



Appeals Policy

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

1	INTRODUCTION	4
2	CENTRE'S RESPONSIBILITY (CLASSROOM-BASED EXAMS)	4
3	REVIEW ARRANGEMENTS	4
4	FEES	4
5	AREAS COVERED BY THE POLICY	5
6	PROCESS FOR RAISING AN APPEAL	5
7	RESULTS ENQUIRY	6
8	INITIAL REVIEW OF THE APPEAL DETAILS – STAGE 1	6
9	SEEKING AN INDEPENDENT REVIEW – STAGE 2	7
10	SUCCESSFUL APPEALS AND/OR ISSUES BOUGHT TO OUR ATTENTION BY THE REGULATOR(S).....	7
11	CONTACT US	7

Document Revision History		
Version	Date	Description of Change
7.0	08/08/2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Update in Section 4 Fees – Addition of Section 7 Results enquiry
6.0	31/07/2025	Periodical review, no updates
5.0	18/12/2024	Update in Section 8 Initial review of the appeal details
4.0	27/09/2024	2024 Rebranding
3.0	17/07/2023	Update of 2023
2.3	27/08/2018	Update of 2018
2.2	10/05/2017	Update of 2017

1 Introduction

This policy is aimed at our customers, including candidates, who are delivering/enrolled on, or have taken a LANGUAGECERT® approved qualification or unit. It sets out the process you should follow when submitting appeals to us and the process we will follow when responding to enquiries and appeals.

It is also for use by our staff to ensure they deal with all appeals in a consistent manner.

2 Centre's responsibility (classroom-based exams)

It is important that your staff involved in the management, assessment and quality assurance of our qualifications and your candidates are aware of the contents of the policy.

In addition, you must have internal appeal arrangements which candidates can access if they wish to appeal against a decision taken by your centre. If an individual wishes to appeal against a decision taken by a centre, it must first go through the centre's appeals process before bringing the matter to LANGUAGECERT®.

As part of a centre's application to become an approved LANGUAGECERT® centre, we will check that a centre has an appeals policy in place, and this will be re-checked from time-to-time during our centre monitoring activities.

3 Review arrangements

We will review the policy annually as part of our self-evaluation arrangements and revise it when necessary, in response to customer and candidate feedback or requests from, or good practice guidance issued by, the regulatory authorities (e.g. to align with any appeals and complaints process established by the regulatory authorities such as Ofqual/Qualifications Wales).

If you would like to feed back any views, please contact us via the details provided at the end of this policy.

4 Fees

We will charge a fee to cover the administrative and personnel costs involved in dealing with appeals. The appeal fee is determined based on the exam taken. If the decision is in the candidate's favour, the fee will be fully refunded.

Appeal stage	ESOL / ESOL for Schools		LTE	Academic	General	Spanish
	A1, A2, B1	B2, C1, C2				
Results Enquiry	£ 40,00	£ 50,00	£ 50,00	£ 50,00	£ 50,00	£ 40,00
Appeal Stage 1	£ 55,00	£ 80,00	£ 80,00	£ 100,00	£ 100,00	£ 55,00
Appeal Stage 2	£ 90,00	£ 110,00	£ 110,00	£ 130,00	£ 130,00	£ 90,00

5 Areas covered by the policy

This policy covers:

- Enquiries from candidates in relation to results.
- Appeals from candidates and/or centres in relation to an assessment decision on the basis that we did not apply procedures consistently or that procedures were not followed properly and fairly.
- Appeals from centres in relation to a decision made by LANGUAGECERT® concerning a centre's application to offer a LANGUAGECERT® qualification.
- Appeals from centres concerning the contents of a Quality Auditor report.
- Appeals from centres and/or candidates relating to a decision made by LANGUAGECERT® to decline a request to make reasonable adjustments or give special considerations or to grant recognised prior learning.
- Appeals from centres or candidates in relation to the application by LANGUAGECERT® of a sanction/action on a centre resulting from an audit or an investigation into malpractice and/or maladministration or a decision to amend a candidate's/set of candidates' results following a malpractice and/or maladministration investigation.
- Appeals from centres relating to a decision made by LANGUAGECERT® following an investigation into a complaint about a centre.

6 Process for raising an appeal

You have 4 weeks from the date we notified you of the decision you are appealing against in which to lodge an appeal against our decision, including assessment results. Centres and candidates should therefore retain their evidence until they receive their result.

If a centre appeals on behalf of your candidates, it must ensure that it has obtained the written permission of the candidate(s) concerned, as grades/results can go down as well as up as a result of an investigation.

Candidates who took their exam at a centre and wish to appeal their assessment results or a related decision should be supported by their centre and should have exhausted their centre's own appeals process before appealing to us. In the latter case, candidates must provide us with evidence that they have first appealed to their centre. It is expected that candidates who took an exam at a centre will only appeal directly to us in exceptional circumstances.

