

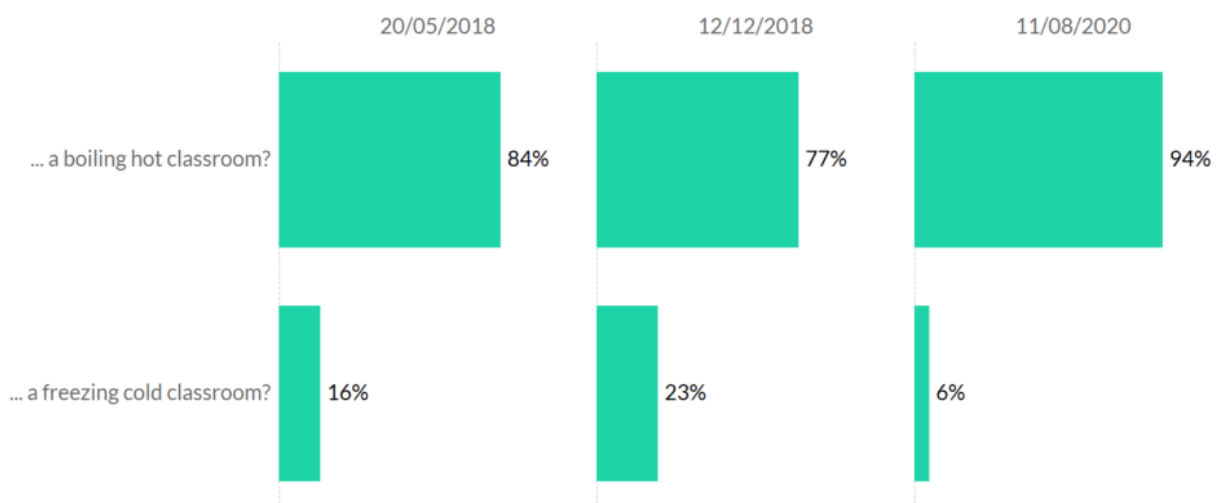
## A long week of U (and A\*) turns

Here at Teacher Tapp we pride ourselves at finding out what teachers are thinking and doing in a timely fashion. But sometimes even our super-fast turnaround isn't fast enough for events. This is one of those weeks.

Even the heatwave seems like another era (and by the way, how you respond to that question about hot and cold classrooms depends on how hot it is!).

When we asked back in December, 23% of you said it was harder to teach in a freezing classroom, but in the midst of a heatwave almost no one agreed!

