

Student takes exam

Exam completed. Phew! Well done.



Exam papers sent for scanning

Schools securely send the exam papers to one of two scanning centres in Alabama, USA and near London, UK.



Electronic files created for examiners

Scanned exam papers are converted into electronic versions and uploaded to special software for examiners worldwide to access.



Standardization

A standard needs to be set for all examiners to adhere to globally, ensuring that all examiners mark to the same quality standard. First, the principal examiner for each subject meets in person, or virtually with a team of senior examiners.

Together, they review a wide range of "scripts" (our term for exams) and agree a standard for how marks should be awarded. They create a set of guidelines for examiners and marking can begin.



Marking

Examiners must first work through practice scripts and undertake "qualification" to ensure they have understood and can mark to the quality standard. Their marking is quality assured throughout the marking process using sample "seeding", these sample scripts are used to test that standards are maintained.



Grade boundaries

Once all the marking is completed for an exam, senior examiners set grade boundaries. Particular attention is paid to the work of candidates who sit on the grade boundaries to make sure that the grade level is right. Senior examiners consider both statistics from that particular exam session and feedback from teachers to determine where the grade boundaries should be set.



Final marks

While grade boundaries are reviewed by the IB principal examiners, other examiners review the marks awarded by teachers for internal assessments that DP and CP students also complete to ensure that all marks are in line with the global standard. This is called moderation.



Results are finalised

The marks for each exam component are added together to give students a total mark for each subject. These marks are compared to the overall grade boundaries and the student is awarded a grade for each subject.



Congratulations!

Students can access results via the student portal, and then get ready for their next adventure in life, wherever the next step leads them.

