

Dear IB students and families,

The IB understands that the pandemic has been, and continues to be, an exceptionally difficult time for students and their families. You have been required to be more flexible with your education than ever before, adapting to changes between face-to-face classroom learning and the demands of online learning. Throughout all remaining focused on your studies despite the unique stress of living through a pandemic and continued disrupted educational experience. We are thankful to our IB World Schools for their continuous care and support in the teaching of IB programmes throughout the disruption, and to you in your dedication to your IB learning and progression.

The IB continues to work closely with schools to understand the circumstances faced by our community globally to ensure we can provide the correct support, resources, and mitigations for the disruption to learning you have experienced throughout the pandemic. For the May 2022 Diploma Programme and Career-related Programme session, we have provided an adapted assessment model with a reduction in components for many subjects.

Wherever it is possible, students sitting examinations is the best method to assess student capability and the IB expects schools to make all reasonable efforts to administer the examinations. However, we know that there will be circumstances where it is not possible for schools to hold exams due to mandates, closures or restrictions, and there may also be cases where individual students cannot sit some or all of their exams due to COVID related illness or quarantine. In those circumstances the school will be able to request that students are awarded grades using the established non-exam procedure (as used in the 2021 sessions). The IB will be providing schools with clear instructions and eligibility criteria for this process ahead of the examination session.

In order to enable this flexibility, the IB is marking coursework assessments normally marked by schools and only sampled by the IB. In order to help align predicted grades globally to IB standards, the IB is providing teachers with guidance to use alongside student work and IB grade descriptors when determining predicted grades. Your school will be able to provide more information about this session and your school specific circumstances.

We want to reassure you that we will deeply consider the impact of the pandemic when awarding results for students this year. We will undertake significant review of results at a country, school, subject and student level to ensure that we can mitigate for the disruption students have faced.

To ensure individual students do not receive a lower outcome because of missed face-to-face teaching, we will adjust our grade boundaries. This follows the successful approach we took in the 2021 sessions.

The IB:

- understands that local, country or regional level circumstances may change, preventing a school from administering exams – schools have been asked to keep the IB informed of these developments so that the IB can support.
- understands that student circumstances may change before or during exams due to a COVID diagnosis and/or need to isolate/quarantine. Our dedicated teams will be able to support schools and students in these circumstances. In circumstances where a school must close or a student must quarantine part way through the examination period, some subject grades may be awarded using exam results and others using the non-exam procedure, but no indication of this will appear on the certification. Careful matching of standards across both procedures will ensure that students are neither advantaged nor disadvantaged.
- understands the disadvantages experienced across the world and within specific locations. The IB is monitoring the situation in all regions closely and regularly updates the assessment division and the wider IB leadership. We will carefully consider the reported situations within the assessment process. As we did in 2021, checks will be made to measure whether global mitigations have been effective in each school location relative to locations of other schools. Where mitigations have not been sufficient to maintain cross state comparability, for example, additional mitigation will be applied.
- understands that some students that are currently overseas may not be able to attend exams in their enrolled schools. Programme coordinators are required to contact overseas IB schools hosting exams that may be able to support, and we are encouraging IB schools to accept these students at their school as an alternative venue student. If coordinators are unable to find a suitable exam venue, we will be able to support students in these circumstances.

Our dedicated teams will continue to work closely with schools, providing timely information, resources and opportunities for questions and feedback as we prepare for the May 2022 examination session. Our website (ibo.org) will be regularly updated with information about how we will be awarding results for the session, as well as our plans for 2023.

In addition, our recognition teams are communicating with universities globally to encourage the continued recognition of IB qualifications - results from our sessions in 2020 and 2021 have been recognised by institutes globally. We know that this will continue to be an anxious time, your school and the IB will do all we can to ensure that students receive results that are a fair reflection of their dedication and efforts during their learner journey. Please take care over the coming months and stay connected with your school community.

Warm regards,
All at the IB