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TASK FORCE “Preparation of the European Baccalaureate session 2021”– ‘GUIDELINES for the Baccalaureate session 2021’

**APPROVED BY THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS
ON ITS MEETING OF 1 – 3 DECEMBER 2020**

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ABREVIATIONS and DEFINITIONS used in the text

- OSGES : Office of the Secretary-General of the European Schools
- AIREB: ARRANGEMENTS FOR IMPLEMENTING THE REGULATIONS FOR THE EUROPEAN BACCALAUREATE (2015-05-D-12-en-25)
- IN SITU: in school, or as per definition, any other facility. Possible organization of examinations in a venue different than school to ensure safe sanitary conditions (for example, in an exhibition venue or an exam center).
- ALTERNATIVE TASK: any written and/or oral assignment given when it is not possible to organize in situ examinations, for a reason linked to the COVID situation, which is deemed to be equivalent to a examination in the same subject, in terms of potentiality of assessment as to the content, competences, skills and attitude in the subject. The definition of such alternatives tasks is contained in the Memorandum 2020-11-M-2.1-en. Reference should be made to document 2020-09-D-13-en-2 and to Article 59 of the General Rules.
- JTC: Joint Teaching Committee
- BoG: Board of Governors
- EB: European Baccalaureate

BACKGROUND

▪ REMINDER OF THE MANDATE and COMPOSITION OF THE TASK FORCE

The Joint Teaching Committee examined document 2015-05-D-12-en-23 'Arrangements for Implementing Regulations for the European Baccalaureate (Applicable for the Year 2021 European Baccalaureate session)'. An exchange of views was held on the potential impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the Baccalaureate session 2021 and the measures to be taken in particular in case of scenario 3 as defined by the Task Force 'Preparation of the 2020/21 school year' (see doc.2020-07-D-9-en-2).

The Joint Teaching Committee took the view that a decision on the proposed amendments of the Arrangements for Implementing Regulations would be premature and that more detailed guidance should be worked out for the different potential sub-scenarios by taking in consideration the recent judgement 20/56 of the Complaints Board of 5 October 2020.

In the light of these considerations, the Joint Teaching Committee mandated the Office of the Secretary-General to set up a Task Force composed of a 'core group' and a 'consultative body'.

The 'core group' would be composed of:

- the President of the year 2021 European Baccalaureate session,
- the Secretary-General of the European Schools,
- the Deputy Secretary-General of the European School,
- the Head of Baccalaureate Unit,
- the President of the Board of Inspectors Secondary Cycle,
- the President of the Working Group Assessment Secondary Cycle,
- a representative of the Directors,
- a representative of the Directors of the Accredited European Schools and
- a representative of the Deputy Directors for the Secondary Cycle.

The 'consultative body' would be composed of:

- a representative of the teaching staff secondary cycle,
- a representative of the teaching staff secondary cycle of the AES,
- a representative of Interparents,
- a representative of CAPEEA,
- a representative of COSUP,
- a representative of the students of AES,
- a representative of the European Commission.

The 'Core Group' is asked to provide proposals for discussion in the Task Force by the end of October.

The 'Core Group' will finalise its proposals in the light of this consultation process and submit its final proposals to the Board of Governors for approval at its meeting on 1 to 3 December 2020.

▪ CONSULTATION PROCESS AND SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

The 'Guidelines for the Baccalaureate 2021 session' are the outcome of the following meetings of the Core Group and Consultative Body of the Task Force "Preparation of the European Baccalaureate 2021 session".

Meeting	Date
Task Force : Core Group	23.10.2020
Task Force : Core Group	06.11.2020
Secondary cycle Inspectors : consultation	13.11.2020
Task Force: Core Group and Consultative Body	16.11.2020
Task Force : Core Group	20.11.2020

The Guidelines contain two excel tables presenting the potential 2021 schedule and timeline of implementation details of decisions and 3 charts describing the procedures to be applied as to Pre-Baccalaureate and European Baccalaureate sessions.

The Guidelines must be read along the following documents:

- The version 25 of the Arrangements for Implementing the Regulations for the European Baccalaureate – applicable for the Year 2021 session (2015-05-D-12-en-25), which contains the amendments and adaptations linked to the proposals drafted in the current Guidelines.
- Memorandum (2020-11-M-2.1-en) containing description of potential alternative assessment tasks.

▪ SCOPE OF THE GUIDELINES

Any indication contained in the current Guidelines, whether in terms of timeline, content or approach is closely linked to the actual evolution of the pandemic situation all throughout the year across Member States.

The options are dynamic and will be triggered according to the needs and the reality of the epidemic situation. In this respect, the various hypotheses proposed by the Task Force are intended to provide an overview of evolving solutions (with a timetable of decisions to be taken) that guarantee the highest quality and integrity of the European Baccalaureate. Quality and recognition of the examination are a priority, as is the recognition of the diploma by universities.

