COVID-19
Organizing and Conducting Exams and Assessments during School & University Closures – Resources & References

Background Document

Education Sector

14 April 2020
This document was prepared by Le Thu Huong, Teerada Na Jatturas and Ashley Stepanek. It was compiled from various sources, mainly the official websites of national Ministries of Education, the media, and the information available online (e.g. articles, papers, blogs) for curated information on how governments are planning for assessments, especially high-stakes exams in the context of prolonged and massive school and university closure and a shift to distance learning during the Covid-19 pandemic. The document serves as a background document for the UNESCO COVID-19 Education Response Webinar on Managing high-stakes exams and assessments during the Covid-19 pandemic.

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**Global Education Monitoring Report**

**Article**

**Resources/tools**
- The 2020 GEM Report looks at assessments from the viewpoint of inclusion and calls for the focus to shift away from high-stakes assessments and instead to focus on students’ tasks: how they tackle them, which ones prove difficult and how some aspects can be adapted to enable success.

**INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS**

**Cambridge Assessment International Education**

**Resources/tools**

**GPE**

**Resources/tools**
- GPE COVID-19 *response*.

**INEE**

**Resources/tools**

**International Baccalaureate**

**Articles**
- IB *statement* on May 2020 Diploma Programme (DP) and Career-related Programme (CP) examinations (also *here*).

**OECD**

**Articles**

**Oxford International AQA Examinations**

**Articles**
- OxfordAQA. *News: May/June Exam Series 2020 – Q&A*. 13 April 2020. *(OxfordAQA will not hold exams (including GCSEs, AS, A-levels and Independent Project Qualification - IPQ) in May/June 2020 because they want to ensure that all students will be treated fairly, given the unprecedented circumstances).*

**UNICEF**

**Resources/tools**

**UNESCO MEMBERS STATES**

**SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA**

**Senegal**

**Articles**

ARAB REGION (ARB)

Tunisia

Articles
• University World News. Students ‘in torment’ after minister says exams are still on. 13 April 2020. (Tunisia’s MOE insists that the baccalauréat examinations will take place as scheduled, in spite of the closure of schools).

ASIA AND PACIFIC (APA)

Australia

Articles
• Sydney Morning Herald. 2020. NAPLAN to be cancelled for 2020 due to COVID-19 disruption. 20 March. (Country decision to cancel annual testing of years 3, 5, 7 and 9, but will resume next year).

Resources/ tools
• Details regarding the cancellation of the National Assessment Programme Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN) test window, see the response from the Australian government here.

Bhutan

Resources/ tools
• The MOE lays out an adapted curriculum guidelines for education in emergencies (including info on summative and formative assessment).

Brunei

Articles

China

Articles
• Articles discuss how China manages online classes for the nationwide and for primary and secondary students and college entrance exams here. However, China delays college entrance exam as fears grow over risk of coronavirus second wave.

Resources/ tools
• This official document highlights the new exam arrangement due to the disruption of the COVID-19.

Hong Kong SAR, China

Articles
• Hong Kong schools are to remain suspended until further notice (schools have been closed since January 2020).
• Hong Kong’s Diploma of Secondary Education exams, due to begin 26 March 2020, have been postponed until 24 April 2020.
• Chinese and English-language oral examinations have been cancelled.
• Written tests for university entrance exams will be held from 27 March 2020, with tightened hygiene measures such as wider spaces between candidates and masks for all candidates.
### India
**Articles**
- *College Dekho*. [List of Exams Cancelled or Postponed Due to Coronavirus (COVID 19) Outbreak in India*], 14 April 2020.
- *New Indian Express*. [COVID-19: UGC tells universities to postpone exams, suspend evaluation work*]. (Due to the COVID-19 outbreak, the University Grants Commission-UGC directed all universities to reschedule the university examinations).

**Resources/tools**
- Central Board of Secondary Education. [Press release 1 April 2020*]. (The postponement of the board examinations between 19 and 30 March 2020 due to the COVID-19).

