

Predicted grades for the May 2021 examination session



What

A predicted grade is a teacher's estimation of the grade a student is likely to achieve in a subject. For May 2021, the IB is strengthening the processes around the allocation of predicted grades.

In a standard examination session predicted grades are used as part of the considerations when we set grade boundaries. Within schools, they can help manage expectations of what students are likely to achieve, which is useful for planning next steps such as university entry. For May 2021 predicted grades will form a key part of how we award grades for students who cannot sit examinations. It is therefore important that predicted grades are as accurate as possible.

This year, the IB will provide each school with a customised distribution of predicted grades for their students, based on previous actual performance at the school. Schools will be asked to use this distribution to guide their teacher submitted predicted grades.

Why

The changes to the processes around predicted grades for May 2021 are intended to help make sure that predicted grades are as accurate and realistic as possible.

Based on our analysis and reflection, we believe that a combination of coursework and predicted grades is the best indicator of students' holistic performance if examinations cannot be sat. However, grade prediction accuracy varies across schools and between subjects within a school. We therefore need to work closely with our schools to strengthen the processes around predicted grade accuracy this year.

Strengthening predicted grade accuracy for all students, along with having coursework that is externally marked, will help us to ensure comparability between students who are taking examinations and those on the non-examination route. It will also allow us to support schools and students more effectively. For example, if students become unable to sit examinations due to school closure, government restrictions or mandated quarantine, the IB will be able to work with schools to ensure that these students have the option to move to a non-examination route.

How

All schools will be provided with a customised distribution of predicted grades for their students.

The IB will provide each school with a customised distribution of predicted grades based on previous actual performance at the school.

Schools will use this distribution to guide their teacher submitted predicted grades. We have created an exceptions process so that schools can ask the IB to review the distributions provided for their students, for example due to a significant change to school context or that they have one or more exceptional students this year.