Information for candidates and families about the grading of our exams in 2022

Cambridge International works with schools in over 160 countries. Throughout the pandemic, we have adapted our assessment to make it as fair as possible to students in all sorts of different situations worldwide. In the 2022 exam series, we made available a package of measures to help students affected by different Covid regulations in different countries take exams, including component exemptions, component adjustments and special consideration.

A small proportion of schools moved to our portfolio of evidence route in June and November 2022, because local or national restrictions meant they could not run exams. We have graded portfolios of evidence in the same way that we have graded exams and made sure that standards in the portfolio of evidence are aligned to those of the equivalent exams.

How is Cambridge setting grade standards for 2022?
We continued to consider the impact of Covid disruption on students as we graded 2022 exams. To reflect that we are in a pandemic recovery period, we are moving gradually from the June 2021 standard of school-assessed grades back to the standard of exams in 2019. We are doing that in two equal steps – first in 2022 and again in 2023.

What does that mean?
Grades awarded in 2022 are more generous than those awarded in 2019, and less generous than those awarded in 2021. The standard of exams in 2022 is at the midpoint between the standards of 2021 and 2019.

Setting grade thresholds in 2022
Grade thresholds we chose in 2022 are generally lower than in 2019 and higher than in 2021. Grade thresholds are the minimum number of marks that candidates need to achieve a grade and we set them using a mixture of statistical evidence and our expert judgement.
Aligning our standards with UK qualifications

We align the standard of our qualifications to the standard of similar qualifications in England, so Cambridge International candidates will not be advantaged or disadvantaged by taking our qualifications rather than UK qualifications.

Ofqual provided this guidance on its approach to awarding grades in June 2022. Ofqual have also produced this article, where they explain that November 2022 grading will be aligned with the standard in June 2022.

More information

To find out how we mark and grade exams, visit: www.cambridgeinternational.org/marking-and-grading