

TAICEP AT YOUR DESK

Update on secondary exams/certificates for Europe



TAICEP At Your Desk European Secondary Education and COVID-19 Responses

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Scotland – initial response

- Scottish schools and colleges closed week ending 20 March 2020
- Since that date, all young people have engaged in blended learning
- Support from local education authorities and, nationally, Education Scotland
- The announcement to cancel the national examinations was made on 19 March 2020
- Many options were considered but all were compromised



Scotland – current position

- Scottish schools and colleges remain closed
- Some Scottish schools are starting to re-open in the coming weeks e.g. for pupils transitioning from primary to secondary
- Most Scottish schools are planning to re-open on 11 August 2020 – this harmonised date has been set by the Scottish Government
- Scotland's further education colleges will re-open according to their own decided dates



Scotland – more information

- <https://www.gov.scot/news/schools-to-re-open-in-august/>
- <https://www.gov.scot/publications/excellent-equity-during-covid-19-pandemic-strategic-framework-reopening-schools-early-learning-childcare-provision-scotland/>

SQA – Awarding 2020

- National Awarding this year is based on teacher estimates for National 5, Higher and Advanced Higher certification
- SQA has supported teachers in reaching estimate decisions
- Statistical analysis and moderation activities are now underway
- Certification is planned for 4 August 2020 – no change to original date
- Latest update - <https://www.sqa.org.uk/sqa/93920.html>



England – initial response

- English schools and colleges closed week ending 20 March 2020
- Since that date, all young people have engaged in blended learning
- All GCSE, A-Level and AS-Level exams are cancelled
- A and AS Level candidates will receive results on 13 August and GCSE results on 20 August as per original planned dates



England – current position

- There is now a wider re-opening of schools taking place in England compared to Scotland
- Primary schools are re-opening before secondary schools
- Note that the school term dates in England are different to Scotland e.g. the summer break in Scotland begins before the end of June compared to late July for England

England – more information

- <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-school-closures/guidance-for-schools-about-temporarily-closing>

Ofqual – Awarding 2020

- National Awarding this year is based on teacher estimates for GCSE, A-Level and AS-Level certification
- Ofqual typically has access to far more statistical data and modelling when compared to Scotland
- This will be of value in calculating and moderating grades awarded
- Latest update - [https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/887018/Summer 2020 Awarding GCSEs A levels - Info for Heads of Centre 22MAY2020.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/887018/Summer_2020_Awarding_GCSEs_A_levels_-_Info_for_Heads_of_Centre_22MAY2020.pdf)



Wales and Northern Ireland

- Both Wales and Northern Ireland are broadly following the model of operation adopted in both Scotland and England
- Scotland, England, Wales and Northern Ireland (The 4 Nations) have regularly met at a strategic level to agree broad principles

Appeals

- It will be possible for candidates to appeal the grades awarded this year – subject to certain criteria
- This applies to both Scotland and England although there are differences in the systems
- Final details have yet to be released by both SQA and Ofqual

Looking towards 2021

- Recent attention has been diverted to plans for 2021 assessment
- In Scotland, the Scottish Government has stood up the Covid Education Recovery Group (CERG) to lead this work
- <https://www.gov.scot/groups/covid-19-education-recovery-group/>
- No decisions have yet been made with regard to the national examinations in 2021
- The same applies to England at the time of writing



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Covid-19 Response

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IB Principles & Values Driven Response

- Continuous monitoring and alignment with government and public health advisories
- Responsibility and Ethics at the core of each decision
- Fairness of outcome
- Compassion for students and teachers
- Ongoing engagement with IB Schools, students, universities and governing bodies
- Transparent and regular communication

Development of the pandemic

- January and early February
 - Impact limited to Greater China area
 - Schools closing, moving to on-line teaching
- Conclusion
 - IA would be hard for students to complete, deadlines extended
 - Students to focus on exams, which it was hoped would go ahead
- Early March
 - Impact spreads to Europe and then the Americas
 - 90%+ schools closed, on-line teaching in place in many areas.
 - Awarding bodies across the globe start to cancel exams
- Conclusion
 - Cancel IB examinations
 - Focus on IA in order to calculate robust grades
 - Thus – need to draw IA deadlines back to the original dates

Standard IB Assessment Structure

- Internal Assessment
 - Marked by the school
 - Samples sent to IB examiners for moderation
- Externally Assessed Coursework
- External examinations
 - Marked by IB examiners
- Exams account for between 0% (most Arts) and 100% F Maths

May 20 IB Assessment Structure

- Internal Assessment (Coursework)
 - Nearly all sent to IB examiners for **marking**
 - 20th April for most subjects, 30th April for Group 6
- External Assessment (Coursework)
 - All sent to IB examiners for marking
- Examinations
 - **No** examinations to be held in May/June

May 20 IB Results Structure

- Eligible students will be awarded a Diploma (DP and CP), or Certificates
- Students will be given a grade for each subject (1-7 score)
- DP students will be given a grade for the core (0-3 score)
- DP students will be given a score out of 45 by adding the above
- Results will be calculated using:
 - Internal predicted grades (school to IB)
 - Marked Internal and Marked External Assessments (Coursework)
 - Significant data modelling using historic data
- Standards will be comparable to past and future years
- Aim to deliver results on 5th July, through standard processes

May 20 Universities Survey and Resources

- HE Newsletter

<https://mailbuild.ibo.org/h/r/F999D30E299D3DD9>

- FAQs

<https://www.ibo.org/news/news-about-the-ib/covid-19-coronavirus-updates/#information-for-universities>



University and College Survey Response

The IB provided information to universities in late March on how results would be calculated for the May 2020 session. On 6 April 2020 the IB sent a questionnaire to around 3000 universities across the globe.

Universities have been in the process of developing their admissions policy and were asked to reply once their policy had been developed.

400

survey responses have been received.

98%

Percent of admissions officers indicated that student admission would not be impacted.

88 %

Percent of admissions officers confirmed that the information provided would be accepted for admissions.



Survey responses have been received from over 50 countries.

Almost **50%** of the responses were from the USA, with **10%** from both Canada and the UK, but there were also responses from Australia, Hong Kong, Singapore and the Netherlands.

This very much mirrors the destinations for IB graduates each year.

Around **50%** of the universities that responded stated that their standard admissions process is to make conditional offers, where admission is dependent on meeting certain grades in the IB Diploma.

Amongst these universities, over **85%** suggested that they would try to be flexible when reviewing students final IB results.



The US universities and colleges who responded to the survey were asked to comment on the award of credit and/or placement.

Over **85%** stated that their standard policy with regards to credit and placement would hold for the students receiving their results in July 2020.



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Questions and Answers