

SEAG Re-marks: Information and Guidance for Parents

What is a re-mark?

A re-mark is a process which involves a pupil's answer sheet for Paper 1 or Paper 2 or both Papers being marked again by GL Assessment. This process is not simply a clerical recheck to establish if the marks were added up correctly. A re-mark involves every question being marked again, by hand.

When the answer sheets were originally marked a computer was used to "read" and mark the answers to all 88 of the multiple choice questions (44 in each paper) and the answers to all 24 of the free response questions (12 in each paper) were marked by hand.

Both of these marking processes are considered by GL Assessment to be extremely accurate.

With the multiple choice questions, if the pupil answers can be clearly read by the computer, the chance of an answer being wrongly read is extremely low. If the computer could not read the answer or answers, then the answer sheet for that question or questions would be marked by hand.

With the free response questions each answer was not just marked by one person, it was doubly or triply marked. Marker A marks a question and, quite independently, Marker B also marks the same question. If the markers agree then their decision stands. If the markers disagree then a third arbitration process is used to decide whether or not to award the mark.

What happens after a re-mark?

After GL Assessment has completed a re-mark it will inform SEAG of the outcomes of the re-mark. Parents will then receive an email from SEAG and will be able to view and download the Re-mark Statement of Outcomes.

- **The outcome which is the most likely, based on the experience of GL re-marks with PPTC, is that there is no change.** (Historically around 99% of re-marks would have resulted in no change). SEAG would inform the parent that the re-mark outcome is the same as the original outcome.
- **The re-mark could result in the pupil being awarded one or more additional marks. If this happens then the TSAS (Total Standardised Age Score) will be higher** and the cohort percentile may be higher. If the cohort percentile has changed to move a pupil's outcomes into a new Band then the pupil's re-mark outcomes will reflect this.
As an example, the re-mark for pupil X results in having their TSAS changed from 193 to 194. The cohort percentile goes up by one but the Band remains as Band 3.
- **The re-mark could result in the pupil being awarded one or more fewer marks. If this happens then the TSAS (Total Standardised Age Score) will be lower** and the cohort percentile may be lower. If the cohort percentile has changed to move a pupil's outcomes into a lower Band then the pupil's re-mark outcomes will reflect this.
As an example, the re-mark for pupil X results in the pupil having their TSAS changed from 193 to 192. The cohort percentile also goes down by one but this changes the Band from Band 3 to Band 4.

- **Re-mark outcomes become the final SEAG outcomes and the original outcomes are no longer valid and are replaced. A Re-mark Statement of Outcomes will automatically be provided for the parent to download and use.**
- If the re-mark produced no change then the Re-mark Statement of Outcomes will have exactly the same Outcomes as before.
- If the re-mark resulted in the pupil gaining one or more marks then, in the Re-Mark Statement of Outcomes the TSAS will be higher and the Band and Cohort Percentile may be higher.
- If the re-mark resulted in the pupil having any fewer marks then, in the Re-Mark Statement of Outcomes the TSAS will be lower and the Band and Cohort Percentile may be lower.

After the re-mark results have come back what do I what do I need to do?

If you have requested a re-mark then the outcomes from that re-mark are the only valid outcomes. You will need to download the “Re-mark Statement of Outcomes”. **If you are making a Post-Primary Transfer application to one or more SEAG school you must use the “Re-mark Statement of Outcomes”.**

If a parent has already made a post-primary transfer application using the original SEAG Statement of Outcomes they should replace that with the new RE-Mark Statement of Outcomes. SEAG schools have a duty to verify that the SEAG outcomes information provided by the parent in the post-primary transfer application is valid.

Points to consider before deciding whether or not to request a re-mark.

What follows are some of the points to bear in mind:

Be as well informed as possible about what pupil outcomes mean and don't mean.

- This is the first year of the SEAG Entrance Assessment. A gut feeling about requesting a re-mark may come from thinking that the SEAG outcome is lower than expected BUT it can be difficult to “guesstimate” what to expect since the SEAG scoring system is a new system which is different to that previously used by AQE or PPTC. SEAG has produced some Tables to help parents, teachers and others make some comparison between AQE or PPTC outcomes and SEAG outcomes.
- One of the outcomes which SEAG provides for the top 80% of pupils is the Cohort Percentile. Parents and others will be able to see how well their child has done compared to others by looking at the cohort percentile e.g. a pupil with a Cohort percentile of 70 will be in the top 31% of everyone who sat the Assessment.(Their result is higher than 69% of the pupils) Someone with a Cohort Percentile of 41 will be in the top 60% of everyone who sat the Assessment.(Their result is higher than 40% of the pupils).
- There are sufficient academically selective places in the SEAG schools for around 65% of all those who sat the Entrance Assessment. Some schools may only be able to accept pupils in Band 1 or those with a very high TSAS (around 31% may have a TSAS of 215 or higher) but many other schools will be able to accept a broader range of Bands (2, 3 or 4) or TSAS scores which are e.g. 185 or higher and some may also be able to accept some pupils in the lower Bands and with lower TSAS scores.

