

Update for schools in Pakistan

Friday 4 June 2021

Dear Principal

We announced on 27 May 2021 that we will offer some replacement Cambridge O Level and Cambridge IGCSE exams to both school and private candidates in Pakistan. In this we explained we are not making replacement Cambridge International AS Level exams available. Unlike Cambridge O Level and IGCSE candidates, AS Level candidates can take these exams as part of their A Level studies – either in October/November 2021 or in June 2022 alongside their ‘A2’ exams.

This email contains information about:

1. [Replacement June exams taking place in July/August](#)
2. [June 2021 exam series](#)
3. [November 2021 exam series](#).

Replacement June exams in July/August

What syllabuses are available?

There are 14 syllabuses available. They are listed in the table below.

Candidates will sit one question paper per subject. That one question paper will be a multiple-choice paper where one exists for the syllabus. Multiple choice covers many aspects of the syllabus and can last between 45-75 minutes. Where a syllabus does not have an existing multiple-choice question paper, candidates will sit a question paper that is not multiple-choice. The component(s) and question paper type are shown in the table below. Candidates will receive a syllabus grade based on the one component they sit.

What content from the available syllabuses will be covered?

We have given each of the 14 syllabuses a new syllabus code for the June replacement exams in July/August, these are shown below. The syllabus content remains exactly the same and there are specimen papers for the components listed in the table below on the [School Support Hub](#) under the June 2021 syllabus codes.

New syllabus and component code for replacement exams in July/August	Paper type	June 2021 syllabus code	Question paper referenced in the syllabus
Cambridge IGCSE First Language English (1520/22)	Non-multiple choice	0500	Paper 2
Cambridge IGCSE Mathematics (1521/32, 42)	Non-multiple choice (core and extended)	0580	Paper 3 (core) Paper 4 (extended)
Cambridge IGCSE Biology (1522/12, 22)	Multiple-choice (core and extended)	0610	Paper 1 (core) Paper 2 (extended)
Cambridge IGCSE Chemistry (1523/12, 22)	Multiple-choice (core and extended)	0620	Paper 1 (core) Paper 2 (extended)
Cambridge IGCSE Physics (1524/12, 22)	Multiple-choice (core and extended)	0625	Paper 1 (core) Paper 2 (extended)
Cambridge O Level English Language (3170/12)	Non-multiple choice	1123	Paper 1
Cambridge O Level Mathematics (3171/22)	Non-multiple choice	4024	Paper 2
Cambridge O Level Biology (3172/12)	Multiple-choice	5090	Paper 1
Cambridge O Level Chemistry (3173/12)	Multiple-choice	5070	Paper 1
Cambridge O Level Physics (3174/12)	Multiple-choice	5054	Paper 1
Cambridge O Level Computer Science (3175/12)	Non-multiple choice	2210	Paper 1
Cambridge O Level Accounting (3176/12)	Multiple-choice	7707	Paper 1
Cambridge O Level Business Studies (3177/12)	Non-multiple choice	7115	Paper 1
Cambridge O Level Economics (3178/12)	Multiple-choice	2281	Paper 1

When are the exams?

To give candidates as much time as possible to prepare, exams will take place from 26 July – 2 August 2021. [The full timetable is attached.](#)

Will candidates be automatically moved to the replacement June exams in July/August?

For the 14 available syllabuses, we will work with the British Council to move all entries from the June 2021 exam series to the replacement June exams in July/August. By the end of June you will be able to download statements of entry for the exams from Cambridge International Direct. If you do not want candidates to sit their exam in July/August you need to tell your British Council office by 11 June 2021 at 23:59 UTC+1 so they can arrange withdrawals. To do this complete the attached template and send it to cambridgeschools@britishcouncil.org.pk

Can I make new entries for the replacement June exams in July/August?

It is not possible to make new entries for the exams in July/August - only candidates already entered for the June 2021 exam series will be able to sit one or more replacement exams.

When will results be released?

