



Information for Students

Planning to Write Diploma Examinations

Are you writing a diploma examination soon? We can help.

Diploma examinations are available for the following courses:

- Biology 30 • Chemistry 30
- English Language Arts 30–1
- English Language Arts 30–2 • Français 30–1
- French Language Arts 30–1
- Mathematics 30–1 • Mathematics 30–2
- Physics 30 • Science 30
- Social Studies 30–1 • Social Studies 30–2

Who can write diploma examinations?

- Students who have completed instruction in a diploma examination course
- Students who already have a mark in a diploma examination course and wish to improve it
- Mature students

Note: Students must have photo ID when they write diploma examinations. If you cannot produce photo ID, you will **NOT** be allowed to write the examination.

Who is a “mature student”?

A mature student is someone who, as of September 1 of the current school year, is

- 19 years of age or older OR
 - the holder of a previously awarded high school diploma from the province of Alberta or an equivalent high school diploma from a jurisdiction acceptable to the Minister.
- If you are uncertain about your status as

a mature student, please call the Provincial Approach to Student Information (PASI) and Student Records at 780-422-9337 (toll-free 310-0000 within Alberta).

How do I register to write diploma examinations?

If you are taking a diploma examination course through an accredited Alberta high school, then your school will register you to write the examination for the course in which you are enrolled.

Mature students may write diploma examinations without taking diploma examination courses and may write these examinations in the November, January, April, June, or August writing sessions. If you are a mature student and intend to write a diploma examination in November, January, April, June, or August without taking the course, you must submit a completed *Diploma Examination Registration/Rewrite Fee Payment Form* to Alberta Education by the dates specified on the form. You also need to make arrangements with the principal of the high school or the designated writing centre where you intend to write so that space and an examination will be available for you.

The *Diploma Examination Registration/Rewrite Fee Payment Form* is available on the Alberta Education website at education.alberta.ca/admin/testing/forms.aspx.

Information for Students is published by Alberta Education for students and teachers. Information for Parents, a publication of Alberta Education, is available for parents and school councils.

Check out our website at education.alberta.ca/admin/testing.aspx.

If a diploma examination has two parts, you must write (or rewrite) both Part(ie) A and Part(ie) B of the examination during the same examination administration session to earn credit for that diploma examination course. If this is impossible, see your principal or counsellor.

If you have to be out of the province when the diploma examinations are written, you may, under certain circumstances, be permitted to write at a special writing centre. Ask your principal for more information.

When is the deadline to register to write or rewrite diploma examinations?

The deadlines to register to write or rewrite diploma examinations are specific to the session in which the examinations will be written. These deadlines are specified on the *Diploma Examination Registration/Rewrite Fee Payment Form* and in the *Schedules & Significant Dates* section of the *General Information Bulletin*, which is available on the Alberta Education website at education.alberta.ca/admin/testing/diplomaexams/diplomabulletin.aspx.

How do I register to rewrite a diploma examination?

If you intend to rewrite a diploma examination for a course you are currently retaking through an accredited Alberta high school, your school will register you to rewrite the examination for that course. You will still be responsible for paying the rewrite fee prior to the examination at

<http://www.education.alberta.ca/students/exams/rewrites.aspx>.

If you intend to rewrite a diploma examination without retaking the course, you must register and pay the rewrite fee online at <http://www.education.alberta.ca/students/exams/rewrites.aspx>.

Note: In the 2014–2015 school year, only the following diploma examinations are available in the November 2014 and April 2015 sessions.

November 2014	April 2015
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• English Language Arts 30–2• Mathematics 30–1• Chemistry 30• Physics 30	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• English Language Arts 30–1• Social Studies 30–1• Social Studies 30–2• Biology 30• Science 30—digital only

What is a diploma examination rewrite fee and how do I pay it?

If you are rewriting a diploma examination that you wrote in the current or two previous school years (since September 1, 2012), you are required to pay a rewrite fee of \$26.25 (including GST) per examination. The rewrite fee for foreign/exchange students—visiting or exchange students from outside Alberta—is \$50.00 (including GST) per examination.

Can I register and pay the rewrite fee by mail or in person?

The rewrite fee may be paid by mail in the form of a cheque or money order made payable to “Government of Alberta”. You may also come in person to the Transcript Unit, 2nd Floor, 44 Capital Boulevard, 10044–108 Street, Edmonton, where you can make payment using cash, debit card, cheque, money order, or major credit card. Payment **must** be submitted and received prior to the examination date.

Note: If you have an unpaid rewrite fee from a prior examination session, your current payment will be credited toward the outstanding debt. You must clear any outstanding debt before new diploma examination marks will appear on your high school record.

Check out our website at education.alberta.ca/admin/testing.aspx.

When can I write diploma examinations?

Schedules for all diploma examination administration sessions are available in the *Schedules & Significant Dates* section of the *General Information Bulletin*, which is available on the Alberta Education website at education.alberta.ca/admin/testing/diplomaexams/diplomabulletin.aspx.

What if I am ill and can't write a diploma examination that I'm registered for?

If illness, school closure, or an accident or death in your immediate family prevents you from writing a diploma examination for which you are registered, or if you get sick during an examination, see your principal or counsellor about what to do. If you have registered and paid to rewrite one or more diploma examinations and, for any of the reasons above, you are unable to write your examinations, you are eligible for a full refund. To apply for a refund, see your school principal or counsellor. In the case of all other cancelled registrations, a \$10.60 processing fee will be charged (including GST).

Can I have special provisions (accommodations) for writing diploma examinations?

Accommodations such as additional time, CD versions of examinations, large print, and Braille are available if you have a special diploma examination writing need. See your school counsellor or principal for more information.

