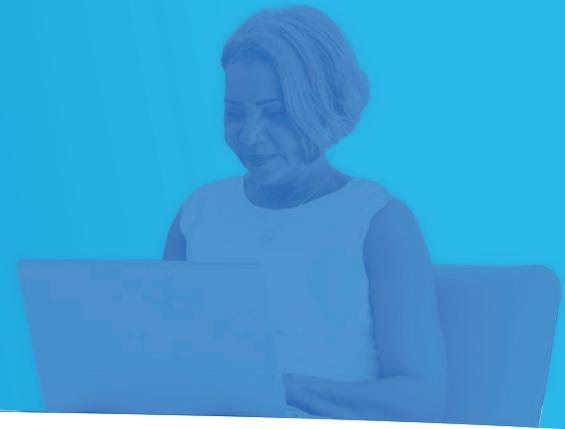


How does the IB ensure examiner and marking quality?



Who are the IB examiners?

The IB uses a global network of over 13000 examiners to mark and moderate assessments each year. The IB only appoints examiners who are subject experts and have teaching experience, and the majority of examiners are experienced IB teachers.

Examiners play a significant role in the assessment process, not just marking the work but also setting the markschemes, which is done by Principal Examiners, providing feedback which is used as part of the grade boundary setting and, the Chief Examiners ensure that the outcomes for candidates are fair, reliable and accurate and maintain their value from one session to the next.

How are IB examiners trained and monitored?

All examiners are offered training to ensure they understand the mark scheme for their subject and the global standard they are expected to mark to.

As we use e-marking, examiners are also given time to familiarize themselves with the software we use for marking. Once they are ready, they practice marking to the standard set by the Principal Examiner. All examiners then have to pass qualification before they are allowed to mark student work from that session. Qualification requires examiners to mark scripts which have already been marked by the Principal Examiner, to the same standard as the Principal Examiner.

Throughout the session the IB checks examiners are continuing to mark to the standard by placing “seed” scripts into their marking allocations. These scripts have already been marked by the Principal Examiner, and if examiners’ marks are not in line they are stopped from marking.

What is different for May 2021?

Normally, examiners only mark examinations and externally assessed coursework, internal coursework is normally marked by teachers and then IB examiners moderate a sample of that work to ensure the teachers marking is in line with the global standard.

This year, however, we are marking all internal assessment coursework for most subjects. In many subjects, the IA is the only piece of work we will see from students who cannot sit exams.

We are asking our examiners to agree with teachers marks where they reasonably can, as teachers know the context under which the assessment was completed. This is why we are still asking for teacher marks and comments on internal assessments to help examiners understand and support teachers’ marks.