

IB EXAMS (2021) CHANGES DUE TO COVID-19 (coronavirus)

Information for May 2021 examination session

Will the IB make any changes to the M21 exams?

In response to unprecedented disruptions to school communities, the IB has convened COVID-19 Response Teams representing the perspectives of regional educators, university recognition, global accreditation bodies as well as teaching, learning and assessment experts. These response teams are working together to ensure that decisions about the May 2021 assessment session are informed by principles of fairness and compassion to avoid putting undue stress on students during this challenging time.

While these decisions are complex given the global complexity of the present context, their aim is clear: to protect the health and safety of students, parents and teachers.

The IB will continue to update schools with timely guidance ahead of the May 2021 session. Please check back regularly for updates.

Adaptations: at a glance

What has changed for Diploma Programme (DP) (CP) and Career-related Programme for May 2021?

There are adaptations to each subject group and area in the DP and CP for the May 2021 session. Adaptations consist of a range of approaches including:

- Amendments to assessment components and requirements
- Removal of components or requirements
- The use of in-session mitigations

Some subjects or areas may indicate more than one adaptation.

More details: https://www.ibo.org/globalassets/programme-information/dp/overview_of_adaptations_for_m21_session_for_the_diploma_and_career_related_programmes_final_11082020.pdf

Why are there changes for May 2021?

Adaptations are intended to address disruptions associated with COVID-19 (coronavirus) by ensuring more manageable, practical, achievable teaching and learning experiences in advance of the May 2021 session.

Schools and teachers are encouraged to incorporate these adaptations in their planning and delivery as appropriate to their needs and contexts. This may include, for instance, re-prioritizing time and resources to best meet the needs of their students as well as the different demands of each subject or programme area.

How were changes for May 2021 decided?

In consultation with educators, examiners and experts from each global region, the IB carefully made appropriate and targeted amendments without compromising the quality, validity and reliability of the DP and CP experience.

This approach is intended to ensure the best possible coverage of aims and objectives at a subject level while maintaining breadth and depth across both programmes as a whole.

The subject I teach indicates no adaptations. Does this mean IB is taking no action?

For some subjects it was not possible to make advance adaptations without compromising the validity, reliability, or session-to-session comparability of the assessment. In these subjects, the IB will be applying in-session mitigations.

What are "in-session mitigations"?

In-session mitigations include a range of strategies that may be implemented during the marking, standardization and grade awarding processes to ensure fair outcomes for students. In-session mitigations are tailored to the unique circumstances of each session; the IB uses them, where appropriate, during all examination sessions. For more information please refer to *Assessment principles and practices—Quality assessments in a digital age*. In-session mitigations are carried out by the IB.

An examination or component in my subject is not listed in the adaptations. Has it changed?

If a component is not listed in the document *Updates for 2020-21 Learning, Teaching and Assessment* for an examination or component, its structure, approach and objectives remain unchanged. However, weightings relative to the entire subject's

More details: https://www.ibo.org/globalassets/programme-information/dp/overview_of_adaptations_for_m21_session_for_the_diploma_and_career_related_programmes_final_11082020.pdf



assessment model may be amended to address COVID-19 (coronavirus) associated disruptions. These types of adaptations are discussed below.

Will content from a removed or amended examination be moved to another exam in the same subject?

No, exams will not be redesigned to include material from a component that has been adapted or removed.

Why hasn't IB taken the same approach across all subjects?

Each DP/CP subject and component is unique and designed to meaningfully address distinct aims and objectives. As such, subjects and components consist of a variety of curriculum and assessment approaches. This variability is reflected in the range of adaptations.

This variety in design, combined with the stated objectives of our interventions above, led to the decision to take a subject-by-subject, component-by-component approach to adaptations, rather than a uniform approach across subjects or components.

Making changes in this way will not compromise the validity and reliability of that assessment and allows us to ensure assessment objective coverage at a subject level, while maintaining breadth and depth of learning across the whole programme.

Why not just run the May 2021 session as usual?

The unprecedented disruption to teaching and learning required intervention to allow schools and teachers to plan and deliver more manageable, practical and achievable teaching and learning experiences in advance of the May 2021 session.

More details: https://www.ibo.org/globalassets/programme-information/dp/overview_of_adaptations_for_m21_session_for_the_diploma_and_career_related_programmes_final_11082020.pdf

Source: <https://www.ibo.org/news/news-about-the-ib/covid-19-coronavirus-updates/#m21-examination>

More details: https://www.ibo.org/globalassets/programme-information/dp/overview_of_adaptations_for_m21_session_for_the_diploma_and_career_related_programmes_final_11082020.pdf