



20 August 2020

Dear Cambridge International students and families,

**Ref: Changes to the way we are awarding grades for the June 2020 series**

We understand that the Covid-19 pandemic has been a very unsettling time for students who would have normally taken their exams in the June 2020 series.

Following our announcement on 17 August about the change in our awarding process for June 2020, we wanted to contact Cambridge students and their families directly to provide answers to some of the questions you may have.

**Why did we change the way we are awarding grades for the June 2020 series?**

After we released our results on 11 August, we received a lot of feedback and suggestions from our schools and students. We listened carefully to this feedback. Schools were pleased that we were able to provide grades in challenging circumstances, but they were also concerned about some aspects of our process. Importantly, we became aware of the real anxieties some Cambridge students were facing.

It is important to us that Cambridge students can compete on an equal basis with students who have similar national or international qualifications, and that their hard work and achievements are compared fairly. We fully recognised the urgent and practical need to help Cambridge students progress with their education and their lives.

**How did the process change?**

We decided that grades we issue for the June 2020 series will not be lower than the predicted grade submitted by the school. Where a grade we issued on 11 August was higher than the predicted grade, the higher grade will stand.

**What happens next? When will we receive our new grades or group awards?**

We will issue new grades via Cambridge International Direct and the Candidate Results Service (if applicable) on Friday 21 August at 10.00 BST.

The Candidate Results Service will be unavailable until results are released.

We will recalculate all group awards (Cambridge AICE Diploma and Cambridge ICE) based on the new grades. We plan to release these on Thursday 27 August.

In the meantime, in order to provide immediate certainty to students, schools can inform them of the predicted grades they submitted to us. We provided this information to schools on results day.

### **What results information will I get?**

The results documents will be sent to your school, so you should contact them to ask for it after 21 August.

The Candidate Results Service is available from 21 August at 10:00 BST.

### **How did my school calculate my predicted grade?**

In April, we asked our schools to work collaboratively with us to award grades to students. Cambridge International gave schools specific guidance on the types of evidence that could be used and on how to calculate their predicted grades and rank orders.

We know teachers worked extremely hard to gather evidence and work out predicted grades. We have viewed a significant proportion of the evidence schools used to make their predictions.

### **What does this mean for my university application?**

We are in regular contact with universities around the world. We cannot speak for every university, but every indication is that they will recognise the grades awarded in this series.

If you wish to, you may contact your school or college to get your revised grades, where applicable, and speak with your chosen universities about options available.

If you are happy with your university place, you do not need to do anything. You'll be starting your studies as planned.

With regard to UK universities, awarding bodies including Cambridge International have now shared revised grades with UCAS. The grades will be passed on to universities and colleges by Friday 21 August. Once revised grades are with universities and colleges, we will email you again.

Offers will not automatically change in UCAS Track. If you're thinking of changing the university, college or course you are currently placed with, you will need to wait until they have received your revised grades (teacher predicted grades) to be able to progress your options.

When the revised grades are issued, you will not automatically be confirmed at your original firm choice. If you want to return to your original choice you will need to contact the university or college.

If you are still in Clearing, we advise you to talk to your school or college about next steps and keep researching your options.

## **What do I do if I am not happy with my result?**

We understand that many students would have preferred to take exams. If your results aren't what you were expecting, you should talk to your school about your options. This could include progressing to further study or taking exams in a later series.

## **Can I take exams in a later series?**

Yes. We are running exams for the November 2020 series where schools believe it is safe and where they have the necessary permissions from government authorities. We believe exams remain the fairest and most reliable way to assess student achievement and our schools are telling us they want to hold exams if they can. You should speak to your school if you may be interested in taking exams in a later series.

## **Can a candidate appeal their predicted grade?**

We are finalising our appeals process and we will update schools next week, so please check with your school.

We are very grateful to students, parents and schools for their patience and understanding in what has been a changing situation.

If you or your parents have any further questions, please contact your school in the first instance, or check all the information on the June 2020 series [here](#).

We wish you the very best at this challenging time.

Yours faithfully,



**Christine Özden**

Chief Executive, Cambridge Assessment International Education