

Dear Principal/ School Leader,

Following the release of Cambridge International AS and A Level results, we are aware that some students in Pakistan are unhappy with their results, saying that their grades are lower than expected and do not correspond to previous results at Cambridge IGCSE or O Level. Students have also expressed concerns about the fairness of their calculated grades where exam components were missed due to the exam cancellations of 10-12 May.

To help students understand the context around their results, we are writing to remind schools how Cambridge International standards and grading have been applied for the June 2023 series. We also want to reassure students about the reliability of calculated grades.

### **How June 2023 grades compare with previous years**

During the past few years, the pandemic has disrupted exams and led to changes to the standards of Cambridge qualifications.

Like other exam boards, Cambridge International has been moving the standard of Cambridge qualifications back to the pre-pandemic standard of 2019 in gradual steps. This year's standard has returned to the standard of 2019, which means that a student who would have achieved a grade A in 2019 will be just as likely to get an A in 2023. Students all around the world have seen this return to the 2019 standard.

You can find more information on Cambridge International website page [Standards and grading in 2023](#), including a graph that shows how the standard has changed since 2020.

### **Assessed marks and calculated grades**

It is upsetting and frustrating when a student is not able to take all their exam components for reasons beyond their control. Cambridge International has well-established processes for awarding results to students in these circumstances. Calculated grades make sure that students are not given an advantage or disadvantage compared to the students who were able to take the exam. Few students would choose this method for awarding their result, which we entirely understand – but in these difficult circumstances, calculated grades are the best option to help students progress to the next stage of their education.

Cambridge International is confident that their results are reliable where assessed grades are used, and this is recognised and accepted as such by higher education institutions and employers worldwide. There is a full explanation of the process on Cambridge International website [Link](#).

We hope that this information helps reassure students that their results are valid and reliable. If a student has specific concerns about an exam result, they must raise these with their school so that the school can submit an [Enquiry About Results](#).

Congratulations to all students that have completed their exams despite the challenging circumstances that they have experienced this year. Thank you for your ongoing support.

Regards,

**British Council**