Centres should complete the Appeals form available in the Partners' Area. In order to submit an appeal on behalf of a candidate and/or the centre and in doing so supply relevant supporting information, such as the following where relevant:

- Candidate's name and LANGUAGECERT® unique registration number.
- Date(s) you or the candidate received notification of LANGUAGECERT®'s decision.
- Title of the LANGUAGECERT® qualification(s) affected, or nature of service affected (if appropriate).
- Full nature of the appeal.
- Contents and outcome of any investigation carried out by you relating to the issue.

Process for candidates who have taken online proctored exam

If you wish to appeal a decision relating to an online proctored exam please contact the LANGUAGECERT® Quality team at the following email address: quality@languagecert.org.

7 Results enquiry

To make a result enquiry, you should complete the “Exam Results Enquiry & Appeals form” available on our website.

When submitting an enquiry, please provide the following information:

- Candidate’s full name.
- Candidate’s Candidate Number.
- Date(s) when you received notification of the test result decision.
- Title of the exam affected.

Our Customer Service team will acknowledge receipt of the enquiry within 48 hours, and a full response will be provided within 3 business days.

A results enquiry will consist of:

- A clerical and systems check of the marking process undertaken in relation to the candidate’s test.
- Confirmation of results per each part of the test (after the clerical check).

Following the analysis, we will write to the appellant with details of our decision to either:

- Amend the statement of results and our original certification decision, in light of the analysis.
- Confirm the statement of results and our original certification and inform you that within 10 business days you are entitled to raise an appeal.

8 Initial review of the appeal details – Stage 1

Our Customer Service team or Quality team will acknowledge receipt of the appeal within 48 hours and aim to respond fully to the initial review of the potential appeal within 10 business days. Please note that in some cases the review process may take longer, for example, if a centre visit is required. In such instances, we will contact all parties concerned to inform them of the likely revised timescale.

At all times, we will ensure that LANGUAGECERT®’s personnel assigned to carry out the investigation or to oversee and manage the investigation have the appropriate level of training and competence and that they have had no previous involvement or personal interest in the matter.

In the first stage, we will undertake an initial, informal assessment of any appeal to ensure the application is complete and to ascertain whether the issue can be resolved before it goes to a formal appeal. In all instances, we will ensure that the person carrying out this initial check will not have a personal interest in the decision being appealed. If required, LANGUAGECERT® will appoint external investigators/assessors.

Following the initial review of the potential appeal, we will write to the appellant (if the appeal is from a centre, this will be done through the centre) with details of our decision to either:

- Amend our original decision in light of the new rationale/evidence being put forward and which has now been reviewed; or
- Confirm we stand by our original decision and in doing so, the rationale for this decision, and request that you confirm, within 10 business days, whether you now accept this decision or if you wish to proceed to our formal appeals process which will be carried out by an independent party.

9 Seeking an independent review – Stage 2

If you decide to proceed to the independent appeal stage, we will arrange for a review to be carried out by an independent reviewer who is not an employee of LANGUAGECERT®, an assessor working for us, or otherwise connected to our organisation. It will also be someone with the relevant competence to make a decision in relation to the appeal and who will not have a personal interest in the decision being appealed.

The independent reviewer will review all the evidence gathered in the above stages and seek to ascertain whether we have applied our procedures fairly, appropriately and consistently in line with our policy.

The independent review process may involve:

- A discussion with the appellant or the candidate and LANGUAGECERT® personnel;
- A request for further information from the appellant, the candidate or LANGUAGECERT® personnel;
- A centre visit by authorised LANGUAGECERT® personnel.

The independent reviewer's decision is final in relation to how LANGUAGECERT® will consider such appeals and we will let you know the outcome of the review within 25 business days of receipt of the independent appeal. If the centre/candidate is still unhappy with the outcome at this stage, they are entitled to raise the matter with the relevant qualification regulator (e.g. Ofqual in England or Qualifications Wales in Wales).

10 Successful appeals and/or issues brought to our attention by the regulator(s)

In situations where an appeal has been successful, or where an investigation following notification from the regulator(s) indicates a failure in our processes, LANGUAGECERT® will give due consideration to the outcome and will, as appropriate, take actions such as:

- Amending the profile of the centre concerned in the LANGUAGECERT® Assessment Portal (PASSPORT);
- Identifying any other candidates who have been affected and correct or, -where it cannot be corrected, mitigate as far as possible the impact of the failure (e.g. including amending the results for the candidate(s) affected following an appropriate investigation);
- Reviewing our associated processes and policies to ensure that the 'failure' does not occur again or mitigate the situation as far as possible, if the failure that occurred cannot be corrected.

We will also cooperate with any follow-up investigations required by the regulators and, if appropriate, agree any remedial action with them.

11 Contact us

For any queries about the contents of the policy, please contact us by using the channels described in the "Contact Us Guide".

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