Regular monitoring of the local situations is ensured through the Directors' meetings organized on average every 1 to 2 weeks. The dates stated in the timeline of the Guidelines are indicative. Real conditions might influence them shall the situation change rapidly.

▪ EQUALITY OF TREATMENT AND FAIRNESS

The Guidelines have been drafted in line with the general principles of European Union law which include:

Fundamental rights: all rights of the stakeholders, pupils and legal representatives in primis, towards their being part of the ES System are protected and guaranteed, including the right to be consulted when taking decisions and to appeal by the end of the completion of the process.

Proportionality: actions described in the Guidelines, as to content and form, are limited to what is necessary to achieve the objectives and are kept with the aim pursued.

Legal certainty: The Guidelines provide the ability to regulate the EB session. The Guidelines need to permit the stakeholders concerned to regulate their conduct with certainty and to protect them from arbitrary use of any Board involved. Legal certainty represents a requirement that decisions be made according to legal rules, i.e. be lawful. The guidelines provide hereafter the best predictability possible under the circumstances of the ES System' behaviour.

and

Equality: Right of different groups of people to receive the same treatment when they find themselves in similar legal and factual situations. Treating everyone the same and giving everyone access to the same opportunities.

Guidelines also include

Fairness: the quality of treating people equally or in a way that is right or reasonable.

Every situation, each school has its own characteristics. Ensure as much equal treatment for all students as possible will mean, especially this year, to respect their diversity of conditions. Offering the Baccalaureate examinations in Every situation, each school has its own characteristics. Ensure as much equal treatment for all students as possible will mean, especially this year, to respect their diversity of conditions. Offering the Baccalaureate examinations in situ as much as possible will be an additional element to bring fairness and equity to pupils. The local situation of the 23 schools involved will also have to be taken into consideration, also in the light of feasibility, fairness and equality. A fair generic approach will be favoured.

It is thus possible that the session's cancellation proposed in some part of the guidelines would not necessarily apply to all schools. Every situation will be considered individually, which is within the law, as confirmed by the internal and external legal services of the OSGES, without infringing the principle of equality among pupils.

It seems essential to allow the Chairman of the European Baccalaureate session and the Directors to take special measures which could only apply to one school or to several schools in the same country, given the health situation which may vary from one Member State to another or even within a given Member State.

Indeed, it would not be in the interest of the school community if the impossibility of physically organising the examinations in a single country prevented a regular or almost regular session from being held in all the European Schools and Accredited European Schools.

If such a situation were to arise, differential treatment between some of the schools able to organise a session on the basis of the usual arrangements and the others would be justified by the objectively different health circumstances in different Member States or regions. It goes without saying that particular care will have to be taken in the comparative analysis of the situations encountered by each of the schools in order to respect the principle of equal treatment.

Therefore these targeted adaptations have been introduced into the AIREB (v25) to take account of the differing evolution of the health crisis.

GUIDELINES TO THE ORGANISATION OF THE EUROPEAN BACCALAUREATE 2021 SESSION

1. GENERAL ORGANISATION

National regulations dictated by national authorities will prevail and must thus be considered by the Directions of the Examinations' Centers as the basics minimum conditions to be respected, as to any decision or choice on general organization, whether about the facilities (in situ at school / in situ other place) or about the hygiene and sanitary conditions.

This includes the possibility and authorization for schools to remain open or not and for candidates to actually be able to go to schools or not.

But also all the conditions to be foreseen in terms of social distance, prophylactic and protection measures such as use of masks, desinfectants, hygiene of the facilities, etc.

Additional more restrictive rules can of course be implemented by the schools, where necessary, especially as to vulnerable pupils.

According to the national rules, in situ lessons suspension does not necessarily prevent examinations to happen in situ.

The overall goal underlying the work of the Task Force is to enable the organisation of all examinations *in situ*, unless diversely imposed by the national authorities and respecting the medical conditions of the candidates.

This rule is also applicable for pupils who would fall under the “vulnerable” definition. Schools will ensure that these pupils will be accommodated in line with the national regulations.

Possible organisation of exams in a venue different than the school to ensure safe sanitary conditions (for example, in an exhibition venue or an exam center) could be envisaged.

If not, it could be reasonable to spread the candidates among different class rooms when the cohort is numerous and the need to keep the minimum social distance prevents the school from putting all candidates in the same room.

School can be emptied from all other pupils and staff not necessary to run the examinations in order to limit any possible unnecessary contact.

Any local authority rule as to social distancing, precaution measures, health measures, ventilation of facilities, etc, shall be put in place by every Examinations Center.