- No school will be able to accurately predict in advance what Band or TSAS a pupil will need to gain a place because no school knows in advance how many applicants it will have or what outcomes those pupils will have.

Be as well informed as possible about what a re-mark can and cannot do

- A re-mark can only confirm the accuracy of the original marking or where there has been an error it can correct the error. The GL marking system is designed to be extremely accurate so changes in outcomes resulting from a re-mark are expected to be very, very uncommon (Based on the GL re-mark of PPTC outcomes over a number of years – where around 99% resulted in no change).
- A re-mark cannot change an answer which is wrong to one that is correct. This is, however, one exception which, although rare, is where re-mark changes in TSAS are most likely to occur:

Although the Answer Sheets were designed to help ensure that pupils did not place the answer to one question in a box for another question e.g. putting the answer to Q19 in the box for Q20, a few parents may have a concern that their child, at some point did place some answers in the wrong question boxes in one Paper. The re-mark form allows parents the opportunity to set out information to help the re-marker check for evidence related to the concern. As an example (these are very rare but can happen):

Pupil C thinks that in the Paper 1 comprehension she may have got her answers out of step – at answer Q22 she discovered that the answer had already been filled in. The parent includes as much information as possible about the possible error on the re-mark form. During the re-mark the marker finds that the pupil had left Q17 blank. The re-marker looks at the sequence of answers the pupil gave for Q18- Q22 (e.g. C,E,D,D,B). Originally the pupil only got 1 of these answers correct. The re-marker finds that if C,E,D,D,B had been given as the answers to Q17-Q21 the pupil would have got 3 of these answers correct. Since the parent had clearly set out where their child might have put some answers in the wrong question boxes and since the evidence supports that the pupil would be awarded the two extra marks – resulting in a higher TSAS.

Be careful about trying to compare SEAG outcomes with previous outcomes from AQE or PPTC Assessments – the scoring system is different.

- This is the first year of a SEAG Entrance Assessment. Parents may be tempted to try and compare their child's 2023 SEAG outcomes with outcomes from an older child who had sat the PPTC Entrance Assessment or the AQE Common Entrance Assessment. It may be difficult to make accurate comparisons. Two examples:

Pupil C achieved a SEAG TSAS of 210; a friend or sibling had previously achieved a PPTC SAS of 212; this was a Grade D and the friend / sibling did not gain a place at an academically selective school. The parent of Pupil C may think that the SEAG score of 210 is not very good. However, the SEAG TSAS of 210 places Pupil C in Band 1 – the highest of the 6 Bands and in the 64th percentile meaning that Pupil C is in the top 37% of everyone who did the Assessment.

Pupil D had a brother who scored 94 in the AQE Common Entrance Assessment. The brother got a place in an academically selective school but 94 was the lowest score accepted that year. Pupil D has a SEAG TSAS of 188; The parent divides 188 by 2 and may think that Pupil D's score is equivalent to an AQE SAS of 94. However, Pupil D's TSAS of 188 may be slightly better than the parent thought – it may be equivalent to an AQE SAS of about 95 or 96.

How to request a re-mark:

- To request a re-mark, the parent logs on their dashboard, clicks on the re-mark button and completes the form.
- All re-mark requests **must** be made between Monday 29th January and 5pm Wednesday 7th February 2024. This timeframe is designed to ensure that all re-mark outcomes can be available to parents, from SEAG, before the 22nd February 2024 post-primary transfer application deadline on the EA website.
- The parent needs to decide whether to have Paper 1 or Paper 2 or both Papers re-marked.
- There is a box which the parent may choose to complete if they believe that, for example, their child may have made an error by placing some answers in the wrong question boxes (as outlined earlier) OR e.g. if the parents have concerns e.g. that their child tried to rub out and correct some answers and that the computer may not have picked this up. If a parent is simply asking for a re-mark without any suggestion that a pupil may have made an error in how the answers were entered the parent can leave the box blank.
- **There is a £20 re-mark fee for each Paper which the parent wants to have re-marked. This is payable for all re-mark requests. The re-mark fee is not refundable except in situations where a re-mark results in any change in the SEAG TSAS (up or down) in which cases the full (£20 or £40) fee will be refunded by SEAG.**