



Information for parents and families about Cambridge International exams in June 2022

For nearly two years, the covid pandemic has often made teaching and learning difficult for schools and students worldwide – and in many different ways.

In some countries, schools have remained open throughout, but closed for many months in others. Some schools could adapt quickly to remote teaching, but others found it harder.

Cambridge International works with schools in over 160 countries. Throughout the pandemic, we have adapted our assessment to make it as fair as possible to students in all sorts of different situations worldwide. Here's how we're doing that for our June 2022 exam series.

How are we helping students taking exams?

We have created several ways to help students badly affected by different local Covid regulations in different countries.

- Schools can apply for **exemptions** for particular papers where local Covid regulations have made it impossible for them to prepare for the exam – for example, where school science labs have been closed by law and students could not do lab work, we will exempt them from science practical papers.
- Schools can also make **adjustments** in many different syllabuses. Adjustments take the circumstances of individual students into account, so they can complete their exams and receive the grades they have worked so hard for. For example, where Covid regulations have made some sporting activities impossible, students can reduce the number of activities submitted in their Physical Education coursework. You can find a [full list on our website](#).
- We also adapted our **special consideration** process. If students unexpectedly miss some exams for a syllabus, they can receive a grade if they have taken at least one eligible component in the exam series.

Like other exam boards, we still ask schools to teach the full syllabus. Our exam questions will cover the full range of syllabus content in the usual way.

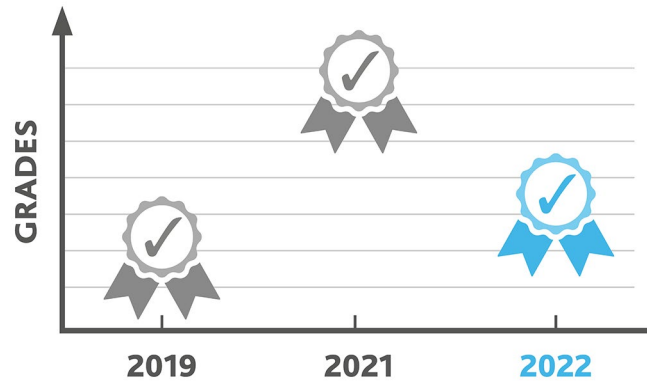
Will Cambridge International grade this year's exams more generously than before the pandemic?

Yes. Like UK exam boards, we are considering the impact of the pandemic on students as we grade the exams. We will move gradually from the June 2021 standard of teacher-assessed grades back to the standard of exams 2019. We will do that in two equal steps – first in 2022 and again in 2023. So

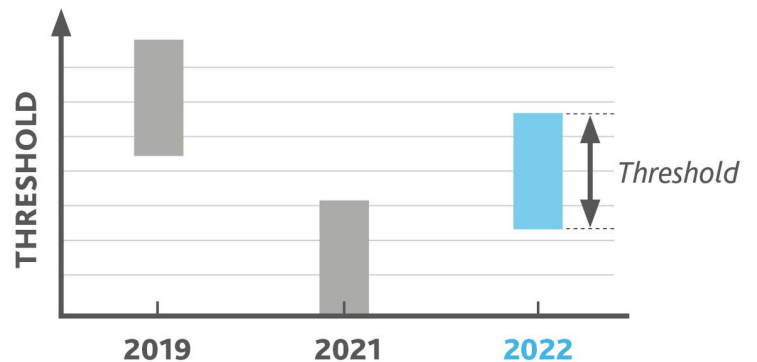
the standard of exams in June 2022 will be at the midpoint between the standards of 2021 and 2019. We confirmed this to Cambridge International Schools in October 2021.

What does this mean?

Grades we award in June 2022 will be more generous than those awarded in June 2019, and less generous than those awarded in June 2021.



Grade thresholds we choose in June 2022 will generally be lower than in June 2019, and higher than in June 2021.



It also means that, in June 2022, Cambridge IGCSEs will have the same awarding standard as UK GCSEs, and Cambridge International A Levels will have the same awarding standard as UK A Levels.

Cambridge International candidates will not be advantaged or disadvantaged by taking our qualifications rather than UK qualifications. We commit in our Code of Practice to align our standards with those of similar UK qualifications.



You can find more information about how we grade on our website <https://www.cambridgeinternational.org/exam-administration/results/marking-and-grading/>.

What if exams can't take place?

In June 2022, our exams will take place wherever local Covid rules allow. In places where the local Covid regulations prohibit exams or close exam venues, we can switch schools to an approach that we have called the Portfolio of Evidence. Every student would submit a portfolio of evidence, and the school would submit these tasks to Cambridge International for marking and grading. We will be aligning grades of Portfolio of Evidence carefully with exam grades.

What about advance information?

Advance information is being provided by UK exam boards to allow students in England to focus revision on areas of the syllabus which are likely to appear in the exam. It will not be at a level that allows questions to be predicted or answers prepared.

We reviewed this option very carefully. We chose not to adopt it for our exams because it does not take into account the diverse circumstances of the wide range of Cambridge schools and students worldwide, which are broader than those for UK schools. We believe the flexible measures we provide are better suited to the many different situations of Cambridge schools.

Does this mean students taking our qualifications will get lower grades than students taking UK GCSE and A Level? No. Students taking Cambridge International exams will receive the same grades they would have achieved with other boards - because we will apply the same awarding standard. The awarding standard takes into account a number of factors, including the difficulty of the questions and whether or not help such as Advance Information has been provided.

The only exception is Cambridge Pre-U, where we have provided advance information. Cambridge Pre-U is a qualification intended specifically for UK schools.