We are still exploring when we can release results for the replacement June exams in July/August. We will let you know as soon as possible when we can confirm the final date for results release. Results for Cambridge O Levels and Cambridge IGCSEs not included in the replacement exams will also be released at this time. See 'June 2021 exam series' section below.

Cambridge IGCSE Accounting (0452), Economics (0544), Business Studies (0450), and Computer Science (0478)

For any candidates entered for the Cambridge IGCSE syllabuses listed above in the June 2021 series, we will move their entries to the June replacement exams in July/August but we will enter them for the equivalent Cambridge O Level, instead of IGCSE, and they will receive a Cambridge O Level certificate.

The content of these four Cambridge O Level syllabuses and exam papers is the same as the Cambridge IGCSE in the same subject. You can be confident that candidates will be assessed on the material they will have studied as part of their Cambridge IGCSE course. Cambridge IGCSE and Cambridge O Level are equivalent qualifications, grade for grade and the grading standard for the two qualifications is exactly the same. However, the grade set used on the certificates for Cambridge O Level is slightly different from Cambridge IGCSE. Your candidates will receive grades from the A*-E grade set at which Cambridge O Levels are awarded rather than the Cambridge IGCSE grade set which is A* - G.

We have been working towards making the content the same for some of our Cambridge IGCSE and O Level syllabus for several years as part of our standard review process. This process has enabled us to further improve both Cambridge O Level and Cambridge IGCSE and improve progression for all candidates. It also means that schools have access to the same level of support whether they offer Cambridge IGCSE or Cambridge O Level.

If you do not want candidates to sit their exam in July/August you need to tell your British Council office by 11 June 2021 at 23:59 UTC+1 so that we can arrange to withdraw them. To do this complete the attached template and send it to cambridgeschools@britishcouncil.org.pk

Will the results of the specified Cambridge IGCSE and O Level exams be recognised by universities in Pakistan and abroad?

Yes. We will inform universities about our replacement series for Pakistan, including where necessary, a grade based on minimum valid assessment.

June 2021 exam series

We understand that centres and candidates still have questions about components completed during the windowed exam period, or coursework, before exams were cancelled. We have provided some additional information to answer some of your questions.

Can a Cambridge O Level or IGCSE candidate who took at least one component (including windowed exams or coursework) in the June 2021 exam series receive a grade?

If a Cambridge O Level or IGCSE candidate took at least one component (apart from a component that does not have a weighting e.g. an endorsed component) in a syllabus that

is **not** being offered as part of the replacement exams in July/August it may still be possible for them to get a grade.

Cambridge O Levels and Cambridge IGCSEs – for syllabuses not included in the replacement exams in July/August

If a Cambridge O Level or IGCSE candidate took components during the windowed exam, or completed coursework for, at least one eligible component of a syllabus on or before 30 April 2021 but did not have the opportunity to sit, or were exempt from, other components in the same syllabus they can receive a syllabus grade. [The syllabuses where this is possible are listed in the attached document.](#) These candidates do not need to apply for special consideration – we will apply it automatically. These grades will be awarded when we issue results for the replacement June exams.

If a candidate should have completed a coursework component before 30 April 2021 but has not done so, centres must apply for special consideration (coursework-related). Centres must apply for special consideration in these situations, even if the candidate(s) completed an eligible component in the same syllabus before 30 April 2021, otherwise Cambridge will not be able to award a syllabus grade.

Alternatively, if these candidates do not want to receive a grade in the June 2021 series, they can be withdrawn from the syllabus and Cambridge will provide a credit. See below for details of how to withdraw candidates.

Cambridge IGCSE First Language English (0500) - included in the replacement exams in July/August.

Cambridge IGCSE First Language English is being offered as part of the replacement exams in July/August. If a candidate completed the coursework component on or before 30 April 2021, the special consideration process is not available.