### Indonesia
**Articles**

### Japan
**Articles**
- *The Star*. [Japan to reopen schools closed for coronavirus after spring recess*]. 20 March 2020. (The Japanese government will not extend schools closures until the spring break to stem coronavirus infections, setting the stage for classes to resume in April 2020).

### Malaysia
**Resources/tools: EiE**
- [Call centre](#) is set up by the MOE of Malaysia (in Malaysian).
- [Implementation of School Assembly](#) during Transmission of Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19).
- [Media Statement]: Suspension of Sports Programs and Curriculum Activities Following Coronavirus Novel Infection (COVID-19).
- [COVID19 DISEASES IN SCHOOL](#). 14 March 2020. (These documents are in Malaysian and partially written in English).

### Maldives
**Resources/tools**
- The MOE’s [Standard Operation Procedures on COVID-19](#).

### Myanmar (Burma)
**Articles**
- *The Irrawaddy*. [Universities suspend exams as first COVID-19 cases confirmed*]. 28 March 2020. (University examinations across Myanmar, which started on 19 March and were scheduled to continue until 1 April, have been suspended after discovering two COVID-19 cases on 23 March).

**Resources/tools**
Nepal

**Resources/ tools**
- The Ministry of Education, Science and Technology’s [website](#).

New Zealand

**Resources/ tools**
- New Zealand Qualification Authority (NZQA) | [FQA: Final Exams Digital Assessment Vision](#): a design principles approach.
- [Digital Assessment](#): National Certificate of Educational Achievement (NCEA) Online. *(Info on how it works – shortly to be updated for 2020 – e.g., browser, operating system and device requirements changed slightly with more subjects available).*
- [National secondary examinations timetable](#) *(The 2020 exams this year [in yellow] - about two third of all exams.)*
- 2018 Trials & Pilots evaluation [reports](#)

The evaluation of:
- the [2019 digital exams](#) is about to be published but the documents in draft are still disorganised – participation and results are impressive – four times as many schools, three times as many students, four times as many exams offered as in 2018.
- the [2018 digital exams](#) *(NZQA had Trials where the marks did not count towards the qualification and Pilots where they did).*

Pakistan

**Resources/ tools**
- [Constitution of Pakistan (Article 25-A)](#):
  "Right to education - The State shall provide free and compulsory education to all children of the age of five to sixteen years in such manner as may be determined by law."

Palau

**Resources/ tools**
- The [website](#) of the MOE.

Philippines

**Resources/ tools**
- Department of Education [page](#) dedicated to COVID-19 response.
### Samoa

**Resources/ tools**
- Ministry of Education, Sports and Culture dedicates a [page](#) for the measures response to the coronavirus outbreak.

### Singapore

**Articles**
- Channel News Asia via University World News. [Universities cancel in-person examinations.](#) 11 April 2020. *(Course grades will be computed based on each student’s existing continual assessment scores).*
- Which School Advisor. [All Singapore Schools to Close from April 8.](#) 3 April 2020. *(The government announced that all MOE and private schools will close from April 8 until at least May 4 and move to full-time home-based learning).*

**Resources/ tools**
- Singapore’s MOE. FAQs for COVID-19 Infection in Singapore (exam-related questions #5). [](#)

### South Korea

**Articles**
- Japan Times. [South Korea to open schools online and reschedule college exam](#). Mar 31, 2020.

### Sri Lanka

**Resources/ tools**
- Sri Lanka’s MOE [website](#).
- Department of Examinations
- Special Notice: Dates of all examinations have been extended until further notice

### Thailand

**Articles**
- Bangkok Post. [Schools won't reopen until July 1](#). 7 April 2020.

**Resources/ tools**
- Ministry of Education

### Viet Nam

**Resources/ tools**
- Ministry of Education and Training issued [guidelines](#) to adjust the content of teaching for the second semester of the school year 2019-2020.

