside webinar
- Ofqual consultation
<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/exceptional-arrangements-for-assessment-and-grading-in-2020>
- [https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/881109/Summer 2020 results for vocational technical and other qualifications UPDATE 24 APR2020 .pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/881109/Summer_2020_results_for_vocational_technical_and_other_qualifications_UPDATE_24_APR2020_.pdf)