### Which is harder to teach in...

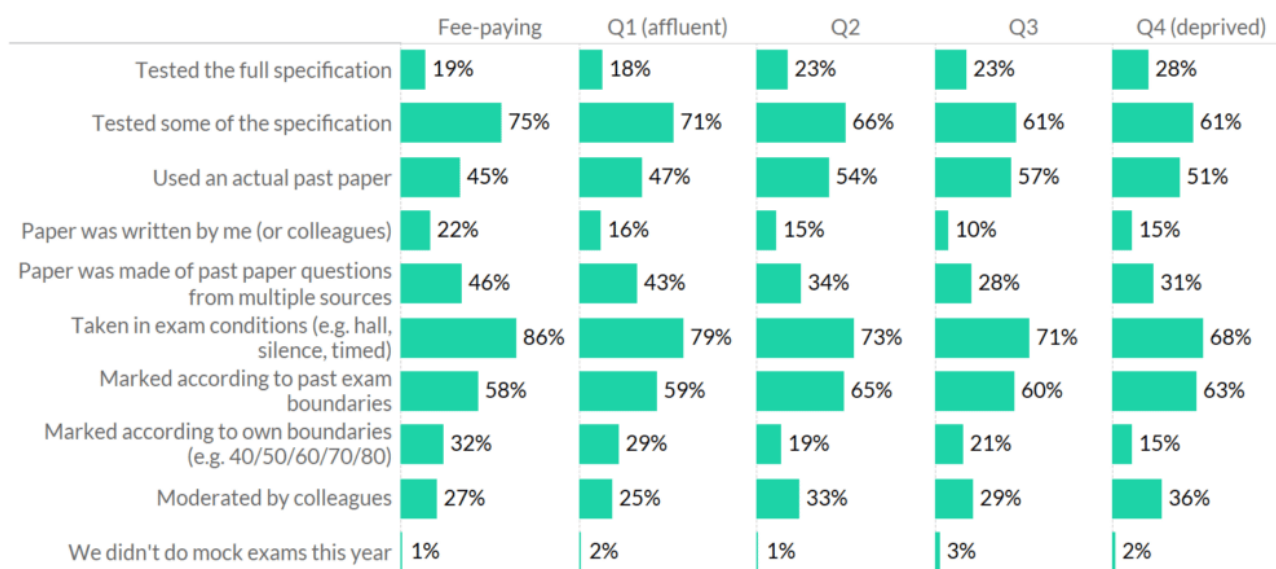


Question answered by 7,102 teachers on 11/08/2020 (results weighted to reflect national teacher and school demographics)

## 2. The mock solution

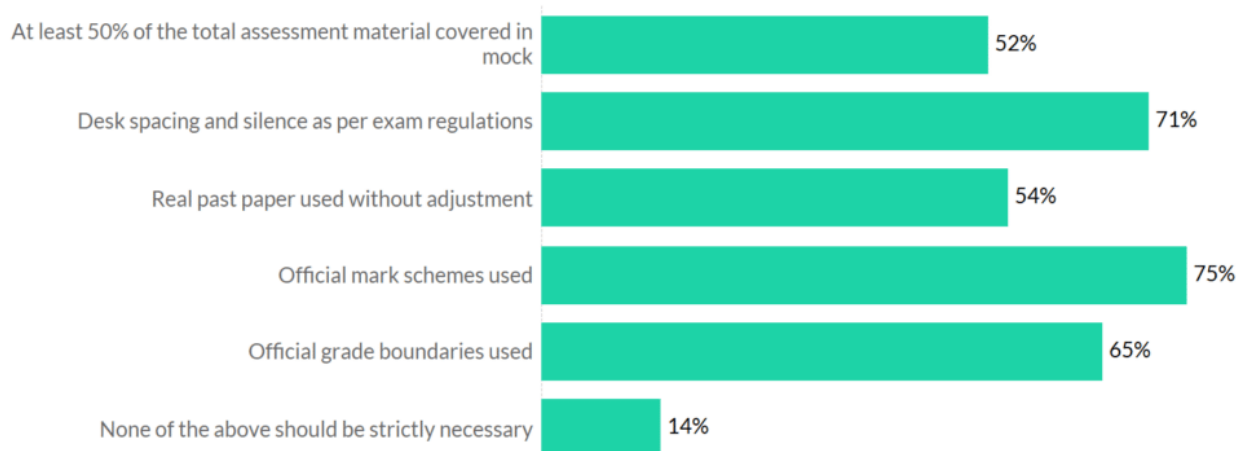
Before results day even happened, we had a sniff that the government was seriously worried when they announced that A Level grades achieved in a mock examination could count in an appeal. This left teachers scratching their heads - what is a mock exam? Mocks tend to be sat under rather different conditions and at different times of year, as the two charts below show. The timing of mocks is far more variable in schools serving lower-income communities, and the exam conditions of the mock also vary a little by school FSM%.

### In your last mock exam for Year 13, which of the following was true? (tick all that apply)



Unfortunately, the mock exam announcement left Ofqual scrabbling to come up with a self-described "valid" definition of a mock. But that's not surprising given that even teachers have little agreement about what a mock should be.