RESERVE SESSION: Pupils who are not present on the day of the examination (and have medical certificate or other reason considered valid, like confirmed quarantine) can sit the reserve examination. Article 8 of AIREB applies.

COMMUNICATION: The OSGES will ensure via Directors a proper communication of every decision taken by the Chairman of the European Baccalaureate process all through the year. Directors will decide for the best way of dissemination of the information to their staff, pupils and legal representatives.

Decisions taken by the Board of Governors or by the Chairman of the Baccalaureate will be published on the website of the OSGES.

A more elaborated 'communication policy, including potential communication to Universities, will be part of the requested prolongation of the mandate of the TASK FORCE 'Preparation of the 2021 Baccalaureate Session'.

DECISION MAKING PROCESS: The Guidelines and the AIREB might be subject to further review in the light of the development of the pandemic situation. Also against this background, the Board of Governors will be asked to prolong the mandate of the TASK FORCE. This will allow an involvement of representatives of students, parents and teachers in a consultative manner in future decision making processes.

In addition, any considered sensitive decision related to

- the cancellation of a set of examinations (Written and / or Oral examinations)
- a potential moderation or
- alternative EB final mark calculation

will be subject to further consultation of the Board of Governors.

The possibility to enlarge the debate, including an involvement of the TROIKA members (i.e. both, previous and future Presidency), will be included in the request to prolong and broaden the mandate of the TASK FORCE. Spain and Croatia Presidencies will be requested to join the France Presidency if the new mandate will be approved by the Board of Governors.

GENERAL CONSIDERATION: Given the impact of the COVID 19 pandemic on the previous and the current school year Inspectors are asked to reflect on the opportunity to adapt their expectations in terms of assessment of the EB 2021 candidates should it be considered necessary, as to the current and future potentially altered conditions of teaching. Nevertheless, any decision taken as to this point cannot jeopardize the validity and value of the European Baccalaureate diploma.

The members of the Board of Inspectors Secondary Cycle will be further consulted on this matter.

2. VULNERABLE PUPILS

Definition of vulnerable groups (conditions that increase the risk of adverse effects of COVID-19) (excerpt from the 'Decisions of the Board of Governors of 31 August 2020' Ref.: 2020-08-D-19-en-3):

1. Pregnancy [...]
2. Chronic cardiovascular diseases (coronary heart disease, congestive heart failure, cardiomyopathy, stroke)
3. Chronic obstructive or restrictive lung disease, severe asthma, obstructive sleep apnea
4. Persons suffering from immunosuppressive conditions (with active malignancy, or receiving long-term chemotherapy or steroids or other immunifying treatment)
5. Hypertension or diabetes, when accompanied by complications (i.e. simple diabetes or hypertension, well controlled by medication, are not included)
6. Chronic kidney or liver disease or haematological, neuromuscular or auto-immune disease
7. Infectious diseases: chronic hepatitis B, chronic hepatitis C that has not responded to treatment
8. Very obese people, with a body mass index (BMI) of 40 or more, or significantly underweight (BMI < 18.5)
9. Any other condition that would be considered a risk supported by a medical certificate.

Attention should be drawn to the following points:

1. Vulnerable pupils under medical certificate do not come to school and are entitled for the reserve session in line with Article 8 of AIREB.
2. Pupils who are positive to COVID stay home and request medical certificate to cover for their absence at the examination. They are entitled for the reserve session in line with Article 8 of AIREB.
3. Vulnerable pupils, unless under medical certificate, come to school (or in situ, as per definition of any other facility), but are seated in a separate room and do not have contact with any other pupils (disinfection, masks and distance rules apply).
4. As to oral examinations: vulnerable pupils could sit their examinations through an online tool usually used for the online teaching. In this case the use of a camera is mandatory and will require the consent of the pupil or his/her legal representative. If such consent is not given, the examination has to be carried out in situ.
5. In any circumstances, any accompanying person (assistants, readers, scribes...) must respect the local authorities sanitary measures.

3. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENTS

A prolonged deadline for requesting special arrangements (when linked to COVID) for vulnerable pupils, with supporting justifying documentation, could be considered. The related information shall be shared with all involved stakeholders. This extra deadline would be in line with specific conditions linked with the pandemic (eg: separate room). All other derogation possibilities are already foreseen in the procedure currently in force.

Reminder of the procedure to request special arrangements (Article 15 of AIREB and annex VII):

Requests are granted by the Board of Inspectors (Secondary Cycle).

Very late requests (outside the deadline) are granted by the Inspector in charge of the Special Arrangements and where impossible to reach the Inspector, by the Head of the European Baccalaureate Unit.

4. THE EXAMINATIONS' SESSIONS : Pre-Baccalaureate (short and long written examinations), Written and Oral examinations

The Task Force recommends the reading of the following guidelines in line with the excel table and time line inserted hereafter.

