

Change in Cambridge International's May/June 2021 examination schedule in Pakistan

Cambridge International AS and A Levels to go ahead as originally timetabled

Cambridge O Level and IGCSE examinations to take place from 10 May 2021

Dear Principals,

As the Federal Minister for Federal Education and Professional Training announced on 25 March 2021, we can confirm that with the help of the federal and provincial governments of Pakistan, we will be holding all Cambridge International AS & A Level examinations as timetabled (starting from 26 April 2021), so that students can progress to the next stage of their education.

We have agreed with the government that we will hold Cambridge O Level and IGCSE exams in Pakistan from 10 May 2021. This will enable many more students to progress and give them a better chance to demonstrate what they have learnt. This means that all Cambridge O Level and IGCSE exams timetabled from 10 May 2021 onwards will be held as per the current timetable.

We are looking at whether we can reschedule any exams that were due to be held before the 10 May to a later date and will update schools as soon as possible.

There is a possibility that the publication of Cambridge O Level and IGCSE results may be delayed, but Cambridge International AS & A Level results will be announced on 10 August 2021. This will enable Cambridge students to secure their university places in Pakistan and overseas.

We are also in touch with provincial education ministries to ensure that the British Council is able to hold exams in all provinces with proper SOPs according to local conditions and government regulations.

We have introduced extensive extra measures to support schools and students by including adjustments to aspects of assessments, and exemptions from components that are difficult to run during the pandemic. We have also expanded our special considerations process to enable students to receive a grade, when for good reason they miss some exams: for example illness, bereavement, temporary injury or disruption to an exam. This also includes any Cambridge O Level and IGCSE exams that students in Pakistan will not be able to sit before 10 May.

The global pandemic has had a huge impact on all of our lives, changing the way we live and work. We know our schools and students around the world and in Pakistan, have been working incredibly hard, often in very difficult circumstances, to overcome the many challenges the pandemic has brought.

My team and I, along with colleagues across Cambridge International, have been working hard with the help of the government of Pakistan, to make sure that our young people can progress with their education in the fairest possible way despite the challenges. Adjusting the May/June 21 exam series timetable, adding many extra exam support measures and giving students the opportunity to change their entries to October/November 2021 exam series, are just some of the steps we are taking to help our schools and students. I would like to wish all our students the very best of luck in their upcoming exams.

We will not switch to school-assessed grades; therefore, it is important that students continue their preparation for their exams.

If some parents/students do not feel comfortable about taking exams in May/ June 2021 they will have the option to withdraw their exams entries from the May/June 2021 series and sit their exams in a future Cambridge exam series, for example October/November 2021. Cambridge and British Council will provide a full refund of the fees already paid where parents/students wish to make such withdrawals. The deadline for withdrawing entries and procedure for fee reimbursement will be communicated to our schools and private candidates through the British Council shortly.

I would like to take this opportunity to reassure you that our associate in Pakistan, the British Council, is aware of local government regulations and health advice. When running the Cambridge May/June 2021 exams, it has assured us they will follow all the government's safety measures, as well as its own stringent internal safety protocols. Working together we will ensure that the May/June 2021 exam series takes place safely for all Cambridge students in Pakistan.

If you have any questions, please contact the British Council by emailing cambridgeschools@britishcouncil.org.pk.

Sincerely,

Uzma Yousuf



Country Director, Pakistan
Cambridge Assessment International Education