

Predicted grade quality assurance – school guidance

Background

Based on experience gained in previous examination sessions the IB continues to recognize that teacher predicted grades (PG) are a key piece of evidence to help determine a final outcome where a candidate is unable to complete the written examinations for a subject. As the PG will be used by the IB in the calculation of a final subject mark and grade in situations where examinations cannot be taken, it is important that the PG is as accurate as possible.

As a result, the IB has strengthened the way in which it asks schools to provide PGs by basing them on student work considered in light of published IB grade descriptors while considering what has historically been achieved in their school. The IB will provide schools with a customized distribution of PGs for each subject, based on previous actual performance at the school. Schools will be asked to use this distribution, alongside IB grade descriptors and collections of student work, to guide their teacher submitted PGs.

Introduction

A PG is the teacher's estimation of the grade a candidate is expected to achieve in a subject. A PG should be based on:

- all the evidence of the candidate's work
- the teacher's knowledge of IB standards

PGs are required for all subjects, including TOK and the EE but excluding the CP reflective project. It is important that each prediction is made as accurately as possible, based on the grade descriptors that are available in [DP Grade descriptors](#) (December 2017). Please note, teachers should base their PGs on expected overall performance for a subject. Therefore, even if a student will be on the non-exam route, the PG should reflect their overall understanding of and likely performance in the subject as a whole, not just on coursework task(s).

Predicted grade quality assurance

Strengthening PGs for all candidates, along with having coursework that is externally marked, will help us to ensure comparability between candidates who are taking examinations and those on the non-examination route. It will also allow us to support schools and students more effectively. For example, if students become unable to sit examinations due to school closure, government restrictions or mandated quarantine, the IB will be able to work with schools to ensure that these students have the option to move to the non-examination route.

We recognize that it is possible that a school's context may change significantly or that schools may have exceptional students this year. For these situations, IBIS functionality will permit a distribution to be exceeded. Where distributions are exceeded the IB may request additional evidence to support that prediction as part of quality assurance ahead of release of results. You may also be contacted even if you have stayed within your PG distribution if your internal assessment outcomes show this year's cohort is weaker than previous cohorts and you have not reduced your predicted grades accordingly.

The predicted grade quality assurance process

After the PG submission deadline the IB will contact schools that are required to provide supporting evidence, detailing the evidence needed. As this relates to your teacher judgements, we are taking a sampling approach to gathering this evidence, in a similar way to our usual approach to internal assessment. The number of students in the sample requested will depend on the size of the cohort and the specific students included in the sample request will be determined by the IB.

Schools must provide supporting evidence appropriate to the nature of the request (as detailed below) within 5 working days of receiving the notification request from the IB.

The IB will aim to complete the quality assurance checks withing 10 working days of receiving the supporting evidence. Any delays in the IB receiving the work requested may lead to grades remaining as pending on results day, until our examiners have had a chance to review it.

Supporting evidence required

- Three pieces of work (in audio file or PDF format) that exemplify the typical performance standard of the student. This can contain teacher marks and comments. The internal assessment should not be included in the three pieces of work submitted as evidence in support of the predicted grade because the IB already has this work for all students.
- The assessment task (in PDF format) for each piece of work (if the task is not included in the work itself), submitted as a supporting document
- An overall transcript/ markbook/ gradebook (in PDF, Word, Excel format) to show how the evidence submitted fits within the overall body of work produced by the student.

It is acceptable to submit different tasks for each student in the sample. These pieces of work should reflect the typical standard of student work and support the predicted grade awarded to that student.

What happens to the evidence?

The supporting evidence is reviewed by a suitably experienced IB examiner. The three items of work for each sample student are considered as a whole in comparison with the IB grade descriptors. The reviewer will be directed to support the predicted grade of the teacher where they can reasonably do so. The reviewer records a decision and makes a statement summarizing their findings of the standard of the work with reference to the language of the relevant IB grade descriptors.

How is the outcome of predicted grade quality assurance check communicated to the school?

Schools will receive the outcome of a PG quality assurance check by email or can view the progress of the case in MyIB. As a result of this process the IB will either accept that the evidence supports the PGs in a subject or ask schools to reconsider the PGs for that subject in line with the feedback from the quality assurance check. The IB may also request additional candidate work if we are unable to reach a decision based on the evidence provided.