

**5 January 2021**

**Further update on International GCSE arrangements for January 2021 and May/June 2021 series**

***January 2021 series***

Following our updates yesterday and earlier today, we would like to share further details about arrangements for the January 2021 International GCSE series. International GCSEs are used by students around the world and, as such, the January examination series will be going ahead.

In recognition of the disruption that students have experienced in this unprecedented year, in terms of setting standards and grading, we intend to carry forward the generosity from May/June 2020 grades to the January 2021 series.

We are conscious that many students who are due to sit International GCSE exams in January will be switching to remote learning in line with new national guidance. Where this is the case, students should attend school to sit examinations in the normal way, provided that you are able to hold examinations in line with the most recent government and public health guidance. You can also find [additional guidance for centres on how to deliver exams safely here](#). If you do not feel able to hold examinations, students will need to defer to the next available series (see below for May/June 2021 arrangements).

In exceptional situations, where a student requires a result from the January series but is unable to attend an examination within the centre, you may invigilate the examination in the student's home according to our requirements. Home invigilation should NOT be used where a student has tested positive for Covid-19 or is self-isolating.

If a student can only sit some of their scheduled exams for a qualification in January 2021, it may still be possible in exceptional cases to award a qualification grade based on these results. To request this, your school should apply for Special Consideration according to the processes outlined on our [special requirements page](#). In all cases, evidence of a valid reason to be absent will be required. The outcome of all special consideration requests is dependent on the different circumstances of each candidate and each case is considered on its own merits. All special consideration requests must be received within 7 days of the last examination of the series.

***May/June 2021 series***

At this time, our intention is to run the May/June 2021 series for International GCSE, as planned. As above, schools should run exams in line with public health guidance.

You will be aware that we consulted with schools at the end of last year to understand which contingency arrangements would be most valued for international qualifications. Based on your feedback, we would like to confirm that Advance Notice will be added to the measures we are making available for International GCSE to support schools and students. Advance Notice provides information about the topics included in exams to help teachers and students focus their revision.

In addition, the compressed timetable will remain in place, as will modifications to select International GCSEs. As in every series, special considerations are available to eligible students. Further details on



these are already available on our [website](#) and we will share more details on Advance Notice in due course.

We appreciate that local circumstances can change at short notice, however we hope that this provides the certainty you need to continue teaching and to support students in their preparation for exams.

We will, as ever, keep arrangements under review and share any further updates for our upcoming exam series as soon as they are available. We remain committed to helping schools manage the ongoing impact of COVID-19. We will continue to share updates via email, social media and on [our website](#). You can also [contact us directly](#) with any queries.

I hope that you, your family, friends and colleagues stay safe and well during these challenging times.

With best wishes,

Sharon Hague  
Senior Vice President, Schools