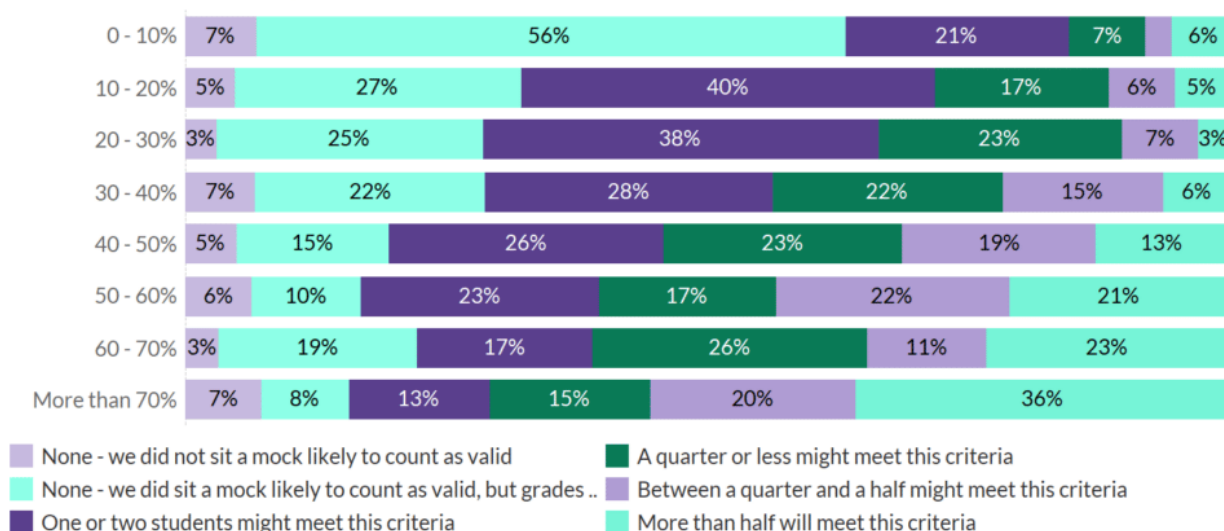
### Which of the following do you feel should be a stipulation to enable a mock exam grade to count in the appeals process? Tick any that apply



Question answered by 4,622 teachers on 14/08/2020 (results weighted to reflect national teacher and school demographics)

And whilst many teachers felt that few students would have a mock grade higher than their awarded grade, those who had their CAGs significantly downgraded by the algorithm were much more likely to say that an appeal based on mock exam grades was likely to be helpful.

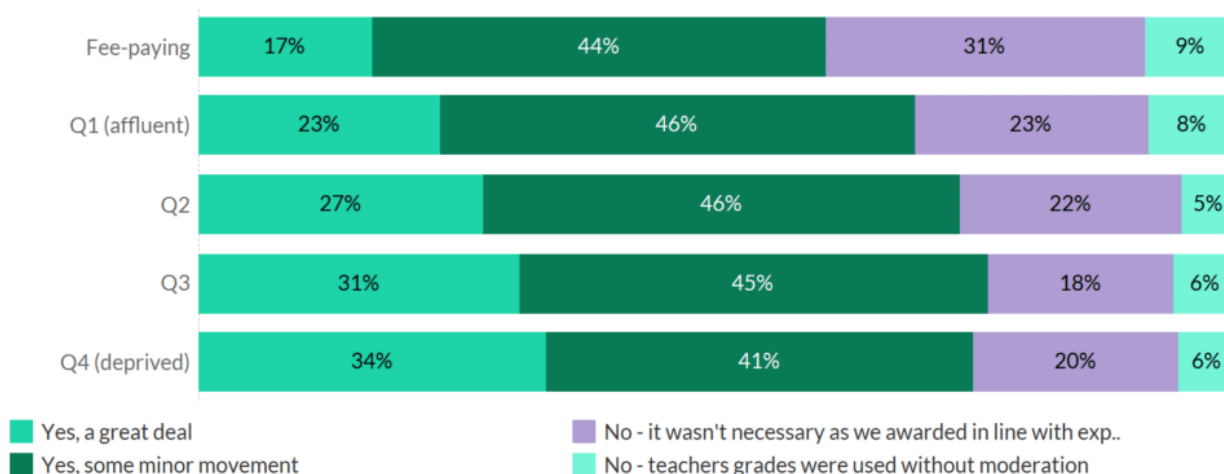
### Roughly what percentage of the Centre Assessed Grades got changed in your subject?



