

MYP eAssessment Q&A Sheet – The Why

General queries

Why do we have to do the eAssessments?

External assessment is an optional feature of the programme. MYP eAssessment has been developed for students and schools that need external verification of student achievement at age 16. The new assessment model strengthens the continuum and offers students formal, recognized qualifications. However, it is not compulsory for schools to enter their students for all of the eAssessments - the only requirement is for authorized IB schools with Year 5 students to enter them for the Personal Project in order to receive Course Results (the cost of this is included in the school registration fee). Beyond this, there is total flexibility for schools to enter their students for as many or as few of the eAssessments as they wish.

At what point might these assessments be mandatory?

With the exception of the personal project, there are no plans to make eAssessment mandatory

Can a school choose both on-screen as well as paper examinations as per the choice of the student?

The examinations are only offered on-screen, there is no paper equivalent in the MYP.

Which is more important - the eAssessments or assessments done at school now?

During the final stages of preparation for examinations students should become familiar with the on-screen examination format and the style of questions asked, but prior to that the best preparation for eAssessment remains good MYP classroom practice.

Can schools conduct MYP eAssessments only to see how the school is doing? Without opting for the certificate?

Schools can choose how best to benefit from the service. All candidates will be issued with course results for the subjects they take but they may not be the main motivation for some schools to take part.

Should we use the eAssessment model for years 1-4 of the MYP? Can MYP year 4 students take eAssessments just to experience it?

A candidate cannot be registered for any assessments in an examination session prior to the school's main session in MYP5.

IB continuum queries

How do eAssessments connect with the Diploma Programme and the way that assessment is done in the DP?

DP courses, as they are reviewed, are becoming more explicitly conceptual in ways that align generally with the MYP's concept-driven curriculum. MYP topic lists have been created with DP curriculum in mind.

In a 2015 study, the Australian Council for Educational Research concluded: "Students with an MYP background were found to outperform students who participated in other middle years curriculums in total diploma points and specific DP subjects." <http://www.ibo.org/globalassets/publications/ib-research/myp/comparing-dp-outcomes-with-myp-report-en.pdf>

Are there plans for introducing eAssessment to the DP?

The IB is planning to introduce on-screen assessments into the DP from 2018 onwards. However, there will be parallel on-screen and paper assessments until the paper assessments are faded out.

Do eAssessments include extended response questions as students will face in the DP?

There are extended response questions in most of the on-screen examinations. Please refer to the specimen material on the OCC.

National and international exam queries

Is the IGCSE a better choice than MYP eAssessment for DP?

The IB considers that the best preparation for the DP is the on-screen examination as it has been created by considering continuum needs of IB students. While other examinations/credentials for 16 year old students prescribe content, the MYP eAssessment model does not; it is content-agnostic.

The topic list provided by the IB for eAssessments does not 100% match with the current IGCSE content used in our school.

The topic lists were created with other international and national curriculum and assessment systems in view, and they are general in nature so that schools continue to have a great deal of flexibility in organizing a written curriculum that meets local requirements or external curriculum.

By design, all students will encounter unfamiliar situations in the on-screen examinations. It is also important to remember that topic lists reflect the programme's full five years, and schools are not obligated to 'cover' the topics in the last year or two years of the programme. Some schools with externally-regulated curriculums may choose to extend the required content with additional topics from the relevant MYP topic lists, provide additional reading or study materials, or plan review sessions in which students are introduced to, or become more familiar with, topics they have not encountered in the mandated course of study.

How are these assessments different from ACER/ISA online assessments? (ABCER/ISA, Pearson, PARCC, SmarterBalanced, Common Core)?

MYP on-screen examinations are unique — they are the only rich, criterion referenced, computer based examinations currently available. MYP on-screen examinations make use of technology to set challenging tasks which use rich media to stimulate demonstrations of deep conceptual knowledge and skills. Other computer based examinations tend to use technology to create mainly adaptive examinations and/or multiple choice examinations which are limited in what they can assess and are norm referenced.

What do we do if our national programme is much different from the proposed topics? Additional courses? Do on-screen examinations reflect the national program? Have regional versions of eAssessments been considered?

On-screen examinations are not designed to meet any national programme. Instead they are designed to assess the MYP in a valid and reliable way. As such, they can support teaching and learning in a wide range of national programmes though teachers may need to supplement the IB requirement with additional concepts, contexts or content for this to be the case.

Recognition and certificate queries

Are IB eAssessments recognized by Ofqual?

MYP eAssessment has been designed to meet Ofqual's very strict quality standards, and properly-developed and administered examinations add credibility to the programme. By the end of 2015, all MYP eAssessments (on-screen-examinations, ePortfolios and the personal project) will be registered with Ofqual.

Is the MYP certificate comparable to the IGCSE, while DP is comparable with the A Level?

They are comparable with respect to English recognition as both GCSE and MYP are listed as Level 1/2 qualifications and both A -Levels and IB Diploma are level 3 qualifications. The IBs courses are distinctive and significantly different to GCSE and A Levels however, in terms of educational philosophy and therefore the design of assessment.

What steps are being made to increase the recognition of the MYP certificate amongst tertiary institutions globally?

The MYP is fully recognised by Ofqual in England and this can prove extremely useful to achieving much wider recognition globally, which is ongoing. We have prepared a series of MYP Subject briefs which will be used to explain the benefits the MYP offers to support this process. Discussions are ongoing with various government agencies around the world.

To obtain the certificate, one has to matriculate students in 6 exams, the PP and ID? Should schools conduct internal examinations to award the MYP certificate?

To obtain a certificate, students must complete 8 eAssessments which includes on-screen examinations in Language and literature, Individuals and Societies, Mathematics, Science and Interdisciplinary learning, plus ePortfolios in Language Acquisition, the personal project and one of the following: PHE, Arts or Design. Each eAssessment is weighted equally so that the maximum total score for the MYP certificate is 56 with a grade of 1-7 being assigned to each eAssessment (8 x 7=56). Students must achieve at least 28 points from across these 8 eAssessments (and achieve at least a Grade 3 in each of them) and meet the school's expectations for community service in order to receive the MYP certificate. Please see the General regulations: Middle Years Programme - First assessment 2016 document on the OCC for further information.

http://occ.ibo.org/ibis/occ/Utils/getFile2.cfm?source=/ibis/occ/home/subjectHomeMYP.cfm&filename=myp%2Fm_0_mypxx_reg_1404_4q_e%2Epdf

If a student completes two Language and literature exams (English and French), must they also produce a portfolio for language acquisition?

This candidate can be awarded a bilingual Certificate by entering in two Language and literature subjects and no language acquisition is required.

Is there a certificate for PP moderation?

All students will receive a Course Results document showing their Personal Project Grade along with any other eAssessment they have undertaken.