

UK international
school qualifications

Frequently Asked Questions for private candidates

[www.britishcouncil.org/exam/
partnerschools](http://www.britishcouncil.org/exam/partnerschools)





**UK international school
qualifications can unlock
opportunities for
students worldwide.**

Welcome

If you are a student registering with the British Council to sit for UK international school qualifications this FAQs guide will help you.

Your questions answered:

General Information

Question

What international school exams can I sit at the British Council?

Answer

The British Council delivers international school exams for private candidates on behalf of three UK-based awarding bodies: Cambridge International Education, OxfordAQA and Pearson Edexcel.

You can learn more about the awarding bodies, their qualifications and the subjects they offer from their websites:

Cambridge International Education:

<https://www.cambridgeinternational.org/>

OxfordAQA:

<https://www.aqa.org.uk/qualifications>

Pearson Edexcel:

<http://qualifications.pearson.com/en/home.html>

Question

When are these exams available?

Answer

Cambridge's IGCSE, O Level and AS/A Level exams can be sat in May/June and October/November.

Pearson Edexcel's International GCSE and International Advanced Levels can be sat in May/June and October/November.

You can also sit International Advanced Levels in January.

OxfordAQA's International GCSE and International Advanced Levels can be sat in May/June. You can also sit International GCSE in October/November, and International Advanced Levels in January.

You can learn more about the awarding bodies, their qualifications and the subjects they offer from their websites:

Cambridge International Education:

<https://www.cambridgeinternational.org/>

OxfordAQA:

<https://www.aqa.org.uk/qualifications>

Pearson Edexcel:

<http://qualifications.pearson.com/en/home.html>

General Information

Question

How do I register for these exams?

Answer

You can register and pay for your exams through the British Council's School Registration System (SRS).

Question

Can I register for these exams if I'm under 18 years old?

Answer

No. A parent/guardian must register you if you're under 18 years old. Please follow the instructions on the School Registration System (SRS) carefully to ensure the registration is accepted.

Question

Are there any age restrictions to sit these exams?

Answer

The awarding bodies and the British Council don't impose any age restrictions to sit these exams.

Question

Are there any other eligibility requirements?

Answer

In some countries the Ministry of Education only allows private candidates if certain conditions are met. Please check the School Registration System (SRS) link for the country where you're registering.

Question

Are all subjects available to private candidates?

Answer

No, not all subjects are available to private candidates. You can find a full list of the subjects available on the School Registration System (SRS).

General Information

Question

Does the British Council provide any teaching or educational support for these exams?

Answer

No, the British Council doesn't provide any teaching or educational support for these exams.

Question

How many subjects do I need to sit for university admission?

Answer

Please check with the university for information about the subjects and grades needed for admission.

Question

Where can I find the syllabus, past exam papers and other resources to help me prepare for my exams?

Answer

The subject syllabus, past exam papers and other resources are available on the awarding bodies' websites.

Question

Is it possible to transfer my registration to a new Centre in the same series?

Answer

Yes. You can request a transfer at the Centre you first registered with. They will then process the transfer once they receive approval from the new Centre.

Question

Can you recommend books, tutors or resources for preparation?

Answer

The British Council is unable to provide recommendations about teaching or educational support for these exams.

General Information

Question

What are access arrangements?

Answer

Access arrangements are for candidates with special educational needs, disabilities or temporary injuries/illnesses.

Question

How do I apply for access arrangements?

Answer

If you're eligible for an access arrangement, you can submit an application to the British Council to forward to the awarding body. You must provide a valid medical certificate to support your application.

Question

I applied for access arrangements in a previous series. Do I need to apply again?

Answer

Yes. You must submit a new application for access arrangements for each exam series. Approval for access arrangements can't be carried forward from a previous series.

Exam Registration

Question

How do I register and pay for exams?

Answer

You can register and pay for your exams through the British Council's School Registration System portal.

Question

How soon after registering must I make my payment?

Answer

You must make your payment before the deadline shown on the School Registration System (SRS) or the registration won't be submitted to the awarding body.

Question

What identification documents do I need to register for an exam?

Answer

A valid passport or national ID is acceptable for registration.

Question

Can I register to sit exams at my school and the British Council in the same series with the same awarding body?

Answer

You can register to sit exams at two different centres during the same series with the same awarding body, but not for the same subjects.

Question

Can I change the payment method that I originally selected?

Answer

Yes, you can change the payment method on the School Registration System (SRS).

Exam Registration

Question

Can I register for more than one qualification with multiple awarding bodies in the same series?

Answer

Yes, you can register for more than one qualification with multiple awarding bodies in the same series. For example, a candidate can sit Cambridge A Level Physics and Pearson IAL Physics in the same series.

Question

Can I register for the same subject in different qualifications with the same awarding body?

Answer

You can't register for the same subject in different qualifications with the same awarding body. For example, a candidate can't sit Cambridge IGCSE Physics and Cambridge A Level Physics in the same series.

Question

Can I amend my registration?

Answer

Yes, you can make changes, but any amendments made after the registration deadline on the School Registration System (SRS) will incur a late fee.

Question

Can I register after the published deadline?

Answer

Yes, you can still register, but registrations made after the deadline on the School Registration System (SRS) will incur a late fee.

Exam Day Experience

Question

What documents must I bring to the exam?

Answer

You must bring and show the following documents:

- a hard copy of your Statement of Entry (SoE)
- a valid passport or National ID.