### EUROPE AND NORTH AMERICA (EUR)

#### Austria

**Articles**
- Austria’s government presents COVID-19 exit schedule.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Resources/ tools</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Belgium</td>
<td>• A page dedicated to response to the outbreak of COVID-19 by the Flemish MOE</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(in Flemish).</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bulgaria</td>
<td>• The Ministry of Education and Science recommends for schools to delay courses</td>
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<td></td>
<td>due to the coronavirus cases. 24 February 2020.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• The Ministry announced the visits of children in kindergartens and day nurseries</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>were suspended. 6 April 2020.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Czech Republic</td>
<td>• The National Agency updates regularly the coronavirus-related FAQ for foreign</td>
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<td></td>
<td>students on its website.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Estonia</td>
<td>• Ministry of Education and Research</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>The government provides answers to questions on coronavirus measures related to,</td>
</tr>
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<td></td>
<td>for example, the final/vocational/professional exams and graduations.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• Foundation Innove also provides information on how to support children during</td>
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<td>the COVID-19 outbreak.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Finland</td>
<td>• The Matriculation Examination Board updates regularly the dates of the tests</td>
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<td></td>
<td>and provides answers for the upper secondary schools on this FAQ website.</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• See the response to COVID-19 by the Ministry’s examples of actions during the</td>
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<td></td>
<td>coronavirus crisis (in Finnish).</td>
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<td>• See also the government policy for universities, universities of applied sciences,</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>general upper secondary education, vocational education, liberal education, basic</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>art education, primary and lower secondary education and early childhood education</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>and care during the coronavirus pandemic of 16 March 2020 (in Finnish).</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• HEIs have tools such as electronic exams such as EXAM as well as joint electronic</td>
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<td></td>
<td>entrance exam to UAS.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>France</td>
<td>• Le Parisien. Coronavirus : les écoles rouvriront à partir du 11 mai, les universités «pas avant l’été». 13 avril 2020. (The 2020 baccalaureate will be validated via continuous assessment).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Resources/ products</td>
<td>• Ministry of National Education. Questions/Réponses - Coronavirus Covid 19: Bac, brevet 2020 : les réponses à vos questions (in French). (The BAC is cancelled this year due to the uncertainty amid the outbreak).</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Germany

**Articles**

**Resources/ tools**

Greece

**Resources/ tools**
- The Ministry of Education and Religions’ decisions on GEL and EPAL nationwide exams, 2020. (The Ministry redefines the exam material for admission to Higher Education, with proportional reductions in all national exams in the third grade of all the General and Vocational High Schools of the country, according to the progress that had been made in the teaching of the subject, until the date that the operation was universally suspended for schools) (in Greek).
- Extension of the suspension of educational institutions. 10 April 2020. (The Ministry commenced the suspension of schools since 11 March 2020 and extends the temporary ban on the operation of all educational structures until 10 May 2020, for precautionary reasons against the COVID-19) (in Greek).

Hungary

**Resources/ tools**
- Updates on COVID-19 are continuously, centrally published in KRÉTA electronic administration system for public education, on the governmental information webpage and on the website of National Public Health Center.

Ireland

**Resources/ tools**
- Oral and practical performance tests of the state examinations which were originally scheduled to take place from 23 March to 3 April 2020 have been cancelled. All students who were due to take these tests will be awarded full marks for this portion of the exam. See details here.

Italy

**Resources/ tools**
- The Ministry creates additional two webpages on the COVID-19 Emergency and on virtual learning (in Italian).

Lithuania

**Resources/ tools**
- Tutorials and Answers for Matriculation Examinations, Basic Education Achievement Testing, National Student Achievement Testing (here).

Luxemburg

**Resources/ tools**

Malta

**Resources/ tools**
• ‘MySchools’ is an administrative tool to record attendance and exam results. *(Login credentials required).*

**Netherlands**

**Resources/ tools**
- The Dutch Government’s [page](#) on policy response to the outbreak COVID-19.

**Norway**

**Articles**

**Resources/ tools**

**Poland**

**Resources/ tools**
- Distance education can be carried out using materials made available by a teacher, in particular those recommended by the Ministry of National Education (especially the [Integrated Educational Platform](#)) and the Central and Regional Examination Board.

**Slovakia**

**Resources/ tools**
- Teachers can also use the [system of online testing E-test](#). This platform enables the teachers to compose tests using assignments from the pool, or to create own assignments and tests according to their needs.
- Students preparing for their school leaving exams were recommended to practice online tests from previous years on the website of the National Institute of Certified Measurements of Education - [Testing 9](#).
- Preparation for school leaving exams – [Maturita (2019/2020)](#).

