

The IB made the difficult decision to cancel the May 2020 examinations due to the COVID-19 pandemic. In this exceptional session the IB has been able to award grades to Diploma Programme and Career-related Programme students based on their coursework, their predicted grades and historic data.

For the subjects where students would normally sit exams, historic data was analysed to find the global relationship between coursework marks, predicted grades and final subject marks. The IB has used this calculation in the May 2020 session to estimate the final subject marks candidates would have got if the exams had gone ahead, using this session's coursework marks and predicted grades.

In addition, the IB has carried out examiner marking of most of the coursework that is usually marked by teachers, instead of taking samples and applying moderation factors. This is to maximise the confidence that every student will receive a fair mark for their coursework, by the IB having seen at least one piece of work from every student in providing a final grade.

The IB knows that all students have been affected in some way by the COVID-19 pandemic. Using the calculated marks, the IB has been able to carry out grade awarding to align this year's outcomes with previous years' outcomes.

The IB is confident that it has awarded grades in the fairest and most robust way possible in the absence of exams, and the grades awarded in May 2020 are of equal value to the grades awarded in any other year. This level of confidence means that the Diploma Programme and Career-related Programme certification documents awarded to students for the May 2020 session will look exactly the same as any other session.