Event	Session	Decision time	Responsibility of decision	Session Calendar	Place of examination	Communication procedure	Reminder of meetings dates
Pre-Baccalaureate short Exams - first round (art. 6.3.1)	Regular session	October to December 2020	Director of the school (no need for a decision already foreseen in the Arrangements)	Regular session Oct-December 2020	In school, per class	If regular procedure, no specific communication. Usual internal communication by Director	Board of Governors: 1-3 December 2020
Pre-Baccalaureate long Exams (art 6.3.2)	Regular session	By 15 January 2021	Director of the school (no need for a decision already foreseen in the Arrangements)	January-February 2021 (15 days per school approximately; schedule varies from school to school)	In situ or possible alternative place outside the school	If regular procedure, no specific communication. Usual internal communication by Director	Board of Inspectors and Joint Teaching Committee: 9 - 12 February 2021
	Postponement	At the latest, 26 February 2021	Director of the school, who will inform the Chairman of the Baccalaureate 2021 and the OSGES	If postponed, the Pre-Baccalaureate should take place by end of March at the very latest.	In situ or possible alternative place outside the school	Internal communication by Director to parents and pupils: tool will be chosen by Director	
	Alternative assessment	At the latest, 5 March 2021	Chairman of the Baccalaureate 2021, in consultation with the Board of Inspectors and the OSGES, upon request of the Director of the school concerned.	Between the beginning of March and mid-April 2021	In school, per class or at home if lockdown	MEMORANDUM TO SCHOOLS asap and Internal communication by Director to teachers, parents and pupils	Easter holidays: 29/03 to 09/04/2021 (except Mol 5 - 16/04)
	Cancellation	Beginning to Mid-April 2021 (BoG could be an opportunity)	Chairman of the Baccalaureate 2021, in consultation with the Board of Inspectors and the OSGES, upon request of the Director of the school concerned.	not applicable	not applicable	Letter to all pupils and parents, co-signed by SG, Chairman and Directors. Could be sent through SMS. And/or published on the school website.	Board of Governors: 13-15 April 2021
Pre-Baccalaureate short Exams - second round (art 6.3.1)	Regular session	May 2021	Director of the school (no need for a decision already foreseen in the Arrangements)	Regular session May 2021	In school, per class	If regular procedure, no specific communication. Usual internal communication by Director	May Holiday: 10-14 May 2021 (for most of the schools)
	Alternative assessment	At the latest, 15 April 2021	Chairman of the Baccalaureate 2021, in consultation with the Board of Inspectors and the OSGES, upon request of the Director of the school concerned.	May 2021, same time as when regular session should happen	In school, per class or at home if lockdown	MEMORANDUM TO SCHOOLS asap and Internal communication by Director to teachers, parents and pupils	
	Cancellation	Mid-April 2021 (BoG could be an opportunity) - Week of 19 April 2021	Chairman of the Baccalaureate 2021, in consultation with the Board of Inspectors and the OSGES, upon request of the Director of the school concerned.	not applicable	not applicable	Letter to all pupils and parents, co-signed by SG, Chairman and Directors. Could be sent through SMS. And/or published on the school website.	
European Baccalaureate written examinations (art 6.4)	Regular session	June 2021	OSGES, no need for a decision already foreseen in the Arrangements	1 to 11 June 2021	In school or possible alternative place outside the school	Letter to all pupils and parents, co-signed by SG and Chairman. Sent to all stakeholders.	Board of Inspectors: 14 June 2021
	Cancellation	Mid-May 2021	Chairman of the Baccalaureate 2021, in consultation with the Board of Inspectors, the OSGES and Board of Governors	not applicable	not applicable		May Holiday: 10-14 May 2021 (for most of the schools)
European Baccalaureate oral examinations (art 6.5)	Regular session	June - July 2021	OSGES, no need for a decision already foreseen in the Arrangements	21 June - 1 July 2021	In school, in a class room, as usual		
	Cancellation of 2 orals out of 3 orals	By 15 February 2021	Chairman of the Baccalaureate 2021, in consultation with the Board of Inspectors, the OSGES and Board of Governors	21 June - 1 July 2021, calendar to organise the only oral left	In school, in a class room, as usual		
	Cancellation of ALL orals	Any time after 15 February 2021 depending on the evolution of the situation		not applicable	not applicable		