**Spain**

**Resources/ tools**
- Resources in the webpage includes [rubrics database](#) to help evaluation process.

**Sweden**

**Resources/ tools**

**United Kingdom**

**Articles**
- Guardian. “School closures: a catastrophe for students or a golden opportunity?”
- Guardian. Oxbridge to replace summer exams with online assessments due to [coronavirus](#), 21 March 2020.

**Resources/ tools**
- Department for Education. “[Coronavirus (COVID-19): cancellation of GCSEs, AS and A levels in 2020](#).” *(Country decision to cancel primary assessments for upper secondary students to enable schools and colleges to support vulnerable children, and those of essential workers).*
• UK Government’s announcement on Closure of educational settings: information for parents and carers and on the cancellation of GCSEs, AS and A levels in 2020.
• UK Government’s announcement on assessing apprentices.
• UK Institute for Apprenticeships and Technical Education’s response to COVID-19.
• UK Office of the Independent Adjudicator’s decision to postpone the exams.

**LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN**

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<td></td>
<td>• Buenos Aires Times. <a href="https://www.buenosaires.com.ar/argentinas-to-close-schools-for-two-weeks-borders-to-visitors">Argentina to close schools for two weeks, borders to visitors.</a></td>
<td>• A <a href="https://example.com">page</a> dedicated to the measure response to the outbreak of COVID-19 by the Brazilian MOE.</td>
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<td><strong>Brazil</strong></td>
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<td>• A <a href="https://example.com">page</a> dedicated to the measure response to the outbreak of COVID-19 by the Brazilian MOE.</td>
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<td><strong>Chile</strong></td>
<td><strong>Resources/ tools</strong></td>
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<td></td>
<td>• The MOE of Chile <a href="https://example.com">extends schools closures</a> to May 2020 (as of 25 March 2020. Classes were suspended since 16 March).</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Colombia</strong></td>
<td><strong>Resources/ tools</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• La educacion es de todos</td>
<td>Mineducacion</td>
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<td><strong>Dominican Republic</strong></td>
<td><strong>Resources/ tools</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Jamaica</strong></td>
<td><strong>Resources/ tools</strong></td>
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<td></td>
<td>• Ministry of Education, Youth and Information’s <a href="https://example.com">webpage</a>.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Paraguay</strong></td>
<td><strong>Resources/ tools</strong></td>
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<td>• Ministry of Education’s <a href="https://example.com">website</a>.</td>
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<td><strong>Trinidad and Tobago</strong></td>
<td><strong>Resources/ tools: exams</strong></td>
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<td></td>
<td>• MOE’s Exam Unit <a href="https://example.com">webpage</a>.</td>
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<td>• MOE’s <a href="https://example.com">News release</a>: Precautions to be taken in light of Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19).</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• MOE’s <a href="https://example.com">Notice</a>: Point Fortin East Not Shut Down.</td>
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**NON-UNESCO MEMBER STATES**

<table>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>United States</strong></td>
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</table>
• Wall Street Journal. Students May Be Able to Take SAT, ACT at Home Due to Coronavirus. April 15, 2020. (The US College Board and ACT are making plans so high-school students can take the college-admission exams this fall).

• Education Week. Op-ed - School Closures and COVID-19. Perhaps It's Time to Cancel High-Stakes Testing, Too? 15 March 2020. (Calls for cancellation of high-stakes tests given stressors on students, teachers, parents, staff and leaders. Instead, it should opt for locally developed assessments and for a review of testing approach generally).

• Above the Law (online blog/journal). Elite Law Schools Move to Pass/ Fail System Over COVID-19 But Will It Hurt Students?

Resources/ tools

• Preparing for the flu: department of education recommendations to ensure the continuity of learning for schools (K-12) during extended student absence or school dismissal.

• Statement from Board of Regents Chancellor Betty A. Rosa and Interim State Education Commissioner Shannon Tahoe Regarding Elementary- and Intermediate-Level State Assessments.