

Supporting international schools during Coronavirus (COVID-19)



Autumn (October/November) 2020 Exam Series FAQs for students

2020 has been a challenging year for students, parents, teachers and schools, with the closure of schools, cancellation of summer 2020 examinations and ongoing disruption caused by COVID-19. We understand how stressful this has been. While many parts of the world are returning to school, we recognise that students around the world are facing different circumstances depending on the local government guidance in place, including some specific restrictions.

Our priority is to support students, whatever circumstance they face, to continue to move forward with learning, assessment and progression. As such, we are making available an autumn series for our international general qualifications, which will run in October and November 2020. This provides an opportunity to take examinations in 2020, with an exam-based grade. The autumn series for international qualifications are open to all students, and we know that they are particularly important for students who deferred or were not able to receive a grade in the summer series.

Frequently-asked questions

I've missed teaching time this year, and don't feel ready to sit exams. What are my options?

We recognise that some students may not feel ready to enter for exams in October/November due to missed teaching time earlier in the year. If this is your situation, please discuss with your teacher and school who will be able to advise you. If this is not the right time for you, future series will be available in January and summer 2021. [Find out which qualifications are available \(PDF, 0.73 MB\)](#) in autumn 2020 and January 2021 series respectively.

I'm worried that I might not be able to sit exams in October/November. What are my options?

Some students may not be able to sit exams in October/November due to continued school closures through this period. If this is your situation, future series will be available in January and summer 2021.

Some students may experience disruption during the autumn series, due to school closures or local instances of COVID-19 outbreaks. If you experience this situation and have been able to sit some exams during the autumn series, your school may be able to apply for special considerations to receive grades. Please refer to the 'General qualifications for international schools and colleges' accordion, above.

Why are the autumn examinations running? Why aren't Centre Assessment Grades being used for the autumn series, as in summer 2020?

We appreciate that some students may have queries whether the autumn series should apply the Centre Assessment Grade/calculated grade approach from the summer rather than the usual examination approach. The Centre Assessment Grade/calculated grade approach was put in place as a consistent global response to the circumstances of the summer. As education around the world starts to move towards its usual rhythm, examinations are an important part of enabling learners to progress – and we have heard from your feedback this year how critical a return to examinations is. We have added the autumn series as an exceptional series in response to customer feedback requesting that students have the opportunity to receive a qualification grade based on the performance in an examination. If the autumn exam series is not right for you, please do refer to future series and the routes above.

Where can I find out more and get support on 2021?

Lots of information is available via our [website](#) and we will continue to share further details on arrangements for 2021 assessment on our website. If you would like to get in touch with us, please [contact us](#).

Where can I find out more and get support on wellbeing?

Feeling a certain amount of concern or worry is natural when we encounter difficult or unsettling times. We would like to support wherever we can, from mindfulness practice to safeguarding, and are [providing a range of resources suitable for teachers, parents and young people](#). If you are feeling anxious or upset, please remember to always talk to someone. If you are a student, talking to your family/parent/guardian or your close friends can help.

If you can't find the answer to your question, please [contact us](#).