

Wednesday, April 1, 2020

Dear Parents and Students,

I have copied the majority of the communication we have received from Cambridge with regard to examinations for this Academic Year.

In essence, they are going into a consultation phase with the schools with regard to what evidence may need to be submitted in order to validate a grade for June 2020. They list a variety of standard options in their email below. It talks of a submission date around early June 2020, which does align with our idea around some kind of opportunity for students to demonstrate their present levels of learning after a period of revision.

I have kept in their advice around University admissions too. I am now going to meet with our Heads of Departments to have a look at what independently produced pieces of work and internal assessments the students have carried out over the last year that could be used as evidence of grades.

Some students have already expressed concerns around early entry exams taken in October'19 that may have impacted on grades in other subjects. Usually, the period of Term 3 revision means these lower Term 1 outcomes are balanced out. This is the reason we want to look at further opportunities to show knowledge and understanding – even though the full Cambridge email states further assessments are not necessary. We want to give the fairest grade possible, but there must be independent evidence.

All questions are not answered as yet, and we await the next update on the 7th April 2020.

University Letters of Recommendation and Certificates of Good Conduct

Students may apply for letters of recommendation by submitting a request form to Mr. Vijay at: <u>v.philip_wgp@gemsedu.com</u>.

The form is available under this link: <u>https://media.gemseducation.com/media/57392/application-for-school-leaving-documents-1.docx</u>

For further guidance on university admissions, students will need to reach out to the Counsellors via Unifrog or email so that they can assist them directly with any concerns.

An Update for Cambridge Schools on May/June Exam Series 2020 - 31 March 2020

Providing grades for students

It is vital to Cambridge International to ensure that all our students studying in many different countries and contexts around the world receive a fair, valid and globally recognised qualification.

The process we will use to provide grades for students will be a collaborative one with schools.

The decision on grades to be awarded to candidates will be made by Cambridge, using our own evidence combined with evidence from schools.

Our approach will be to ask schools to collaborate with us as we make evidence-based decisions about





grades for each candidate in each subject they have entered for in the May/June 2020 exam series for Cambridge IGCSE, Cambridge O Level, Cambridge International AS & A Level and Cambridge Pre-U.

We are now **asking schools to consider what evidence they will be able to gather** to support these decisions. The evidence should consist of **examples of work** candidates have done to **prepare for their May/ June 2020 exams**.

The types of evidence that might be available could include but will not be limited to:

- mock exams
- coursework (complete or incomplete)
- assignments
- AS Level results for 'staged-route' A Level candidates
- grades in previous sittings for candidates re-taking exams.

We understand that centres may not be able to access all of this evidence remotely. At this point, we ask centres to **begin to consider** what evidence they have available.

All of the evidence that you gather must be **authenticated** (that is, your centres must be satisfied that it is the candidate's own unaided work). Heads of centre will be responsible for vouching for the authenticity of the evidence gathered about every candidate.

We know that gathering and processing this evidence will take time for you to do, and you will have approximately two months to do it. Exact deadlines will be circulated later.

We will give more detail on Tuesday 7 April about next steps and how we will use evidence.

Universities

We are in direct contact with universities around the world and they understand our decision not to hold the exams in the June 2020 series. They have informed us that they are committed to being as flexible as they can towards applicants who will not be able to sit their exams due to this crisis. They understand the disruption to teaching and learning experienced by students around the world.

The grades and qualifications that Cambridge International awards for this June series will carry the same value as grades and qualifications for any other series.

We will be working with universities to explain the methodology we will follow to provide grades, and will give them information about the wide range of evidence we will use to provide fair and reliable results. We are doing everything we can to ensure that universities accept grades in the usual way and that applicants are not disadvantaged by the decision not to hold exams in the June series.

Staying in touch

You can find all our advice on our website at <u>www.cambridgeinternational.org/covid</u> If you have any questions, please get in touch with us via: <u>www.cambridgeinternational.org/help</u>.

Kind Regards,

Mr J Dey Headmaster