### 3. Just use the CAG...

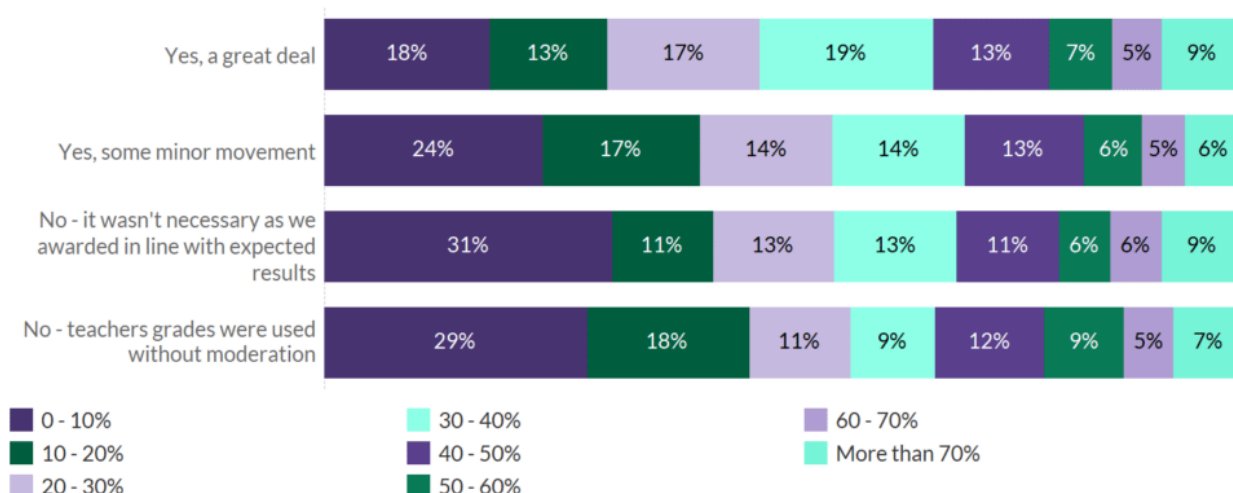
As we are writing, we don't know whether CAGs will be used on their own to award A level grades. It seems like a simple solution to outside commentators, but teachers know that CAGs are not just simple teacher assessments, as some have been through more stringent internal school moderation than others. Indeed, schools serving lower-income communities seem to have made more internal adjustments to their grades..

### A few more results day questions... Did your school's senior leadership team moderate your subject's initial teacher assessed grades in line with historic performance?



Now, sometimes the data doesn't show what we expect. We thought that schools who went through stringent internal moderation would therefore see less external moderation, i.e. their CAGs wouldn't have been downgraded so much. This really doesn't seem to be the case...

**A few more results day questions... Did your school's senior leadership team moderate your subject's initial teacher assessed grades in line with historic performance?**

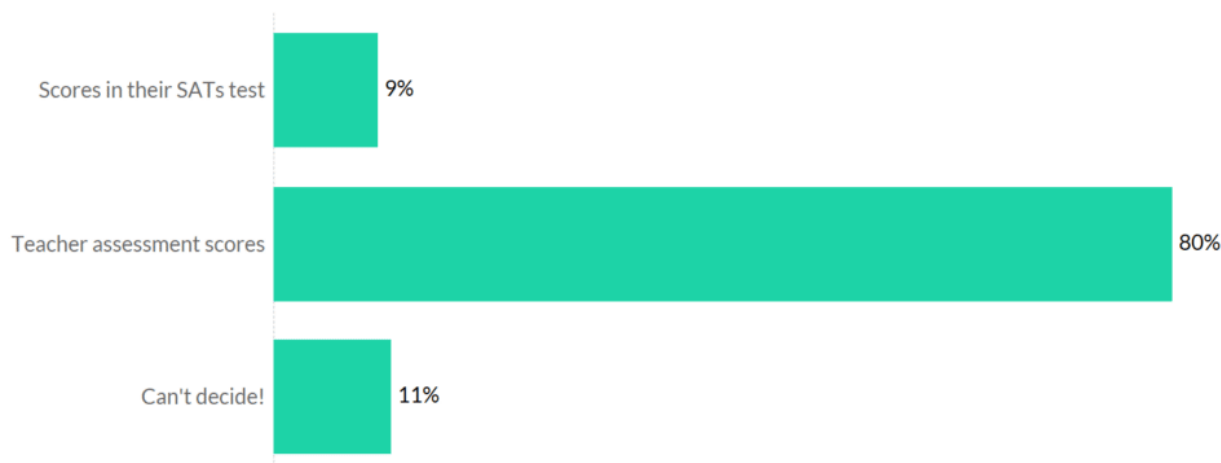


Question answered by 5,017 teachers on 13/08/2020 (results weighted to reflect national teacher and school demographics)

#### 4. Meanwhile, over in primary schools...

We wonder what primary teachers make of all of this?! We know that they tend to place little faith in tests anyway, since they have an opportunity to get to know their children so much better than secondary teachers.