		October 2020	November 2020	December 2020	January 2021	February 2021	March 2021	April 2021	May 2021	June 2021	July 2021
Pre-Bacc short exams round 1	regular	Short tests taken in class									
Pre-Bacc long exams	regular				2 weeks exams, schedule per school						
	decision to maintain				By 15 January 2021						
	decision to postpone					By 26 February 2021					
	If postponed					Pre-Bacc must be taken by end March at the very latest					
	decision to alternative assessment						By 5 March 2021				
	if alternative assessment						Alternative assessment, by mid-April 2021				
	decision to cancel							By 15 April 2021			
Pre-Bacc short exams round 2	regular								regular		
	decision to alternative assessment							By 15 April 2021			
	if alternative assessment								Alternative assessment in May 2021		
	decision to cancel							By 15 April 2021			
EB written exams	regular									1-11 June 2021	
	decision to cancel								By 15 May 2021		
EB oral exams: 1 Oral: L2 or subject in L2	regular									21 June to 1 July 2021	
	decision to cancel 2 out of 3 oral examinations					By 15 February 2021					
	decision to cancel ALL oral examinations						Anytime after, depending on the evolution of the situation				
Meetings				Board of Governors 1-3 Dec 2020		Bol and JTC 9 - 12 February 2021		Board of Governors 13-15 April 2021		Board of Inspectors 14 June 2021	
Holidays				Christmas: 21 Dec 2020 - 1 Jan 2021			Easter: 29 March - 9 April			10 - 14 May 2021	

4a. PRE-BACCALAUREATE

Reminder: The Calendar of the Pre-Baccalaureate is decided by the Director of each school and is not submitted to the approval of the Office of the Secretary-General of the European School (OSGES) or the Board of Governors (BoG), like it is the case for the European Baccalaureate (EB) calendar.

Reminder: Article 8 of the Arrangements apply as to absences during Pre-Baccalaureate examinations: any absence shall be duly justified by medical certificate. Any missed examination shall be taken as a reserve within the deadline foreseen by the Arrangements.

The draft amended AIREB (version 25) should also be read as reference as to Articles 6.3 and 6.3.3 (Physical Education and Religion/Ethics assessment)

The proposed calendar derives from the necessity to guarantee that the Pre-Baccalaureate is safeguarded. At this point in time, December 2020, the pupils should assume that the Pre-Baccalaureate would happen as it is regularly foreseen, perhaps with a limited number of postponed exams.

- As to the **calendar** of the Pre-Baccalaureate short (Article 6.3.1) and long (Article 6.3.2) written examinations

Option 1: no change to the calendar is needed. All conditions are met to go on with the regular timetable.

Option 2: postponement of the long written examinations (part or all of it)

The Pre-Baccalaureate can be postponed (by the Director, following information to the European Baccalaureate Chairman and to the OSGES) **by 26 February 2021**, if it is not legally possible for pupils and staff to come to school (according to national or regional rules).

Option 3: alternative assessment of the Pre-Baccalaureate short/long written examinations (see doc 2020-09-D-69 and MEMORANDUM (2020-11-M-2.1-en) on online teaching/alternative tasks)

If a postponement is impossible due to persisting impossibility to come to school, then alternative tasks will be decided by the Chairman of the Baccalaureate 2021, in consultation with the Board of Inspectors and the OSGES, upon request of the Director of the school concerned. In the case of Accredited European Schools, the Head of Delegation of the concerned hosting Member State of the school shall be consulted.

The decision will have to be taken **by 5 March 2021** at the latest.

The alternative assessment can take place **until 15 April 2021** at the latest.

Option 4: cancellation of the Pre-Baccalaureate long written examinations.

If the alternative tasks would be impossible to be implemented **by 15 April 2021** at the latest, then the Pre-Baccalaureate (first semester) session is cancelled.

The decision will be taken by the Chairman of the Baccalaureate 2021, in consultation with the Board of Inspectors and the OSGES, upon request of the Director of the school concerned. The Chairman can seek advice from other bodies of the European Schools system. In the case of

Accredited European Schools, the Head of Delegation of the concerned host country of the school shall be consulted.

As to the second semester short examinations of the Pre-Baccalaureate session, they will be cancelled by decision of the Chairman of the Baccalaureate 2021 **by 15 April 2021** at the latest if no alternative tasks can be implemented in May 2021 during the same timeframe foreseen as for the regular examinations in situ. The Chairman can seek advice from other bodies of the European Schools system.

The decision for alternative assessment will also have to be taken **by 15 April 2021** at the latest.

The alternative assessment can take place **in May 2021** during the same timeframe as the regular May session of short written examinations.

A Memorandum (2020-11-M-2.1-en) containing description of potential alternative assessment tasks will be communicated as soon as possible to all involved stakeholders.

In case of replacing the usual short and long exams with the alternative tasks, the preliminary mark is calculated using the usual formula. Shall the examinations be cancelled, a new formula will be decided by the Chairman following the consultation with the Board of Governors.

- As to **correction** of the Pre-Baccalaureate scripts (long written examinations)

Where possible, **Viatique** should be used for the Pre-Baccalaureate, especially for long written examinations, to avoid manipulation of the scripts by multiple persons. This will also allow teachers who must quarantine or are vulnerable to still be able to correct their scripts.

