

ENIC NARIC Networks Compilation on the situation of upper secondary school leaving qualifications due to the Covid-19 - March 2021

Updated on:	Country	Will this year's upper secondary graduates receive a final diploma? If yes, when?	Will the final diploma have either a calculated grade point average or calculated grades in each subject?	Are there any consequences for admission to higher education in your country for this year's graduates?	Other Comments
18/03/21	Armenia	Yes, in June	Yes, it will have both.	It will need special organisation of the admission process depending on the pandemic situation.	
11/04/21	Cambridge International GCSE og GCE AS- and A-levels (UK)	<p>Our priority is delivering exams safely and fairly, allowing learners to progress.</p> <p>We plan for exams to go ahead in June 2021 where it is permitted and safe. We know this is the fairest and most accurate way of assessing candidates' performance.</p> <p>In countries, and regions of countries, where government directives mean that exams cannot take place, we are switching from exams to school-assessed grades using student work, so that students can progress despite the impact of the pandemic. You can find more information on our school-assessed grades page.</p>	<p>Where exams cannot take place, we are switching from exams to school-assessed grades using student work, so that students can progress despite the impact of the pandemic.</p> <p>Overview of our approach:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. We will ask schools to provide an assessed grade based on the level of achievement that each student has demonstrated. 2. To assess this grade, schools should identify a portfolio of three substantial pieces of work from each student in every syllabus. 3. Schools will be asked to submit grades to Cambridge International between mid-May and late June. 4. We will ask schools to share details of the internal quality assurance processes they have followed while collating portfolios of student work, and when submitting assessed grades. <p>Cambridge International will also carry out external quality assurance checks on grades.</p> <p>As we approach the late entry deadline of 17 April, it is harder for us to switch countries or regions from exams to school-assessed grades, given the processes for schools and ourselves.</p> <p>After 17 April, we will not be able to switch a country or region to school-assessed grades.</p>	<p>In setting exam standards, we take very seriously our responsibility to make sure students are assessed fairly and can progress with their education. Exams offer consistent, reliable and fair measurement of attainment, and we have highly effective processes for managing standards in the grades from exams. We will manage standards in 2021 with the aim of ensuring that grades are comparable whichever route a student takes.</p>	<p>We continue to work with universities, so they understand our approach for 2021 and can make informed admission and credit decisions.</p> <p>Universities will evaluate applications fairly from all students whether their work is assessed by exams or by teacher assessment. Universities are aware that they need to provide students with reassurance about this. As we receive information from universities, we will post it on our recognition webpage. More information here: https://www.cambridgeinternational.org/covid/</p>
11/03/21	Canada	<p>In Canada, responsibilities over education are at the provincial and territorial level. As such, there are 13 provincial and territorial education systems, with detailed information accessible on the Canadian Information Centre for International Credentials (CICIC) Education portal [http://Education.cicic.ca]. More specifically on the possible impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the 2019-2020, as well as the 2020-2021 school year (e.g., secondary school examinations, admission to postsecondary studies, school attendance and mode of delivery), each provincial and territorial may have published information on their respective websites.</p> <p>As such, CICIC would recommend that recognition bodies:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. identify the specific province/territory where the academic credential you have been presented was issue to an individual; 2. consult the specific provincial/territorial website for pertaining and detailed information; 3. consult CICIC directly if you have any additional questions. <p>To assist this process, CICIC's Education portal has individual provincial/territorial landing webpages, where recognition bodies can begin their research:</p> <p>AB: https://www.cicic.ca/1131/alberta.canada BC: https://www.cicic.ca/1132/british_columbia.canada MB: https://www.cicic.ca/1133/manitoba.canada NB: https://www.cicic.ca/1134/new_brunswick.canada NL: https://www.cicic.ca/1135/newfoundland_and_labrador.canada NT: https://www.cicic.ca/1136/northwest_territories.canada NS: https://www.cicic.ca/1137/nova_scotia.canada NU: https://www.cicic.ca/1143/nunavut.canada ON: https://www.cicic.ca/1138/ontario.canada PE: https://www.cicic.ca/1139/prince_edward_island.canada QC: https://www.cicic.ca/1140/quebec.canada SK: https://www.cicic.ca/1141/saskatchewan.canada YK: https://www.cicic.ca/1142/yukon.canada</p> <p>If you were not able to locate the information or have further questions, do not hesitate to contact CICIC directly [https://www.cicic.ca/1119/contact_us.canada] to get information on the education systems in Canada.</p>			