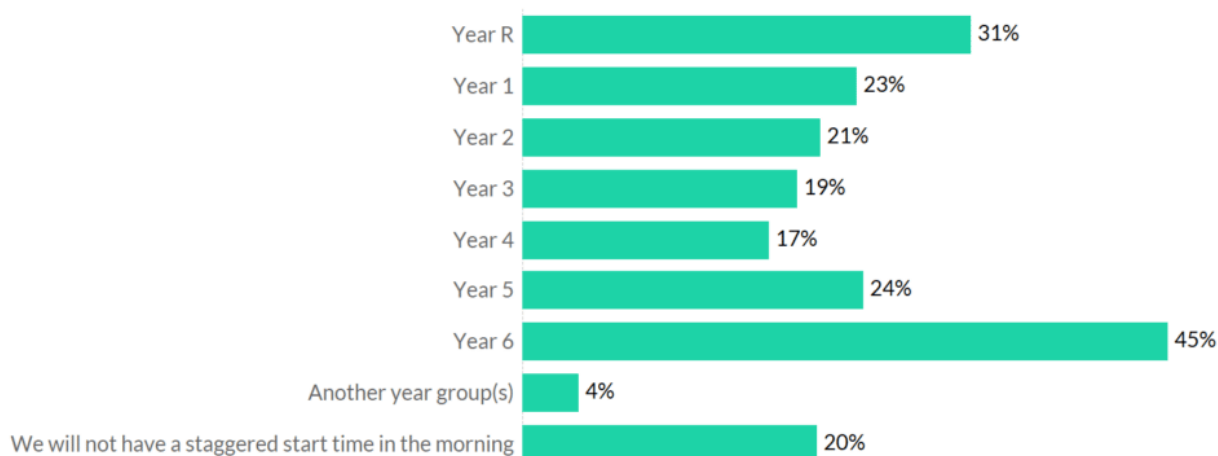
**If you were a secondary school teacher, which would you consider a better reflection of a Year 7's true ability?**



Question answered by 1,786 teachers on 12/08/2020 (results weighted to reflect national teacher and school demographics)

We also know primary teachers were interested in practical arrangements for the upcoming year. Most primaries are using staggered start and end times to the day. Year 6 are most frequently among the first to arrive, with most schools tending to bundle year groups into 2 or 3 timings.

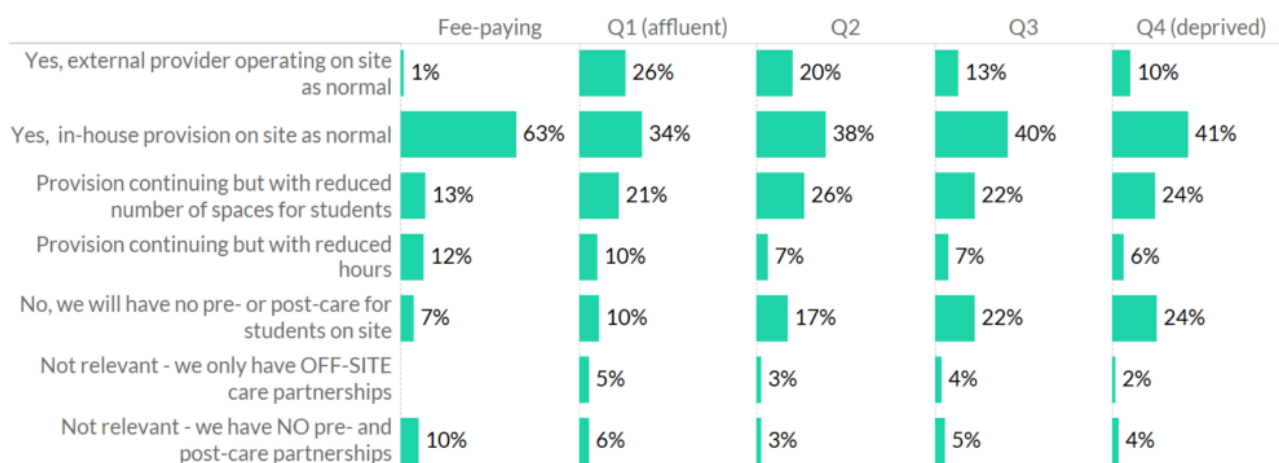
If you are running a staggered start to the day, which year groups are the first to arrive in the morning? Tick all that arrive in the first group.



