



BUCHAREST - BEIRUT  
International School

# **Bucharest – Beirut International School**

## **Assessment Policy**

## **BBIS Mission**

***Our mission is to build a knowledgeable, self-confident and principled student who is willing to take risks and face up challenges, urged by curiosity, integrity and a passion for learning.***

***As educators, it is our responsibility to encourage our students to be caring, thoughtful and respectful, to become open-minded global citizens, and to promote multicultural understanding.***

### **Assessment Philosophy and Principles**

We believe that assessment is an essential component of the teaching/learning process, providing a relevant review of students' progress. Assessment is a method for students to acquire skills and knowledge, but also offers feedback to teachers on students' performance and progress helping them adapt their curriculum to students' needs. Both formative and summative assessments are invaluable sources of information, as they offer teachers and students a clear view of the state of the learning process and help teachers identify the necessary steps to be taken in each case.

In assessing we are guided by the following principles:

- Assessment is meant to develop skills to support understanding and learning
- Assessment should be designed using different strategies and tools to be relevant and motivating for students
- Assessment should be adapted to the students' learning styles
- Assessment feedback should be clear, prompt and precise
- Assessment should be followed by students' reflection on their own results
- Assessment should develop internationally minded students
- Parents should be constantly informed about the assessment outcomes and students' progress

## **Types of assessment**

### ***Formative Assessment***

The main purpose of formative assessment is to monitor students' learning on a regular basis and clarify any misunderstanding that may occur in the process of learning. Teachers can use a variety of both oral and written assessments such as, but not only, pop-up quizzes, presentations, projects, portfolios, debates, investigations, homework, self-evaluations.

### ***Summative Assessment***

Summative assessments comprise all the concepts taught in one topic or/and within one term period to measure student at the end of an instructional stage. The results of summative assessments are important for teachers to verify to what extent the course objectives are met by the students. These assessments include monthly exams, oral interviews, mid-year and final exams.

### ***Homework***

Homework is a necessary formative assessment meant to reinforce student's classroom work. Moreover, it gives students the chance to review the information acquired at school and strengthen the concepts learnt on a daily basis. Homework develops self-management skills and gives students satisfaction and pride in their own work. The variety of homework assignments aims to cover different learning styles. The allocated time for the homework is between 1- 1.5 hours /week per subject for grades 1 to 6 and 2-2.5 hours/week per subject for grades 7 to 12. Students with special educational needs have access to after-school tutoring on a regular basis. Students are expected to hand in their homework on the due dates settled by the teachers. Failure to do so repeatedly will lead to informing the parents.

### ***Examinations***

Examinations aim to assess all the concepts and topics covered during each grading period and give students pertinent feedback on the achieved knowledge and skills. At BBIS, both semesters conclude with an assessment session consisting of two-hour exams on each studied subject according to the specific grade.

## **Grading at BBIS**

At BBIS the marking scale, for both formative and summative assessments is 0-20. The lowest passing mark for all students in all subjects is 10/20. The achievement grades from 0-20 are based on 4 criteria and vary according to the subjects:

- knowing and understanding
- investigating, synthesizing and analyzing
- communicating
- reflecting and thinking critically

**The monthly marks for all subjects, except languages, are calculated as follows:**

- Monthly exams = 50%
- Quizzes = 35%
- CW + CP + HW = 15% ( CW – class work; CP – class participation; HW – homework)

**The monthly marks for languages are calculated as follows:**

- Reading comprehension, listening, speaking, writing, grammar, vocabulary, functions, literature, homework = 40%
- Monthly exam = 60%

**Semester marks are calculated as follows:**

$(\text{Average of the 2 monthly marks} + \text{final year exam})/2 = \text{final semester mark}$

**Final Year Mark for each subject is calculated as an average of both final semester marks.**

## **Reporting to parents**

BBIS sends Progress Reports to parents every two months, which include the grades for the respective period of time in each subject. At the end of the first semester, our school provides parents with an overall report card including the average mark from the previous two Progress Reports, the Mid-Year exams marks and comments from teachers reflecting students' knowledge and skills improvement.

## Assessments in the Diploma Programme

The DP assessments consist of two types of examinations: internal and external assessments.

The Internal Assessments are marked by our subject teachers and then sent to be reviewed and graded by external moderators.

At the end of the two year programme, the students in the DP are taking written exams for each of the six chosen subjects (3 high level and 3 standard level), which are corrected by IB examiners externally using specific criteria for each subject.

Students will be graded with scores from 1 point (minimum) to 7 points (maximum) in each subject. The theory of knowledge (TOK) and extended essay (EE) can help students acquire up to 3 additional points to the overall score. Creativity, Action, Service (CAS) is not graded, but students have to meet all the requirements to be awarded the diploma.

In order to be awarded a diploma, students must obtain at least 24 points in the six subjects overall and to reach the minimum conditions for the core subjects.

For additional details regarding the Diploma Programme Assessments, you can get more information in the IB document "*General regulations: Diploma Programme -For students and their legal guardian(2007)*" or access the IB official page

<http://www.ibo.org/programmes/diploma-programme/assessment-and-exams/understanding-ib-assessment/>.

We have a specific scale that shows the transformation of grades from our system to the IB marks.

BBIS Scales	IB Marking
17-20	7
16	6
15	6
14	6
13	5
12	5
11	4
10	4
9	3
8	3
7	3
6	2
5	2
0-4	1