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05/03/21	Czech Republic	Date of validity of information of the 5th of March 2021. Yes, students in the fields of education with a school-leaving examination and other fields of education will receive a certificate of completion of education at upper secondary graduates (EQF 4). In the case the fields of education with a school-leaving examination (maturitní zkouška), graduates will receive a school-leaving certificate (vysvědčení o maturitní zkoušce). We expect that pupils actually receive it at the end of June (for now), However, students who have to take practical exams which can be held by the 27th of August 2021, will receive the school - leaving examination certificate later. However, the situation can change due to epidemiological situation.	For now, we assume that students will pass the school-leaving examination (maturitní zkouška). Although it will be in a modified form. We do not expect that we will undergo the calculated grade point average. However, the situation can change due to epidemiological situation.	Due to COVID-19 pandemic, the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports of the Czech Republic prepared the Amendment on the Higher Education Act (No. 111/1998 Coll.) adding a new paragraph which gives a special authorisation to the Higher Education Institution in Emergency Situation - § 95b. The amendment of Higher Education Act (No. 495/2020 Coll.), which was adopted by the Parliament and came into effect on the 1st of January 2021, enables the Higher Education Institutions to be operative and flexible in emergency and crisis situations and gives the foreign students the legal support in the sphere of recognition of foreign education when they are about to complete their education during emergency situation abroad. The amendment introduced the option of setting a deadline of 90 days from registration for study for the submission of evidence of qualification obtained such as diplomas or other certificates. Moreover, the Amendment to the Act on Higher Education § 95a the universities to deviate from normal practice in emergency situations. For example, the universities can conduct tuition and exams remotely, as well as modify the timetable of the academic year and conditions for admission procedures, method of verification, form, general content or criteria for evaluation for admission. The university or faculty shall publish information on changes pursuant to paragraph § 95a 1 at least 15 days before the date of verification of the fulfillment of the conditions for admission to study. The Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports issued a resolution for all Higher Education Institutions on the 4th of January 2021 which gives the universities the full power to apply its authority in emergency situation until 31st of March 2021, the Ministry now prepare the prolongation of the resolution by the 30th of September 2021 due to critical epidemiological situation in the Czech Republic.	
10/03/21	Denmark	Yes, 5 July at the latest, and normally before the end of June.	Yes	No	There will be four examinations of which written Danish is compulsory. The other three may vary but the third and final examination must be oral. Under normal circumstances there are between seven and nine examinations. In the subjects with no examination the marks for the entire year's work will be converted into examination marks.
10/03/21	Estonia	Yes, at the end of June 2021.	Calculated grades in each subject. No grade point average.	No	It is under discussion to postpone some final examinations, but the examinations will take place anyway.
15/03/21	Finland	Yes, the upper secondary school graduates will receive their diplomas at the same time as every year, that is at the end of May. The aim is to enable upper secondary graduates to finish their studies and get the results and diplomas at the same time as every year. The results will be available to Finnish higher education institutions electronically when the results are published. However, if handing out the diplomas in person will not be possible on the graduation day due to the covid-19 situation, the diplomas will be mailed to the graduates.	In Finland, GPA is not used, and there is no change to previous years. Like previous years, grades with their definitions are stated both in the matriculation examination certificate and in the general upper secondary education certificate.	The application process and admission are arranged the same way than previous years, as far as possible. The centralized application system Studyinfo https://studyinfo.fi/wp2/en/ and the institutions offer more detailed information.	
30/03/21	Georgia	Yes, the issuance of diplomas started on 20 July 2020.	Yes	No	
18/03/21	Germany	Yes. This year's upper secondary graduates will receive their final diploma, the "Zeugnis der allgemeinen Hochschulreife"/"Abitur", at the end of the school year of each Federal State (Bundesland).	The final diploma is not different from the diplomas of previous years. It specifies the achieved number of points for each subject and the overall points obtained with a calculated grade point average.	No, there are no consequences for admission to higher education in Germany, besides the fact that the central application deadline for programmes with restricted admission has been postponed from the 15th of July to the 31st of July. This is a consequence of the postponement of the dates for the examination of the Abitur in some of the Federal States (Bundesländer).	
