

4 March 2021

Dear Cambridge International students and families,

### **Update on school-assessed grades for June 2021 - what students need to know**

We know that the Covid-19 pandemic continues to disrupt the lives of students, families and teachers in many parts of the world, and that this is an uncertain and difficult time for you.

We are writing to let you know about some important changes to our June 2021 series.

Our main priority is the safety and wellbeing of staff and students in our schools. We also know that many students have been working hard to prepare for Cambridge International qualifications, and we want to help students to progress with their education in the fairest way possible.

We have decided that in countries, and regions of countries, where government directives mean that exams cannot take place, we will switch from exams to a school-assessed grade approach using student work.

As your school is in one of these countries, you will receive school-assessed grades for your qualifications in this exam series.

### **How will my school calculate my grade?**

Your school will provide you with an assessed grade that reflects the level of achievement you have demonstrated.

Your school will calculate this grade based on a portfolio of three substantial pieces of your work for each syllabus. This portfolio may include past papers, coursework, or other projects that your school has set.

We will ask schools to share details of the processes they have followed while collating your work, and when submitting your grade to us. We will also carry out external quality assurance checks on grades.

### **Will I be disadvantaged by this decision?**

No. Students taking Cambridge International exams will not be systematically advantaged or disadvantaged compared to students whose grades are determined using school assessment. The route a student takes in June 2021 will not determine how hard it is to achieve good grades.

### **Will having a school-assessed grade disadvantage me as I apply for university?**

We continue to work with universities, so they understand our approach for 2021 and can make

informed admission and credit decisions. Very few universities wish to distinguish between exam grades and school-assessed grades when they make decisions about who to admit onto competitive courses. As we receive more information from universities, we will post it on our [recognition webpage](#).

If you have any further questions, please contact your school in the first instance, or see the latest updates on [our website](#).

We wish you the very best.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'C. Özden', with a stylized flourish at the end.

**Christine Özden**

Chief Executive, Cambridge Assessment International Education