Candidates who can't present these documents risk not being allowed to sit the exam.

Question

Can I present a different ID from the one used to register on the School Registration System (SRS)?

Answer

Yes, you can present a valid passport or national ID that's not the one you used for registering on the School Registration System (SRS).

Question

When will I receive my Statement of Entry (SoE) and Venue Letter?

Answer

You need to collect your Statement of Entry (SoE) and Venue Letter from the British Council two to three weeks before the start of the exam series.

You'll receive a confirmation SMS and/or email saying that the documents are ready, and you must then collect them within three working days.

Question

What documents must I bring to the exam?

Answer

It's important that you bring a hard copy of your Statement of Entry (SoE) and a valid passport or national ID.

Exam Day Experience

Question

Do I need to bring any stationery to the exam?

Answer

Make sure you check the subject syllabus and Venue Letter so that you know what materials to bring to the exam. The British Council doesn't provide any stationery for exams.

Question

Can someone else collect the Statement of Entry (SoE) and Venue Letter from the British Council on my behalf?

Answer

A parent/guardian can be authorised to collect these documents as long as they present a valid passport or national ID.

Question

What happens if I have a timetable clash on the day of the exam?

Answer

You'll sit both exams consecutively, with a 10-minute supervised break between the exams.

During the supervised break, you won't be allowed to leave the examination venue, communicate with other candidates or have access to the internet.

Question

What is special consideration?

Answer

Special consideration is a post-exam adjustment made to a candidate's mark by the awarding body to allow for any adverse circumstances faced by the candidate on the day of the exam, for example illness, bereavement, temporary injury or disruption to an exam.

Exam Day Experience

Question

How can I apply for special consideration?

Answer

If you think you're eligible for special consideration, you can submit an application to the British Council to forward to the awarding body. You must provide a valid medical certificate to support your application.

Question

What happens if I'm absent for an exam component?

Answer

If missing an exam component is unavoidable, in some circumstances the awarding body may agree to award an overall grade based on your marks in the other papers. You must provide a valid medical certificate to support your application.

Question

What happens if I'm absent for all the exam components?

Answer

If you're forced to miss all exam components for a subject, the awarding body won't award a grade under any circumstances.

Question

What happens if an exam is cancelled?

Answer

In the rare event that an exam is cancelled, the awarding body may decide to provide candidates with an overall grade based on their marks in the other components.

Post Exams Results and Grades

Question

When will my results be issued?

Answer

The awarding bodies post results online approximately six weeks after the exam series. Hard-copy Statements of Results can be collected from the British Council soon afterwards.

Question

How can I access my results online?

Answer

You'll receive access to your results from the British Council.

Question

What is the grading system for UK international school qualifications?

Answer

Details about grading are available on the awarding bodies' websites and can be found on the back of each Statement of Results and certificate.

Question

What does 'RESULT PENDING' mean?

Answer

'RESULT PENDING' indicates that a result can't be issued at present but will follow in due course. 'RESULT PENDING' is reported on the Statement of Results but not on the certificate.

Question

What does 'UNGRADED' mean?

Answer

'UNGRADED' indicates that a candidate hasn't reached the standard required to achieve a grade. 'UNGRADED' is reported on the Statement of Results but not on the certificate.

Post Exams Results and Grades

Question

What does 'NO RESULT' mean?

Answer

'NO RESULT' indicates that a result can't be issued because the candidate was absent for one of the components. 'NO RESULT' is reported on the Statement of Results but not on the certificate.

Question

Can I appeal my results?

Answer

Yes, candidates can appeal their results. The awarding bodies charge a fee for this service, which is refunded if the overall grade improves. Currently only result enquiries related to Cambridge can be applied directly through the School Registration System (SRS). Pearson and OxfordAQA call it RoMM (Review of Marking and Moderation). You will need to contact the British Council to request this service on your behalf.

Question

How long does the result enquiry process take?

Answer

Result enquiries take between six and eight weeks.

Question

If I want to improve my result, can I sit the exam again?

Answer

Yes, you can resit any exam the next time it's available.

Question

If I resit an exam, does the highest grade count?

Answer

Yes, if you resit an exam, the highest grade counts.

Post Exams Results and Grades

Question

What's the difference between a Statement of Results and a certificate?

Answer

The Statement of Results contains provisional results, which allows you to request a result enquiry from the awarding body. The certificate contains the final confirmed result.

Question

Can someone else collect my results on my behalf?

Answer

Only a parent/guardian can collect results on your behalf. They must bring a valid ID, an authorisation letter from you and your Statement of Entry (SoE).

Question

Do awarding bodies provide more than one original certificate?

Answer

No. Awarding bodies will only provide one original certificate.

Question

What must I bring when I collect my Statement of Results and certificate?

Answer

When collecting your Statement of Results and certificate, you must bring a valid form of ID.

Question

How long does the British Council keep the Statement of Results and certificate?

Answer

The British Council keeps Statements of Results and certificates for one year. If you don't collect them during that time, you have to request replacements from the awarding body.

Post Exams Results and Grades

Question

Does the British Council attest or verify Statements of Results or certificates?

Answer

The British Council doesn't provide this service.

Question

Will the awarding bodies issue a replacement certificate if my name's incorrect?

Answer

No. Certificates and certifying statements can't be changed.

Question

Do the awarding bodies issue a replacement certificate if the original is lost or not collected?

Answer

No. However, you can request a certifying statement directly from the awarding body.

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