17/03/21	Greece	Yes, this year's upper secondary graduates will receive a final diploma. It is expected no later than middle of July.	The final diploma will have both a general average grade and assigned grades in each subject.	There seem to be no COVID-19 consequences for admission to higher education for this year's graduates since PanHellenic exams will take place as every other year.	
17/03/21	Hungary	Yes, upper secondary graduates will receive their secondary school leaving certificate (i.e. "érettségi bizonyítvány") in June. Secondary school leaving certificates will have the same legal value as the previously issued ones and give their holders the right to apply for admission to higher education.	Graduates will be awarded grades in each subject they set for the secondary school leaving examinations and these grades will be indicated in the secondary school leaving certificate. GPA is not calculated in Hungary.	As a rule, admission to higher education is based on the results of the Hungarian secondary school leaving examinations, it will be the case this year as well.	

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11/04/21	International Baccalaureate	Yes. The IB intends to release results to universities/institutions and schools on Monday, 5 July 2021.	The IB this year is offering a "dual route" to course and program completion. The dual route extends two options to schools: They may either administer traditional written exams between 29 April and 21 May or, if that is deemed unsafe, use a combination of internal assessment coursework and teacher-predicted grades.	The "traditional written exams" route will be very similar to the standard IB practices, but student coursework (Internal Assessment - IA), which is typically moderated, will be marked by trained IB examiners for the May 2021 session. We will also take additional measures, such as carefully reviewing the grade boundaries alongside our external examiners, to ensure that we take account of disruptions in learning and teaching and other unusual circumstances that might have affected exam performance. Without the written components of our examinations, the IB will use the following data points for grade awarding: 1. Coursework: Students' coursework which is typically moderated, will be marked by trained IB examiners for the May session to ensure that the marks meet global and consistent reliability standards. 2. Predicted grade: Grades which the teacher thinks best predict the student's performance, which we request from the school every year, for each student and for each subject. A Predicted Grade mark will be used in place of the Examination mark. Total Mark = (0.2 to 0.4) * Coursework Mark + (0.8 to 0.6) * Predicted Grade Mark The Total Mark will then be used to set the final grade awarded, on the 1-7 scale.	We will award Diplomas and Certificates for the May 2021 session: 1. At a subject level, students will be awarded a grade on the normal IB 1-7 scale 2. Theory of Knowledge (TOK), the Extended Essay and the Career-Related Programme Reflective Project will be awarded a grade on the normal IB A-E scale 3. The DP core will be awarded on the normal IB 0-3 scale 4. A total points score will be awarded for the Diploma, out of 45 as normal. More information: https://www.ibo.org/university-admission/recognition-of-the-ib-diploma-by-countries-and-universities/faqs/university-faqs/
30/03/21	Ireland	Yes, students will receive a Provisional and Final Certificate. Leaving Certificate 2021 results will be awarded on the basis of the better of either: Students' performance in Leaving Certificate examinations in any subject taken by them, including, where appropriate, their performance in the completion of additional components (coursework, orals, etc.) or SEC Accredited Grades awarded to students in each subject based on schools' estimates of students' likely performance in the 2021 examination and a national standardisation process. Details of those adjustments & timetables communicated to schools, teachers and students in the Assessment Arrangements for Junior and Leaving Certificate Examinations 2021 available from the State Examinations Commission at: https://www.examinations.ie/ A full guide is available on the 2021 arrangements at: https://www.gov.ie/en/publication/81e76-a-guide-to-state-examinations-and-accredited-grades-for-leaving-certificate-2021/	Ireland does not operate using the grade point average but a grade for each subject taken. In 2021 the final diploma will contain the final grades and this can be made up of a combination of calculated (accredited) grades and grades achieved by examinations. https://www.gov.ie/en/publication/81e76-a-guide-to-state-examinations-and-accredited-grades-for-leaving-certificate-2021/ To ensure as far as possible, equity of opportunity for students, the Minister is making arrangements to put in place the necessary legislative requirements to enable the State Examinations Commission (SEC) to operate a system of Accredited Grades in addition to conventional examinations (inclusive, where applicable, of additional assessment components) for current Leaving Certificate students.	Some delays may occur with admissions. However at present the deadlines for applications remain the same as standard. Appeals were always a feature for some applicants and there may be more in 2021 similar to 2020 because of the adapted processes.	Useful information is available at: https://www.gov.ie/en/publication/306f8-leaving-certificate-candidate-self-service-portal-2021-before-you-start-guide/