Question answered by 1,833 teachers on 14/08/2020 (results weighted to reflect national teacher and school demographics)

We also learnt that many schools would be closing their before and after school childcare provision for September, particularly those in schools serving more disadvantaged communities. We will try to find out whether parents are able to find alternative arrangements or will have to give up working on our new app, [Parent Ping](#).

**Is any breakfast or after school care operating on your site from September? Please think about childcare provision rather than extra-curricular clubs. You may tick more than one response.**



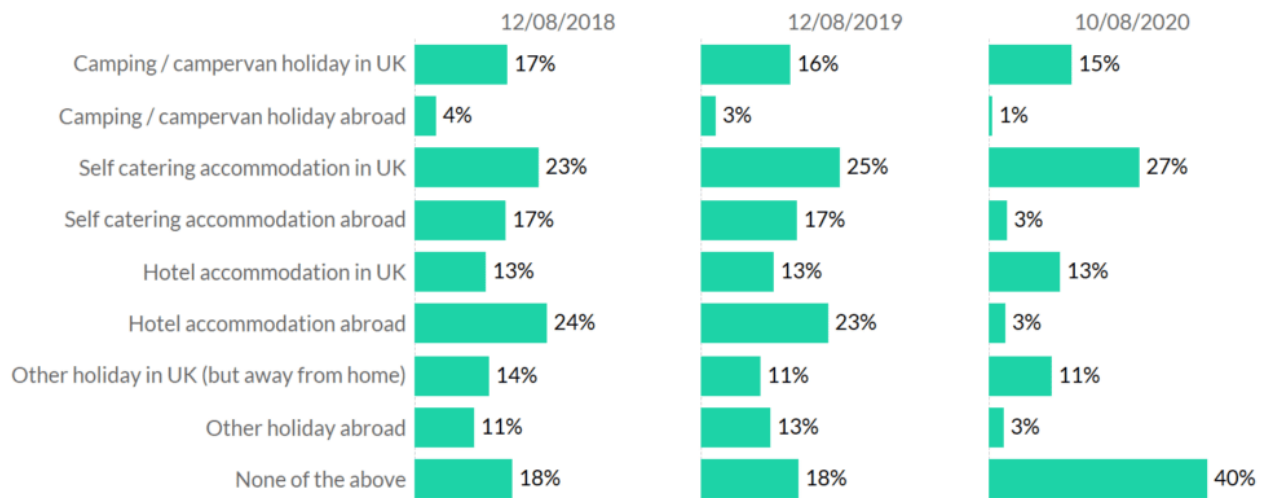
Question answered by 1,682 teachers on 14/08/2020 (results weighted to reflect national teacher and school demographics)

## 5. A strange holiday

The holidays really do feel like they are over, especially for secondary teachers. One of the casualties of lockdown has been teacher friends going on holiday together. In 2018 and 2019, 7% of you said you were going to do this; this year just 4% of teachers are holidaying with a teaching colleague. And overall, we hope that the 40% of you who haven't been on holiday at

all have found some fun things to do locally.

**What type of holiday(s) will you have been on this summer? Pick all that apply.**



Question answered by 6,991 teachers on 10/08/2020 (results weighted to reflect national teacher and school demographics)

## Time for tips

- [Explicit teaching of vocabulary](#)
- [Missed learning in primary maths](#)
- [How can you make sure your science practicals are purposeful?](#)
- [Is there such a thing as a weaker pupil in maths?](#)
- [Getting rid of ineffective teaching methods](#)
- [How a smile from a teacher can transform a child's worldview](#)
- [How were this year's A-Level results calculated?](#)
- [New frontiers in memory research](#)