



Cambridge and Edexcel Exams – Frequently Asked Questions published on 11/04/2020

Q1: What is the structure of the MOCK EXAM? Is it going to be the same as the Cambridge/Edexcel/ and the previous years' MIS mock exams with the same number of papers/timing per subject? Are the tests unified for all subjects?

A: Cambridge and Edexcel are not recommending the schools to conduct the mock exam in the same pattern of the final exams. Mock exam is one of the evaluation criteria to collect the set of evidence along with the assignments. So, the mock exams would **NOT** be in the same pattern of the finals and will be conducted **online**. It could be a single paper alone or a combination of papers/topics. Mock exam will be designed as a **Multiple-Choice Test with a duration of 30 to 45 mins for all the subjects except languages (English & Arabic)**. For languages, the duration and type of questions will be intimated later.

A detailed communication regarding the content and technical details of the online platform will be released soon. However, **the portion will be reduced significantly for all the subjects.**

Q2: How is the calculated grade decided?

A:

- Mock Test - 30%
- Assignments - 30%
- Portfolio (Previous School Evaluations) – 30%
- Conduct and Attendance – 10%

Q3: Does the previous results affect the calculated grade?

A: MIS won't consider a candidate's previous exam results (Oct/Nov or January exams). But both the exam bodies will consider the previous results of the candidates while awarding the final grade. Cambridge will consider the results obtained in AS Level for A Level candidates and grades in previous sittings for candidates re-taking exams. Being a modular system, Edexcel will consider the results obtained in previous sittings.

Q4: When is the mock exam going to start?

A: The mock exam window is from April 26 to May 20, 2020. The mock timetable will be set to conduct within this time frame.



Q5: Can the repeating students join the online sessions from now on, so as to allow the teachers to gather the evidence?

A: Yes, they can join the online sessions after consulting with the concerned teachers and the Head of Sections.

Q6: Why is the decision on MIS evaluation strategy delayed?

A: It was NOT delayed as the Cambridge update was released in the late hours of April 1 and the Edexcel on April 3. The very next day we started discussions with the Heads of Sections and Departments for devising the strategic plan. The parents' circular was issued within 48 hours after reaching the conclusions based on both the updates.

Q7: How about IGCSE English/Arabic exams where Speaking test is involved? Will there be speaking test? If Yes, will it be considered as an evidence?

A: Yes, we are planning to include the Speaking test as an item of evidence. As a part of our new strategy, speaking tests would be conducted via Zoom to assess the students' language proficiency since it can be presented as a solid evidence in the form of a voice note.

Q8: When is the timetable for Mock exam going to be published?

A: The timetable is attached with this FAQ released on Saturday, 11 April 2020.

Q9: When is the deadline for a candidate to withdraw from the May/June 2020 series?

What is the procedure of withdrawal?

A: The deadline for Cambridge is before 17 April and for Edexcel it is before 21 April. If you have decided to withdraw the entries from May/June series, kindly send a request with the name of the student and subjects to misbritishexams@gmail.com. Each student has to send the withdrawal request individually. You will get an acknowledgement of the withdrawal in reply immediately once the board confirm the same. We will not refund the money immediately due to the safety precautions of COVID-19 pandemic. Instead, the money will remain with the school and the students can use it to register for Cambridge November series from mid-May or Edexcel January series in October. Students who wish to take the refund in cash, have to wait until the restrictions are over.



Q10: Are the HOSs & Supervisors alone going to grant 10% of Conduct and Attendance?

A: Yes

Q11: What is the evaluation procedure (including the portfolio) for the regular/former students who are not attending regular classes with our teaching faculty, but have registered for the May/June exam series?

A: Considering the situation we are going through; the school management has decided to support our students as much as possible. But we recognise that we might **NOT** be able to find enough evidence for the candidates registered for the subjects that are **NOT** being taught at MIS (French, History, Human Biology, Computer Science etc.).

When a regular student or a former student of MIS is registered for a subject which is being offered at MIS but NOT attending regular classes for the same, the concerned faculty will be asked to assist those students as special cases and include them in the mocks and request them to submit the required assignments. Those candidates are advised to contact the concerned faculty members for further information and guidance.

Q12: Does the school keep any plans to hold an online meeting with parents and students of each grade level to express their concerns and clear their doubts?

A: No, because we believe that the FAQs provided would be fair enough for the parents and students to clear their doubts.

Q13: What are the documents to be collected to include in the PORTFOLIO?

A: Any classwork/homework/lab reports/assignments/test papers/projects that were done through the academic year and authenticated by the subject teachers which could be submitted to the exam boards upon requirement.

Q14: Does Cambridge provide any communication to the parents in this regard?

A: Yes, kindly refer the attached communication from Cambridge to parents.

Q15: Is the mock exam compulsory for all the registered candidates?

A: Yes, it is **compulsory** for all the students in the British section including the candidates who are planning to withdraw the entries from May/June 2020 series. It is mandatory as per the Ministry of Education and the other official authorities in UAE. The mock results will be recorded on school report cards for Term 3 so that students can progress to the next level and also it is vital for the Grade 12 students in obtaining the relevant documents.



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Q16: If a student is unhappy with the mock exam results, can he/she withdraw from May/June series and register for Oct/Nov or January series.

A: No, this question itself is irrelevant as both the boards strictly advise the schools not share any results/grades to the students after the evaluation. The results will be directly sent to the boards and they will award standardised grades to the candidates.

Q17: If the results of this series are unsatisfactory for a candidate, can he/she register for the Oct/Nov 2020 (Cambridge) and January 2021 (Edexcel) after the results are announced in August 2020?

A: Yes, normally, the registration for Oct/Nov series starts immediately after publishing the results in August (Cambridge). For January series (Edexcel), the registration starts by early October. But, this year, due the unprecedented situation, Cambridge alone gave an option to start the registration by mid-May.