4b. THE EUROPEAN BACCALAUREATE SESSION

The following items must be read in reference to previous “Background” and “General Organization”, about sanitary measures to be respected by staff and EB Candidates.

Article 8 of the AIREB applies as to absences during written and oral examinations: any absence shall be duly justified by medical certificate. Any missed examination shall be taken as a reserve within the deadlines foreseen by the AIREB.

Reminder of the procedure followed for the implementation of the Timetable:

The Timetable on written and oral examinations, communication of results and proclamation, is drafted by the European Baccalaureate Unit, submitted to the JTC by way of written procedure and then submitted for approval to the Board of Governors in December 2020.

RESERVE SESSION: No reserve session is scheduled in advance because it depends on the real absences due to illness and other authorized valid reason (eg: UNED exams, quarantine) during the session and possible return to school. Pupils who are not present on the day of the examination (and have medical certificate or other reason considered valid, like confirmed quarantine) can sit the reserve examination. Article 8 of AIREB applies.

As to written examinations: the EB Unit waits as long as possible that all absent pupils for the same examination come back and then sets a common date for these pupils who have to take this same reserve.

As to oral examinations: the School waits as long as possible that the absent pupil comes back and then set a date for this pupil to take the reserve. If the external examiner is not available anymore upon return of the pupil, the school can request the intervention of a local teacher.

If it is impossible during the June session, the reserve is requested by the school to the EB Unit, who then addresses it to the President of the Baccalaureate who can authorize it as an extraordinary reserve session in September. As usually, the aim is to gather all the pupils for reserve session in such a way that only one reserve paper per subject is used for this purpose in June and one in September if necessary.

4b.1. WRITTEN EUROPEAN BACCALAUREATE EXAMINATIONS

PROPOSAL OF THE TASK FORCE

The TASK FORCE proposes to maintain all five written European Baccalaureate examinations (and additional, cf. Article 13 of AIREB).

Rationale: The TASK FORCE puts forward as rationale to maintain as much as possible the organisation of a written European Baccalaureate session for the following reasons:

- The need put forward (also) by some EB 2020 appealing candidates to be assessed, at least in written, to be supported in the University access procedure.
- The University or other post-Baccalaureate Institutions' requirements which foresee proof of proper assessment in written of potential future students in the main subjects.
- The possibility to maintain the additional written examination (Article 13 of AIREB).
- The Complaints Board underlined the need for pupils to be assessed in view of the acceptance of future students in their chosen University.
- The correction process through the online tool Viatique allows both internal and external correctors to intervene at a distance. No travelling would thus be required from the external correctors and it allows teachers to safely correct even if vulnerable or under quarantine.
- No risk of procedural appeal exists if the current procedures are maintained.

In case of symptoms: It is the responsibility of the candidate/family to not come to school in presence of symptoms. The doctor should be consulted and appropriate measures should be taken, including informing the school of a potential justified absence (at the end of the day of the examination at the very latest).

Material: As to the specificities of the written examinations modalities, the TASK FORCE recommends that no common material is provided by the school (with the exception of examination paper, but pupils should take only as much as needed, in order not to return any unused sheets, computer in context of special arrangements or technological tool if forgotten by a pupil): all pens and other necessary items shall be personal (every candidate signs the presence or leaving of the room with his/her own pen...). Any alternative identification tool, especially if electronical, could be used (scanning ID card, school badge scanning...).

Cancellation: If it is not possible to organise a regular EB session, the Chairman, after consultation of the Board of Inspectors and the OSGES, can submit the proposal to cancel the written examinations **by 15 May 2021** at the latest to the Board of Governors. The Chairman can seek advice from other bodies of the European Schools system (Article 5 of AIREB). The final decision will be taken by the Chairman following the consultation of the Board of Governors.

4b.2. ORAL EXAMINATIONS

PROPOSAL OF THE TASK FORCE:

The TASK FORCE considers the following three options in the following order of preference:

- 1) **Maintain the full oral examinations session**
- 2) **Cancel part of the oral examinations session (2 out of 3 examinations)**
- 3) **Cancel the complete oral examinations session.**

The TASK FORCE would agree on cancelling all or at least two of the three oral European Baccalaureate examinations. The remaining oral being the usual second one: L2/L2A or HIST 2P/4P or GEO 2P/4P.

