



2 March 2021

Re: 2022 IB Progression Criteria – IGCSE Path

Dear Parents and Guardians,

I am writing to you about an update to the ACS IB Progression criteria for the 2021 IGCSE exam session.

The 2020 IGCSE grades were outstanding with our staff and students working very hard to achieve them in what was a very challenging year due to the disruption brought about by the pandemic. The results exceed our expectations by a significant margin. The table below shows ACS (International)'s historical performance in IGCSE by showing the Pass Rate % and also the % Achieving A or Above. The 2020 IGCSE results were significantly higher than previous years, with an increase of 20% in the number of A* or A grades. This performance was replicated with other grade boundaries as well.

IGCSE Results	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Pass Rate %	91	92	92	95	92.5	93.3	98
% Achieving A or Above	48	53	50	57	49	53	72

Looking at the IGCSE World data (Source: [Cambridge International](#)) for the November series (2020, 2019 and 2018), it can be seen that across the world there was also a significant increase (about 10%) in the grades being awarded to students.

Subject	% Achieving A or Above			% Achieving B or Above			% Achieving C or Above		
	2020	2019	2018	2020	2019	2018	2020	2019	2018
Additional Maths	47.4	25.1	25.1	67.5	48.6	50.7	82.9	70.4	71.3
Art and Design	18.8	9.5	10.7	33	22.7	23.9	54.6	47.3	43.8
Biology	35.8	26.1	24.3	52	44.4	42.4	72.6	66.6	65.9
Business Studies	25.4	11.8	10.6	47	27.5	25.9	70.4	48.9	49
Chemistry	44.4	37	35.9	60.1	55.9	55.4	77.9	75.2	75.8
Economics	37.8	24	23.3	57.7	42.3	41	74.4	61	61
English as a Second Language	23.8	15.7	15.1	42.8	29.3	29	60.9	47.3	48.2
Geography	25.2	16.6	17.3	46.9	37.5	39.3	69.8	63	63.3
Global Perspectives	45.6	25.7	29.6	69.4	50.4	52	86.3	73.5	73.9
History	23.9	15.3	15.2	47.3	37.7	37.1	69.6	63.9	62.6
International Mathematics	52.4	34.3	33	67.4	55.1	53.2	88.7	80.6	80.9
Literature (English)	42.8	29.6	29.3	68.6	55.4	54.3	87.5	79.8	79.7
PE	27.6	22.1	17.7	50.4	40.8	41.6	69.3	60.1	64.3
Physics	45.4	37.8	35.5	60.5	55.5	55.6	76.8	73.7	75.3
Average	35.5	23.6	23.0	55.0	43.1	43.0	74.4	65.1	65.4

The report data shows that for the 2020 exam session the grade boundaries were set lower than in previous years which leads to higher achievement rates for students. While no reason is given for this by the examination board, it is likely that this was to compensate for the effect the pandemic had on students around the world.

In light of this shift of grade boundaries the school has reviewed its progression criteria for the 2021 cohort.

DSA Path to IB – No change

There are no changes to the *DSA Path to IB* criteria for the 2021 IGCSE cohort. This is because ACS (International) administers these exams and so the standard is set internally. The DSA entry criteria is found below:

- *Students must achieve a minimum of 2 As, 2 Bs and 2 Cs grades in their Prelims.*
- *Students must achieve a minimum of a C in English/ESOL, Mathematics and at least one Science.*
- *Students must be able to gain entry into three Higher Level (HL) subjects (B or higher) and three Standard Level (SL) subjects (C or higher) at IB, using the IB grouping and in subjects that ACS (International) offer.*
- *Students' academic, attendance and behavioural records for the duration of their time at ACS (International) will also be taken into consideration.*

IGCSE Path to IB - Change

There are changes to the *IGCSE Path to IB* criteria for the 2021 IGCSE cohort. Students who do not gain admission to IB through the DSA path need to do so through their IGCSE grades. This change is to reflect the changes in assessment boundaries set by the external exam board (Cambridge Assessment). The IGCSE entry criteria is found below:

- *Students must achieve a **minimum of 3 As and 3 Bs** in their IGCSEs to qualify for acceptance into the IBDP. The 3 As and 3 Bs must be in a combination that leads to three Higher Level subjects, and three Standard Level subjects to be picked across all six groups.*
- *Students' academic and behavioural records for the duration of their time at ACS (International) will also be taken into consideration.*
- *Acceptance onto the IBDP is also dependent on there being an appropriate subject package available for them with respect to their academic history.*

Should 2021 IGCSE exam results return to previous historical averages, the school will change the *IGCSE Path to IB* entry criteria to reflect that.

There are no changes to Foundation IB and Pre-IB students' IB progression criteria as their progression is based upon internal exams only.

You can find the full [Progression Criteria Policy](#) on the school website in the [Community Policy](#) section.

Yours sincerely,



Gavin Kinch
Principal