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17/03/21	Italy	Yes. The final upper secondary school state examination will start on June 16th, 2021. There will be no change in the general timing of the final state exam compared to the previous years, and there are no changes in the final qualification awarded (the "Diploma di esame di Stato conclusivo dei corsi di istruzione secondaria superiore", commonly known in Italy as "Diploma di Maturità").	The grading scale is the same as usual. See in the section "Any other comments" the detailed explanation of how the final mark will be calculated.	No. The final upper secondary school state examination will take place, the general timing is the same of previous years, the grading scale remains the same as usual, and the final qualifications awarded is the same.	The Italian Ministry of Education has issued a Ministerial Ordinance, dated Thursday, March 4th, 2021, determining the following: 1. The final upper secondary school state examination will start on June 16th, 2020, at 08:30. 2. Candidates will sit an oral examination lasting approximately 1 hour. 3. The Examining Board will be composed of 7 members: 6 teachers of the Class Council and an external President. Each Examining Board will assess up to 5 candidates per day. 4. The overall mark will be expressed in points out of 100 corresponding to the sum of the following partial scores: a) up to 60 points for school credits: these are the total marks awarded by the Class Council with reference to the results attained over the last three years of the course: up to 18 points for the 3rd year, up to 20 points for the 4th year and up to 22 points for the final year; b) up to 40 points for the oral examination; c) up to 5 additional points can be awarded by the Examining Board to candidates who score at least 50 points for school credits and at least 30 points in the oral exam. The Examining Board may also award cum laude to candidates who meet certain given requirements. The minimum overall mark to pass the final upper secondary school State Examination is 60 out of 100. 5. The Ministry reserves the right to alter the terms of this ordinance in the case of a serious resurgence of the COVID-19 pandemic. Kindly find below the following relevant links (in Italian): Full text of Ministerial Ordinance, containing all aspects pertaining to the final upper secondary school examination: https://www.miur.gov.it/documents/20182/5407202/OM-Esami+di+Stato+nel+secondo+ciclo+di+istruzione+per+l-anno+scolastico+20202021.pdf/087431c4-6103-202c-29c1-26f250044730?t=1614865421465 Ordinance relating to composition of Examining Board: https://www.miur.gov.it/documents/20182/5407202/OM-Modalita+di+costituzione+e+di+nomina+delle+commissioni.pdf/5ff460f2-21f5-5f86-a319-e602d5aa469e?t=1614865421939 Conversion chart for school credits: https://www.miur.gov.it/documents/20182/0/OM+Esami+di+Stato+20202021+allegato+A+Crediti+DEF.pdf/a2730860-c30f-8c34-26cd-40007ef1592a?t=1614878562301 Chart detailing scoring methodology for oral examination: https://www.miur.gov.it/documents/20182/5407202/OM_Esami_di_Stato_allegato_B_Griglia_valutazione_orale_DEF.pdf/5a3e1e44-af30-aff7-e9e4-26442494e3e2?t=1614865420894
12/03/21	Latvia	Yes (usually it is issued in July)	In Latvia we have no GPA	No	
10/03/21	Liechtenstein	Yes	Yes, there will be a final grade in each subject as usually	No	
10/03/21	Lithuania	Yes, they will. The preliminary date is the end of July or August. More likely in August.	As before, the Maturity Certificate (Brandos atestatas) should include grades for subjects and results of state examinations. State examination period would be as follows: 7th of June - 2nd of July. The results of state examinations should be known at the 23rd of July at the latest.	The admission to higher education institutions might be slightly delayed.	
18/03/21	Luxembourg	Yes, the final diploma will be delivered during the same period as the previous years (end of June, first week of July).	No changes are made regarding the calculation of the grades in comparison to previous years, except that there will be a 15% reduction in the exam programme.	No, as for higher education offered in Luxembourg, there will be no consequences for admission.	
