



5 April 2022

## 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 November 2022 IGCSE exam session.

The 2020 and 2021 IGCSE grades were outstanding with our staff and students working very hard to achieve them in what was a very challenging years due to the disruption brought about by the pandemic. The results exceeded our expectations by a significant margin. The table below shows ACS (International)'s historical performance in IGCSE by showing the Pass Rate % and the Distinction% which is students achieving A\* or A. Both the 2020 and 2021 IGCSE results were significantly higher than historical averages.

IGCSE Results	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Pass Rate %	95	92.5	93.3	98	98
Distinction %	57	49	53	71.6	78.5

This pattern is repeated globally with IGCSE grades showing significant increases during the pandemic. The reason for this is exam boards are providing compensation for the disruption brought to students across the world, many of whom who have had greater disruption than that experienced in Singapore.

In light of this shift of grade boundaries the school has reviewed its progression criteria for the 2022 Year 4 cohort.

### **DSA Path to IB – No change**

There are no changes to the *DSA Path to IB* criteria for the 2022 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 2022 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 shift in assessment boundaries set by the external exam board (Cambridge Assessment) and therefore ensure that students are able to be successful as they enter the IB programme. 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 must achieve a **A\* or A to be eligible for a Higher-Level subject.***
- *Students must obtain a grade C or higher in English or English as a Second Language.*
- *Students' academic and behavioural records for the duration of their time at ACS (International) will also be taken into consideration.*
- *Acceptance into the IBDP is also dependent on there being an appropriate subject package available for them and space being available.*

Should 2022 IGCSE exam results return to previous historical averages, the school will review the *IGCSE Path to IB* entry criteria.

There are no changes to Foundation IB and Pre-IB students IB progression criteria as their progression is based upon internal assessment, attendance and attitude.

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

Yours sincerely,



Gavin Kinch  
Principal