

Update on Pearson Edexcel – May/June 2021 Series

Pearson Edexcel Cancels Exams for May/June 2021

Pearson Edexcel has cancelled International GCSE and International AS/A Level exams for the May/June 2021 series.

- This follows the decision by the UK government to cancel GCSEs and A Levels in England
- Pearson has cancelled exams globally - exams are not being sat in any country
- The British Council was not involved in making this decision to cancel Pearson's exams. We will support Schools and private candidates with further information when it becomes available.

Teacher Assessed Grades

Students will instead receive Teacher Assessed Grades from Pearson.

- Teacher Assessed Grades are grades based on the judgement of student's academic ability by a teacher rather than an exam marked by the Awarding Body
- Pearson has yet to decided how their Teacher Assessed Grades will awarded
- Pearson is waiting for Ofqual, the exam regulator in the UK, to confirm how Teacher Assessed Grades will be awarded for GCSEs and A Levels in England before deciding how they will award them for their international exams
- The British Council was not involved in making the decision to award Teacher Assessed Grades. We will support Schools and private candidates with further information when it becomes available.

Please monitor the Pearson website for more updates on Teacher Assessed Grades, and how schools will award them.

Students attending a Pearson School

If you are a student (or your child) is at a Pearson School, then please wait for more information to come from your school regarding Teacher Assessed Grades and how they will affect you. Your school will not have answers to any questions at the moment because the details of the process have not yet been confirmed by Pearson. You will need to register as normal to be eligible for Teacher Assessed Grades. We will inform your school when registration begins next week.

Pearson Exams later in the year

Pearson will offer an additional exam series for International GCSE later this year.

- This information will be posted soon on the Pearson website.

Pearson has confirmed the International AS/A Level October exam series will go ahead as planned.

The British Council will support all schools and private candidates to access these exams.

Private candidates

What should I do now?

For private candidates wishing to receive a Teacher Assessed Grade for International GCSE and International AS/A Levels in May/June 2021:

We recommend that you make an exam entry with a registered Pearson school.

- You will need to look for a Pearson school yourself. We do not hold a list of Pearson Schools, but they can be found by searching on the Internet
- We are working with Pearson to encourage schools to accept private candidates
- If you cannot find a Pearson School who can help you, or if there are no Pearson Schools in your city/country, then you will need to wait until October/November to sit your exams.

Why can't the British Council award Teacher Assessed Grades?

We are unfortunately unable to provide teacher assessed grades because the British Council does not deliver teaching to private candidates directly.

- Teacher Assessed Grades can only be awarded by schools because they deliver teaching to candidates directly
- Please monitor the Pearson website for updates on Teacher Assessed Grades, and how schools will award them to private candidates.

Will Cambridge also cancel their June exams?

- According to their website, Cambridge is currently planning to run their June exam series. Please monitor the Cambridge website for updates on their position.

The British Council does not decide how Teacher Assessed Grades will be awarded so please keep checking the Pearson website for more information and updates.

Please stay safe.