Rationale: The TASK FORCE puts forward as rationale to cancel part or all of the organisation of an oral European Baccalaureate session the following reasons:

a) Organisation

- As to a regular organisation of the orals session:
 - In a regular session, approximately 500 external oral examiners coming from approximately 17 countries are required; current travel restrictions make this requirement impossible to maintain and it can be.
 - Tight schedule: 3 to max 8 days of examinations to organize per school, between 100 and 800 orals, depending on the school.
 - Multiple examinations per day, potential organizational difficulties for the schools.
 - 14 pupils per day per examiner (if no special arrangements, otherwise, less).
 - Even if travels would be possible, many examiners could refuse to travel because of their vulnerable status (many of them being over 60).
 - Impossibility to find all the necessary external examiners locally (as it was already extremely difficult to find enough examiners for a regular session in the past years).
 - Any disruption of the oral organization process could lead to potential procedural irregularities that could invalidate the whole process (since if the procedural irregularity is confirmed and affected many pupils, the need to re-sit the examinations will apply to all the pupils concerned – Article 12.5 of AIREB: “If a decision is made to offer a re-examination because of a general procedural irregularity, the decision can be applied to all candidates whose examinations suffer from the same procedural irregularity.”).

- As to an online organisation of the orals session:
 - (Too) long connection requested to stakeholders involved; many external examiners will renounce...
 - Any of the 3 stakeholders can be unavailable at a distance: EB candidate / teacher / external (pure technical issues).
 - While 1 candidate is preparing his/her answer, another is taking his/her oral exam. Is this possible online? How to ensure that the “preparing” pupil is monitored online?
 - If the candidate is at home, how do the school provide him with necessary foreseen material (dictionary, graph paper, periodic table,...).
 - What about candidates with special arrangements (reader, writer, etc). Shall the teacher go to his/her place to help? How to apply the granted measures at home? Impossible to control sanitary measures in pupils' homes.
 - How to deal with the oral criteria to be signed by each teacher and external examiner? Not all of them are technically equipped with a scanner (no assessment sheet is a procedural irregularity).

b) Further studies requirements

- University or post-Baccalaureate Institutions rather rarely refer to oral assessment in their requirements. It is reflected in Article 13 of AIREB, giving pupils the possibility to enroll for an additional written examination (instead of taking it as an oral).

Cancellation: If it is not possible to organise a regular EB session, the Chairman, after consultation of the Board of Inspectors and the OSGES, can submit to the Board of Governors the proposal to cancel part or all of the three oral examinations, if the travel restrictions are still valid and if the pandemic is still active **by 15 February 2021** at the latest. The Chairman can seek advice from other bodies of the European Schools system (Article 5 of AIREB). The final decision will be taken by the Chairman following the consultation of the Board of Governors.

For organisational reasons (finding available external examiners, or other local teachers, preparing the oral questions with usual 15 March deadline...), and in order to inform candidates in due time, the decision to cancel some or all oral examinations must be taken **by 15 February 2021** at the latest, following a discussion at the Pedagogical meetings.

If it is decided to maintain only ONE oral examination, the TASK FORCE proposes to keep the second compulsory oral examination: L2 or subject in L2. Indeed, some oral competences assessment should be maintained and the oral marks are usually higher and positively influence the EB final mark.

Rationale supporting this choice:

- 1) L1 / L1A already widely assessed at the written examination (longer examination in languages).
- 2) L1 / L1A would require finding local examiners in all the 22 languages offered in the ES.
- 3) History or Geography can be assessed if not taken at a written level.
- 4) Limit of examinations subjects to be covered on an organizational point of view, organization that is complicated by the current pandemic.

- 5) Easier to find available examiners, including external living in the same area / region of the school for the second compulsory examination, or local teachers who could act as external examiners (foreseen by Article 5.5.3 of AIREB).
- 6) In particular situation, when not possible to find either an external examiner or second teacher in the area of the schools, as a way of exception, an online participation of an external examiner could be foreseen in limited number of cases in order to make it manageable and limit the risk of potential appeals.

As to the concrete holding of the oral examinations, questions could be proposed on an electronic support only in order to avoid touching the same piece of paper (candidates randomly select a number corresponding to a question and the question is displayed on the screen). This technical recommendation will be decided by each school.

It should also be considered to have the candidate take the question, prepare the answer and answer the oral examination in the same room in order to avoid movement, crossing with other candidates.

5. THE FINAL MARKS: written, oral, final EB mark (Article 6 and annex IV of the AIREB)

This item should be read in reference to Charts 2 and 3 below inserted, defining some approaches as to the calculation of the written marks, orals marks and final EB marks, according to the decisions made.

Moderation is an option, that will be further decided and fine-tuned if confirmed, in accordance with statistical forecasts, real results (A-marks and pre-baccalaureate included). It allows to intervene not only in case of a different calculation of the final mark, but also in case when results are much lower than expected due to the different conditions during this school year.

The individual results of each candidate will be considered to define the specific formula of moderation.

The experience from the last school year and the overall assessment of EB 2020 candidates showed that Pre-Baccalaureate results reveal to be fundamental to be achieved, accompanied by A-Marks and fine-tuned by written examinations, and if possible by oral examinations.

