

Q&A: January Assessment Administration Session Cancellation Workforce Reporting

January 24, 2022

Section 1: General	
Q1: Why did the Ministry cancel the January 2022 Graduation Assessment session?	A1: Over the past few months, grade 10 and 12 provincial assessments have been impacted significantly by work force capacity issues and the ability to address technical issues within the electronic assessment system. The capacity issues for the Ministry and e-assessment service provider teams have been exacerbated as of late by COVID-19 Omicron variant. Due to these ongoing impacts, the Ministry made the difficult decision to cancel the January administration of all grade 10 and 12 provincial graduation assessments.
Q2: Which assessments are included in the cancellation of the January administration session?	A2: All graduation assessments (Literacy 10, Numeracy 10, Literacy 12) are included for both English and French within the cancellation of the January administration session. Typically, there are four sessions where students can write assessments (November, January, April and June). This cancellation only pertains to the January session.
Q3: When will students have another opportunity to write these assessments?	A3: Information regarding upcoming sessions (April and June 2022) will be provided by mid-February. No Grade 12 students who are on track to graduate in the 2021/22 school year will be impacted by this cancellation.
Q4: Did the Ministry consult with the sector in advance of this cancellation, and if so, how?	A4: The Ministry is committed to consulting with the field on changes that impact students, teachers, and schools. The Ministry consulted with Superintendents representing the regional chapters in the province and an independent school representative.
Q5: What is the purpose of the Grade 10 Literacy, Grade 10 Numeracy and Grade 12 Literacy assessments?	A5: The Grade 10 Numeracy and Grade 10 and 12 Literacy Assessments are graduation requirements for B.C. students, providing an external standardized measure of individual student learning in these foundational areas. The proficiency levels a student achieves serve as evidence of their learning. Along with classroom assessment, provincial assessments provide additional information for districts, administrators, teachers and students about specific areas of strength and areas to improve. Provincial assessments also serve as key system performance indicators, offering a standardized evaluation of student performance in literacy and numeracy and, over time, can help in the monitoring of key outcomes of B.C.'s education system.

Q6: How are these assessments different than the subject-based provincial exams the province used to administer?	A6: Graduation assessments have changed to align with the redesigned curriculum and are no longer course-based and are now cross-curricular. As part of the updated graduation requirements, students must complete three provincial assessments (Literacy 10, Numeracy 10 and Literacy 12), which focus on the demonstration and application of numeracy and literacy. Students in French Immersion and the Francophone program write additional assessments for dual diplomas.
Q7: Does this cancellation affect the Foundation Skills Assessments?	A7: No, it does not.
Section 2: Impacts on Assessment Schedules and Results	
Q8: Students, teachers and administrators do a lot to prepare for assessment sessions. Can the Ministry commit to providing clarity on assessments for the rest of the year to avoid sudden cancellations like this one?	A8: The Ministry is aware of the time that students, teachers and administrators spend preparing for the assessment session and acknowledge that a last-minute cancellation is not ideal. As the Omicron variant, workforce and technical issues all play a factor in the upcoming assessment administration sessions, the Ministry will be working with our e-assessment provider and consulting with the sector to determine feasibility of upcoming sessions. An update will be provided on the April and June sessions by February 15, 2022.
Q9: Will the April and June assessment sessions be extended to provide students and administrators with more flexibility?	A9: It is possible that the April and June administration sessions can be extended, but the feasibility will need to be explored. Updates to the assessment schedule will be made on the Ministry website at: https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/education-training/k-12/administration/program-management/assessment/graduation
Q10: Will any additional graduation administration sessions be added this school year to make up for the cancellation in January?	A10: There are no plans to add sessions outside of April and June 2022. Updates to the assessment schedule will be made on the Ministry website at: https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/education-training/k-12/administration/program-management/assessment/graduation
Q11: What happens for students who already completed the oral component of LTF12? Will they have to redo this in April?	A11: At this point, we will need to determine the technical feasibility or aligning the oral component of the assessment with a later written component. All efforts will be made to ensure that the student experience to complete LTF 12 will be as easy as possible.

Q12: How will the Ministry address the disproportionate impact on French language component for French immersion students who must now wait months to write their assessments?	A12: We understand that the cancellation of the January session may create a disconnect for French immersion students with the timing for demonstrating their French language proficiency. This will be taken into consideration when determining possible future sessions.
Q13: Will there be any impact on the reporting of the November provincial assessment results for Literacy 10, Numeracy 10, and Literacy 12?	A13: Literacy 10 and Numeracy 10 results will be released as soon as possible. Decisions regarding the release of Literacy 12 results will be made and communicated at a later date.
Q14: How will the cancellation of graduation assessments affect scholarships?	A14: Provincial Assessments are currently not included in the calculation for scholarships.
Section 3: Graduation and Post-Secondary Impacts	
Q15: Students are permitted to re-write assessments twice to improve their results, but that may not be possible now that the January assessment session has been cancelled. How will the Ministry address this?	A15: Information regarding upcoming sessions (April and June 2022) will be provided by mid-February. The Ministry will consider extending the administration dates of those sessions. Students are also able to re-write for a full year after graduation, should they choose to.
Q16: What effect will this cancellation have on students' admission to post-secondary institutions in B.C. and outside of B.C.? What about for early admission?	A16: Since the start of COVID-19, universities have been making adjustments with respect to admissions decisions and have continued to throughout the pandemic. The Ministry has been in contact with several B.C. universities and have been assured that they will not base admissions decisions on the Literacy 12 assessment and that the January session cancellation will not adversely impact students. The Ministry is prepared to provide support to students, in the unlikely event that any student has challenges with admissions related to the cancellation of the January assessment administration session. For further information, students can email: exams@gov.bc.ca.
Q17: Will the graduation assessment marking session planned in February be cancelled?	A17: Yes, this session has been cancelled.