We will automatically move all entries from the June 2021 exam series to the replacement exam series in July/August. If you do not want candidates to sit this exam in July/August you need to tell your British Council office by 11 June 2021 at 23:59 UTC+1 so that we can arrange to withdraw them. To do this complete the attached template and send it to cambridgeschools@britishcouncil.org.pk

Withdrawals for Cambridge O Levels and IGCSEs

We previously set a withdrawal deadline of 20 June. To be able to deliver the replacement exams in July/August we have revised this deadline to 11 June.

Candidates can be withdrawn from any syllabus **where they did not take an exam** in the June 2021 series until 11 June 2021. Schools and private candidates should send withdrawal details to their British Council office in time for these to be submitted to us by 11 June 2021 at 23:59 UTC+1. To do this complete the attached template and send it to cambridgeschools@britishcouncil.org.pk

After 11 June 2021 it will not be possible to withdraw candidates and we will assume the candidate(s) requires a grade (if eligible – see details above) for any syllabus they are entered for.

The table below summarises the withdrawal options available, depending on the qualification candidates are entered for:

Qualification	Syllabus being offered as part of replacement exams in July/August?	What do I need to do?
Cambridge IGCSE and/or O Levels	No	We will automatically apply special consideration – absent for an acceptable reason and calculate a syllabus grade for any candidate who submitted an eligible component. If you do not want candidates to receive a calculated grade, withdraw them by contacting your British Council office by 11 June
Cambridge IGCSE First Language English (0500)	Yes	The special consideration process is not available for candidates who completed the coursework component in June 2021. We will transfer their entries to the replacement exam in July/August. If you do not want candidates to sit the exam in July/August, withdraw them by contacting your British Council office by 11 June.
Cambridge IGCSE Accounting (3176), Economics (3178), Business Studies (3177), and Computer Science (3175)	Yes – Cambridge IGCSE entries will be moved to Cambridge O Level equivalent for exams in July/August.	We will disregard any exams and special consideration applications from the June 2021 series and transfer all entries to the replacement exams in July/August. If you do not want candidates to sit an exam in July/August, withdraw them by contacting your British Council office by 11 June.
Cambridge International AS & A Levels	No	For candidates who have sat one eligible component in the June 2021 series, apply for special consideration – absent for an acceptable reason, apply in the usual way. If you do not want candidates to receive a calculated grade, withdraw them by contacting your British Council office by 11 June.

Cambridge International AS & A Levels

For candidates unable to sit one of their Cambridge International AS and/or A Level components before **or** after 30 April, centres must apply for special consideration (absent for an acceptable reason) in the usual way. We will not automatically apply special consideration. If centres are applying for special consideration on behalf of candidates who are asked not to sit their AS Level exams by the Government of Pakistan, they should state this on their application form (Special Consideration: Exam Day - Form 7).

If these candidates sat one or more component but need to apply for special consideration – present but disadvantaged, we must receive applications within 7 days of the last component of the syllabus affected. The results will be released on 10 August 2021.

November 2021 series

What additional Cambridge IGCSE and O Level syllabuses will be available?

In addition to syllabuses normally available we are also making Cambridge O Level First Language Urdu, Cambridge IGCSE Urdu as a Second Language, Cambridge IGCSE Pakistan Studies and Cambridge O Level Global Perspectives available for the November 2021 series. The full timetable is available at www.cambridgeinternational.org/timetables

Will candidates be automatically transferred to November 2021?

We will not 'transfer' a candidate's entry to the November 2021 series. We will process any withdrawals requested for June 2021 and/or the additional exams in July/August and centres would need to re-enter candidates for the November 2021 series at the appropriate time. The deadline for withdrawals from the June 2021 series is 11 June at 23:59 UTC+1. The fees for November 2021 exams series entries will be the same as those for June 2021 so there will be no increase.

What are the entry deadlines for November 2021?

Centres can already make entries for the November 2021 series in the usual way. The British Council's final entries deadline for the November series is 6 August 2021. Their late entries deadline, and final deadline for retake entries from the June 2021 series, is 1 September 2021. The exams run from early-October to mid-November.