Frequently Asked Questions to assist schools and parents

21 May 2014

My child / student will not be in the country on 1 June 2014. What should I do?
If any candidate prefers to withdraw from the examination at this stage, a full refund will be provided. Any candidate who prefers not to attend the re-sit in June can re-enter their examination in November 2014 without additional charge.

My child / student is worried that they won’t do as well as in the previous Cambridge IGCSE Maths exam.
These papers are of equivalent difficulty to the original papers and similarly aligned to the syllabus in question. Therefore, without any additional preparation, you can be expected to perform at the same level as in the original examination.

What if my child's / student's grade is much lower than before?
Candidates’ performance on the day of an examination can sometimes be affected by exceptional factors outside their control. Cambridge International Examinations has standard procedures for dealing with such circumstances as and when they arise. Schools are aware of these procedures, which apply to the replacement exams on 1 June as on all other occasions.

If you cannot confirm where the breach originated, why are the students in Kuwait being held accountable?
Whilst we cannot yet confirm the origin of this breach of security, Cambridge International Examinations can confirm that it has definite evidence that a number of students in Kuwait had seen the content of the question papers, meaning they were advantaged over other students. For this reason we felt there was no option but to schedule new versions of these papers to ensure fairness to all students and in the interest of the trust and integrity of our exams.

What is Cambridge doing to prevent this from happening again?
Our first priority is to find the source of the leak and close it. Then we need to draw lessons about how to further improve security across the board. We will do that.

How will Cambridge deal with students involved in this malpractice?
We take allegations of malpractice very seriously and are committed to maintaining the integrity of Cambridge exams and ensuring fair outcomes for all students. We have strict procedures to deal with malpractice, which we will follow in this instance working closely with schools. We do, however, recognise that there may be special circumstances to be considered for some candidates. In all instances we will look at the situation for each candidate, on a case-by-case basis.

We have heard rumours of other papers being compromised. Why are you only organising a resit for Mathematics?
We have organised a resit for Cambridge IGCSE Mathematics because we have evidence that the question papers for this subject were compromised. These compromised papers make up 100% of the assessment. We feel this is the fairest approach to ensure all students get a grade that is fair and correct.

We have heard rumours that papers have leaked in other countries. Are you organising resits in other countries other than Kuwait?
No we are not. Our investigation has not led to further evidence of a security breach in other countries. We are aware of a number of allegations of malpractice in Kuwait. Similar action would be taken in other countries where malpractice is detected to ensure fair outcomes for all students.
**Will you mark the original papers?**

We will not mark the original papers. Of course many of those papers represent the work of candidates who have not cheated. However given the evidence of widespread cheating, we would not be able to make reliable assessments on the basis of the original papers.

**Will students and their families get any compensation for this inconvenience?**

If any candidate prefers to withdraw from the examination at this stage, a full refund will be provided. Any candidate who prefers not to attend the re-sit in June but to re-take their examination in November 2014 will be able to do so without additional charge. We will consider any other expenses claims on a case by case basis.

If schools or parents of affected candidates would like to contact Cambridge on this matter our customer services team are available 8am – 7pm (BST) Monday – Friday on info@cie.org.uk or +44 1223553554.