06/04/21	Malta	Yes	Yes	No	
12/03/21	Monaco	Yes. As usual in July.	There will be no change in the calculation of the grade point average	Only for the HEIs requiring exams but not for the french national procedure (Parcoursup)	

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17/03/21	The Netherlands	Yes, mostly in July. In the Netherlands, final exams in secondary education consists of two parts. The first part are exams organised by the schools (schoolexamen). The national exams (centraal examen) form the second part. For 2021, the first two rounds of national exams will be held in the period mid-May - early June. For those who need to resit an exam, a third round will take place in the first half of July for regular secondary school students and in August for those who resit an state exam.	The diploma will list final grades for each subject as usual.	No. For those taking state exams, provisional admission is possible if a student did not pass all subjects before the admission deadline of the HEI.	Students have the possibility to retake 2 subjects (havo/vwo) and exclude the grade of 1 non-core subject for the exam results. Core subjects are Dutch, English and math.
16/03/21	New Zealand	New Zealand's upper secondary graduates will receive a final diploma this year. The school year in New Zealand runs from January to December. 2021 upper secondary graduates will receive their final year results in January 2022. The National Certificate of Educational Achievement (NCEA) is the main national qualification for secondary school students in New Zealand. NCEA has three Levels. Generally, students work through Levels 1, 2 and 3 in Years 11, 12 and 13 in secondary school. Year 13 is the final year of secondary school (aged 17-18 years of age). NCEA Level 3, along with the University Entrance (UE) Award, is required to enter most university and tertiary programmes in New Zealand. NCEA Level 3: https://www.nzqa.govt.nz/ncea/understanding-ncea/how-ncea-works/ncea-levels-and-certificates University Entrance (UE) Award: https://www.nzqa.govt.nz/qualifications-standards/awards/university-entrance	The 2021 school year has begun as usual. At this time, we do not anticipate that 2021 NCEA students will require calculated grades to account for limitations on delivery of education due to the pandemic. To recognise the disruption to learning as a result of COVID-19, minor changes were made to NCEA and the University Entrance Award (UE) to enable students to continue to attain qualifications and awards. These changes only applied for 2020: https://www.nzqa.govt.nz/about-us/news/ncea-and-university-entrance-changes-for-2020 An NCEA achieved or UE awarded in 2020 will be regarded the same as one achieved in any other year, allowing students to progress to higher education in 2021 or beyond. The minor changes have been a successful mechanism New Zealand can re-introduce if learning is disrupted again. Although New Zealand does not calculate grade point averages (GPA) for NCEA, University Entrance, or Vocational Pathways, NZQA has arrangements with other jurisdictions to calculate norm referenced results for entry into higher education, for example, calculating a notional rating for the German qualification "Abitur": https://www.nzqa.govt.nz/studying-in-new-zealand/secondary-school-and-ncea/international-recognition-of-ncea/specific-country-requirements/german-recognition-requirements	We do not expect there will be consequences for admission to higher education for 2021 graduates.	Information on the minor changes to NCEA in 2020 is on the NZQA website: https://www.nzqa.govt.nz/about-us/news/ncea-and-university-entrance-changes-for-2020 and on the Q-ENTRY New Zealand country page: https://www.q-entry.eu/international-db/?cerca=New%20zealand International mobility remains limited.
06/04/21	Norway	Upper secondary graduates will receive a final diploma as usual. Diplomas will be issued in the end of June. Exams for upper secondary graduates have been cancelled; the option of holding some examinations has been sent out on hearing.	N/A Norwegian Upper Secondary School Diploma contains only subjects and grades, no calculated GPA.	No, admission to higher education will proceed as usual. But grade conversion into points for admission might be a little different since pupils do not have written examinations this year. For information about how grades are converted, please see: https://www.samordnaopptak.no/info/opptak/opptak-hg/poengberegning/index.html	

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11/03/21	Poland	Yes, graduates who take and pass the maturity (matriculation) examination in the main and additional session will receive their maturity certificate on 5 July 2021. Graduates who pass the examinations during the retake session in August will receive their maturity certificate on 10 September 2021.	Yes, as usual the results will be expressed in percentages.	No, the admission will be based on the results of the maturity examination.	There are some changes regarding the maturity examination in 2021. In 2021 the maturity (matriculation) examination will consist only of written part. The graduates have to pass written exams in: 1) Polish language (basic level), the following subjects: 2) mathematics (basic level), 3) modern foreign language (basic level), 4) in the case of graduates of schools with a minority language additionally sit to a written exam in the minority language (basic level). In 2021 oral exams in Polish language, modern foreign language, minority language are not obligatory. To pass the maturity exam one has to obtained at least 30% in each of the above mentioned obligatory subjects. Additionally, graduate can chose to take an exam (at extended level) in up to 6 additional subjects but only the written part. The oral exams in additional subjects can be taken when a graduate needs the results of oral exams to apply to a HEI abroad or in the case of and international agreement. Those who need to take an oral exam have to submit a document confirming that the oral exam is required.