All formulas and moderation processes put forward are not fixed. They will in any way take real accurate marks into consideration. Moderation could intervene downgrading or upgrading the marks, depending on real results and the actual situation at the end of the school year. Any potential new formula will take into consideration the missing elements from the available A, B, W and/or O marks, and will seek the most equivalent fair substitution for them.

Any decision concerning the marks (subjects and final, potential moderation) will be taken by the Board of Governors, upon proposal by the Chairman, after consultation of the Board of Inspectors and the OSGES. The Chairman can seek advice from external consultancy or other bodies of the European Schools system.

- Reminder of the **REGULAR** formula:

$$C\ 50\% (A\ 20\% + B\ 30\%) + W\ 35\% + O\ 15\% = \text{Final EB Mark}$$
 The written examinations are 5 x 7% each
 The oral examinations are 3 x 5% each.

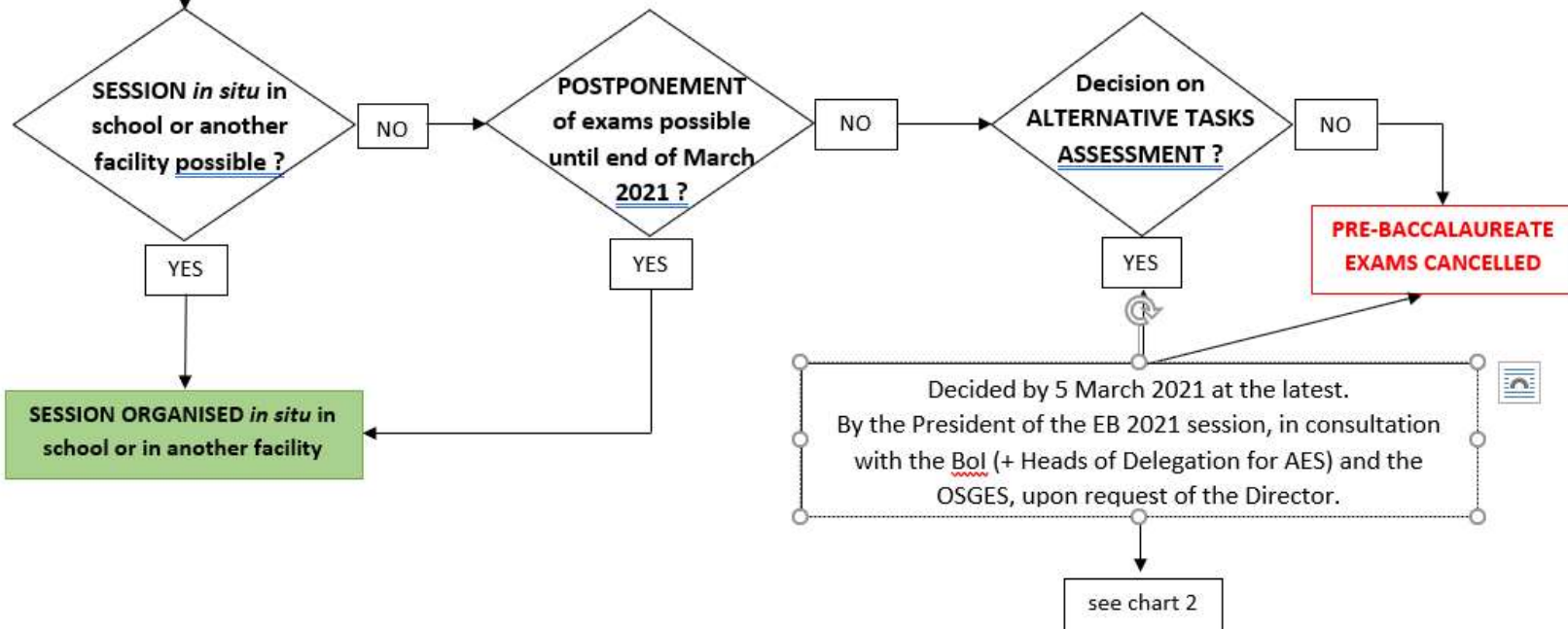
ANNEXES:

3 Flow charts (Pre-Baccalaureate, Assessment, European Baccalaureate)

Chart 1
ES and AES SCHOOLS:
Pre-Baccalaureate Plan

LOCAL SITUATION?

- **NO LOCKDOWN ?**
- **PARTIAL LOCKDOWN ?** (country, section, class...)
- **COMPLETE LOCKDOWN ?**



PRIORITIES in action:

1. Regular organisation of exams *in situ*
2. Postponement of exams (at the latest by end of March 2021)
3. Alternative tasks assessment (by mid-April 2021 at the latest)
4. **Cancellation** of Pre-Baccalaureate

