

1 April, 2021

Dear Private Candidate

Special Notice to Private Candidates about Pearson's upcoming May/June 2021 series – updated information

Thank you for contacting the British Council. We would like to share the latest information on arrangements for private candidates.

As you may know, Pearson will not run their International GCSE and International AS/A Level exams in the May/June 2021 series. Instead, they will offer an alternative assessment approach. More information can be found [here](#). We encourage you to visit Pearson's website for further updates about these alternative arrangements.

British Council runs Pearson exams around the world. For the May/June 2021 series, Pearson will be providing 'unseen test papers' to all British Council test centres delivering their International GCSE and International A level. These papers will follow the same topics, question styles, number of marks, and time length, as students would usually experience.

British Council will run these tests on a defined date, under highly controlled test conditions. The completion of these unseen tests through the British Council will be sufficient for candidates to get a grade, so private candidates are welcome to make their entries.

After the tests, British Council will securely return the papers to Pearson for marking. Results will be issued on the 10th (International A Level) and 12th August (International GCSE).

What should I do now?

If you wish to receive grades for International GCSE and International AS/A Levels in May/June 2021:

- Please make your entry with the British Council in the usual way.
- To make sure that private candidates have sufficient time to make entries for International qualifications, late fees for private candidates will be waived.

Pearson has announced an additional exam series for a selection of International GCSE subjects (tbc) later this year, and has confirmed their International AS/A Level October exam series will go ahead as planned. The British Council will support private candidates to sit these exams, if they choose this option.

Kind regards, and please stay safe.

The British Council