

Update for Cambridge schools - May 6 2020

To all Cambridge International Schools worldwide,

We are writing today with more guidance on the following matters: support for schools; submitting grades; what to do with June 2020 question papers; and university recognition.

We would like to take this opportunity to remind our schools where to find all the Cambridge International [updates](#), [FAQs](#) and [resources](#) related to the arrangements for the June 2020 series. These pages continue to be updated regularly, so please bookmark them for your reference.

Some centres have asked about our plans for the November 2020 series. We are planning for exams to go ahead. At the same time, we all recognise that the covid-19 pandemic will continue to create uncertainty this year, in different countries at different times. We are developing our contingency plans so we can keep teachers and students safe, help students get on with their education, and support schools. We will keep centres up to date in the coming weeks and months.

As always, we thank our school community for your support and send our best wishes.

We will send our next update on 13 May 2020.

Support for schools

We are committed to supporting you through each step of the awarding process for the June 2020 series.

Last week we published our video and guide on gathering and using evidence to set predicted grades. We are now pleased to share with you a new video on predicting grades. The video answers the key questions we are receiving from schools on this topic.

Later this week we will publish a video on rank ordering, covering topics such as ranking large cohorts and ranking school candidates alongside private candidates.

There is an accompanying guide with practical suggestions for determining predicted grades and rank orders which you can download now. You can find these resources on our [Awarding grades for the June 2020 exam series page](#).

Through our blog we continue to share the experiences and reflections of students and teachers during this challenging time, to support your teaching and learning while school is closed:

[Behind the screen: students talk about remote learning](#)

[The inclusive benefits of lockdown learning](#)

[The COVID-19 lockdown and the opportunity to transform education](#)

Submitting grades

We are developing an online system for you to submit your predicted grades and rank orders. The submission window is planned to run from **29 May 2020** until **16 June 2020**. We will provide a range of support on our website, including a 'How to' guide and video. You will be able to access this support and the online system the week before the submission window opens so that you can set up access for the Head of Centre and any teaching staff that need to upload the data.

Exams officers will be able to download a separate .csv file for each syllabus, pre-populated with candidate and syllabus details. They will only need to add the grade and rank order. Many centres will be collating this information already.

To help centres prepare effectively, we want to share with you how and in what order the information will appear on the system. Following the same order and using a .csv spreadsheet to record your predicted grades and rank orders will mean you can upload the information more smoothly. The information will appear in columns in this order:

- centre number
- syllabus code
- candidate number
- candidate name
- date of birth
- predicted grade
- rank.

We will contact you with more information, including a link to the support page, in the week of 18 May.

As scheduled, we will release results for Cambridge IGCSE, O Level, and International AS & A Level on 11 August, and for Cambridge Pre-U on 12 August.

What to do with June 2020 question papers

Some centres have received question papers for Cambridge IGCSE, O Level, and International AS & A Level for the June 2020 series, because we despatched some materials before we decided not to hold exams. Some of those centres have asked if they can open the packets and use the question papers and any accompanying materials to support teaching and learning. We are happy for centres to do this.

We do not require centres to use these question papers to gather evidence from candidates for the June 2020 series. We will publish mark schemes and question papers on the School Support Hub at a later date after the submission window has closed. If you do not wish to use the papers, you can now destroy them – you don't need to return them to us.

University recognition

Our Global Recognitions team is working hard with universities and key stakeholders around the world to explain our process for awarding grades in the June 2020 exam series, and to assure them about the validity and reliability of our awarding standards. Universities are being as flexible as possible to ensure Cambridge International students are not disadvantaged, and we are very encouraged by the responses we have received.

We have received statements of support from a large number of universities in popular destinations, including the UK, US, Canada, China, Australia and South Africa. We have published a selection of these statements on our [website](#) to reassure schools and students. Here are some examples:

- The Russell Group, which represents 24 leading UK universities including Cambridge and Oxford, has confirmed that Cambridge International students can progress to university in the usual way: *‘...students can rest assured that results provided through these [grading] processes will be treated exactly the same as in any other year by our members.’*
- The University of California (UC) System, which consists of nine colleges including UCLA and UC Berkeley, has confirmed that Cambridge International students will continue to receive the same credit as in previous years. UC will continue to award credit for designated Cambridge International A Level subjects passed with grades of A, B or C.
- The University of Toronto has said: *‘Rest assured that changes in grading processes or alternative methods of assessment will not negatively affect an offer of admission we have already made.’*
- The University of New South Wales, Sydney, has said: *‘...there will be no change to our requirements for students completing Cambridge International A Levels.’*

Universities understand that this is an unsettling time for applicants, so they are pleased to address these concerns. In most instances they are contacting offer-holders and applicants directly. Our advice is that students check university websites for regular updates. If students have not heard from their chosen university, they should consider contacting them directly.

Staying in touch

You can find all our advice on our website at www.cambridgeinternational.org/covid

If you have any questions, you can review our frequently asked questions, or contact us via: www.cambridgeinternational.org/help.

We will update schools again on 13 May. We wish everyone in the Cambridge International community well at this difficult time.