

The path forward for the May 2021 examination session



What is the IB doing for the May 2021 exam session?

The IB will be providing schools a dual assessment route to ensure all students have the opportunity to complete this milestone in their learner journey and have valid results which enable them to take their next step in life.

- Examination route for those schools who can safely administer.
- Non-examination route for those schools who cannot administer due to local restrictions.

How will the dual assessment model work?

- All Internal Assessment coursework which is normally moderated is being marked by trained examiners to ensure that the marks meet global and consistent reliability standards.
- All schools will be given individualised guidance to follow for their teacher assessed predicted grades, this will strengthen the accuracy of predicted grades globally.

- Students who sit the examinations will be awarded results in the normal way using their coursework and examination marks.
- Students who cannot sit the examinations will be awarded grades using their internal coursework marks and teacher submitted predicted grades.
- The IB will take great care to ensure that the grade boundaries take into consideration the significant disruption students have faced during the pandemic.
- The IB will undertake a detailed review of results before results release to ensure they are appropriate at student, school, subject and global level.

Why is the IB using the dual assessment model?

- Globally the situation, for over 170,000 students in more than 3000 schools, is complex and differs greatly – the IB wants to ensure that schools can follow their local guidelines whilst also ensuring their students have a way to complete their IB programme.

- Our detailed analysis shows that, when examinations cannot be sat, awarding grades using a combination of Internal Assessment coursework marks and teacher submitted predicted grades provides the best estimation of what a student would have achieved if they could sit the exams.
- The IB wants to ensure that results are fair reflection of student ability and remain valid and meaningful, enabling students to move onto their next stage in life.