16/03/21	Romania	Yes, the upper secondary graduates will receive the final diploma, according to the usual procedure. High school graduates who pass the baccalaureat exam will receive a provisional certificate with the subjects examined and the results obtained. Later this year, they will receive the Diploma de bacalaureat.	The diploma includes the marks for each subject tested and a final average of these marks.	Due to the pandemic situation, most of the admission processes to higher education will be online.	
16/03/21	Slovak Republic	Yes, but the final decision of the minister is unknown yet.	These information is still unknown.	Requirements for the admission are unchanged. The mandatory requirement is still secondary school leaving certificate.	No
17/03/21	Slovenia	Upper secondary graduates will receive a final diploma in Republic of Slovenia on 12.7.2021 (school leaving certificate of completed Matura). Students also receive a final year certificate (completed final year of upper secondary education) on 21.5.2021.	On the final year certificate there is a grade point average (overall grade of studies), but on the final diploma (school leaving certificate of completed Matura), there are grades, but no grade point average.	Every student, who will complete Matura this year, will be eligible for admission to higher education studies in the Republic of Slovenia.	
17/03/21	Sweden	Yes, the majority will receive their diplomas in June as usual. Of course there might be acceptations.	No, Swedish diplomas has never a calculated GPA	Probably not, but we are of course monitoring the situation.	
15/03/21	Switzerland	Yes, a final diploma will be issued as usual by the end of June.	Switzerland does not use a GPA system. Grades are awarded in individual subjects.	No. The maturity certificate gives access to university studies as usual, and admission to higher education institutions will follow the same procedure as in previous years.	
10/03/21	Turkey	Yes. July 02, 2021 (planned date)	Yes	No	
11/04/21	United Kingdom GCSE and GCE A-level UK	On 6 January 2021, the government confirmed that in summer 2021, students taking GCSE, AS and A levels regulated by Ofqual, should be awarded grades based on an assessment by their teachers. Teachers can use a range of evidence to determine grades from across the duration of the student's course and the approach will be standardised between schools and colleges. Exam boards has published guidance in March, so teachers have a clear understanding of how to make fair and consistent judgements. Exam boards will complete checks of the evidence for a sample of student grades in a sample of subjects, in a sample of schools and colleges over June and July. Students will receive their results for A/AS levels on the 10 August and GCSEs on the 12 August. This will enable progression to higher and further education to take place in the normal way. Results days for other qualifications are set by individual exam boards.	The calculated grades awarded this summer will be formal grades, with the same status as grades awarded in any other year. They will therefore be accepted by all institutions.	Everything is done so that this situation has the minimum possible effect on the graduating and new students. This summer's calculated grades, as last year's, are not predicted grades. Ofqual, the independent qualifications regulator, has developed a fair and robust process that takes into account a broad range of evidence.	Read more here: https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/awarding-qualifications-in-summer-2021

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11/03/21	United Kingdom	Yes, they will receive certificates as usual. AS and A level results will be issued to students on 10th August in England, Wales and Northern Ireland. In Scotland, Higher and Advanced Higher results will also be issued on 10th August.	Students are awarded a grade for each subject; no overall grade point average is recorded. Examinations have been cancelled, so results will be based on grades submitted to exam boards by teachers. These grades will draw upon a range of evidence, such as non-exam assessment, work completed in class, class tests and mock exams, and be subject to quality assurance processes.	The overall process for admission to higher education will not be affected. There have been some changes to dates; the application deadline was pushed back by two weeks and results will be available earlier than usual.	