Are diploma examinations available in French?

All diploma examinations, except English Language Arts 30–1, English Language Arts 30–2, and Science 30, are translated into French. If you are in a Francophone or alternate French Language Arts program, you may choose to write an examination in

English or in French, regardless of your language of instruction. If you have studied a course in French, your teacher may assume that you will write the examination in French; therefore, you need to notify your principal at least **90 days** before the examination date should you decide to write an examination in English.

What is the difference between French 30, French Language Arts 30–1, and Français 30–1?

French 30 is a second-language course for non-Francophone students. There is no diploma examination for French 30. French Language Arts 30–1 is an advanced French course designed for students in an alternate French Language Arts program. If you are enrolled in French Language Arts 30–1, you **must** write the French Language Arts 30–1 diploma examination in order to obtain a final course mark. Français 30–1 is a French language and literature course for students in Francophone programs. If you are enrolled in Français 30–1, you **must** write the Français 30–1 diploma examination in order to obtain a final course mark.

What materials do I need?

For all examinations, you are responsible for your own writing materials—pens, HB pencils, calculators, etc. Tear-out pages for rough work are provided in each biology, chemistry, mathematics, physics, and science examination booklet. For more information about the materials that are required and allowed for the writing of diploma examinations, please see the *Security & Examination Rules* section of the *General Information Bulletin*, which is available on the Alberta Education website at education.alberta.ca/admin/testing/diplomaexams/diplomabulletin.aspx.

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Are there other examination rules I need to know?

There are very specific rules that you must follow when writing diploma examinations. These rules, and the consequences for not following them, are described in the *Security & Examination Rules* section of the General Information Bulletin, which is available on the Alberta Education website at education.alberta.ca/admin/testing/diplomaexams/diplomabulletin.aspx.

How are diploma examinations marked?

The examinations are marked at a central location. Personal identification, including the name of your school, is removed from each examination booklet before it is marked. The machine-scorable answer sheets are marked by scanning machines. Written responses are marked independently by two or more teacher markers. These markers must meet specific qualifications in order to mark diploma examinations.

How are my final marks calculated?

To pass a diploma examination course, you must earn a final “blended” mark of at least 50%. For all courses, your school mark and your diploma examination mark are each worth 50% of your total mark. If, for example, in Chemistry 30, you receive a mark of 45% from your school and a mark of 57% on the diploma examination, your final mark is the average of those two marks—51%. Similarly, if your school mark is 56% and your diploma examination mark is 44%, your final mark is 50%.

If you are a mature student, you are not required to have a school mark. If you pass the diploma examination and have no school mark, you automatically receive credit for the course. If you do have a school mark and it is lower than your diploma examination mark, your final mark will be the examination mark

only. If your school mark is higher than your diploma examination mark, the two marks will be blended in the usual way.

While thorough examination development procedures are used, with the intent of making the diploma examinations in a given course as identical in difficulty as possible for each administration, the examinations still may vary slightly in difficulty. The process of equating allows Alberta Education to address these differences, so that a mark on an examination means the same thing no matter at which session a student writes the examination. The use of this process enhances fairness to students and enables the direct comparison of results from one examination session to another.

Equating involves the use of a baseline examination, to which all subsequent examinations in the course are compared. If a subsequent examination proves to be slightly easier than the baseline examination, equating adjusts some of the scores downward; if a subsequent examination proves to be slightly harder than the baseline examination, some scores are adjusted upward.

You can find more detail on Alberta Education’s website at education.alberta.ca/admin/testing/diplomaexams.aspx—see *Initiative to Maintain Consistent Standards on Diploma Examinations*.

How do I get my results?

The *Results Statement*, which lists your most recent school and diploma examination marks, will be mailed to you approximately three weeks after the last examinations have been written. The *Results Statement* is not an official transcript. An *Official High School Transcript of Academic Achievement* is available to you at a cost. For more details see High School Transcripts on the Alberta Education website at <http://www.education.alberta.ca/students/transcripts.aspx>.

Check out our website at education.alberta.ca/admin/testing.aspx.

If you repeat a course or rewrite a diploma examination, your transcript will show the highest school-awarded and diploma examination marks earned. You must request and pay for a new transcript if you upgrade your marks. If you rewrite a diploma examination but neglect to pay the rewrite fee, marks in the course will appear on neither your *Results Statement* nor the *Official High School Transcript of Achievement*.

Note: To ensure protection of privacy, course marks and examination marks cannot be read to students over the phone. Telephone requests and payments will not be accepted.

New for April 2015

Beginning with the April 2015 diploma examination writing session, *Results Statements* will be available exclusively online using *myPass*. The *Statement of Courses and Marks* will be replaced with the *Detailed Academic Report*, which is available exclusively online using *myPass*.

What is *myPass*? *myPass* is a student self-service website that will enable high school students to (i) access their *Results Statement*, (ii) view their demographic information, (iii) view their *Detailed Academic Report (DAR)*, (iv) view their progress toward their diploma or certificate, and (v) order and pay for a transcript. Specific information on how to sign up for *myPass* will be provided to all students who write diploma examinations in April 2015 and June 2015. More general information on *myPass* will be provided to students and schools in early 2015.

Is there an appeal process for school-awarded marks?

If you are dissatisfied with a school mark, you may appeal to your principal under the appeal policy set by your local school authority.

Is there an appeal process for diploma examination marks?

If you believe that your diploma examination mark does not accurately reflect your level of achievement in a course, you may rewrite the examination or ask to have it rescored. To request a rescore of a diploma examination you can apply online **or** submit the *Diploma Examination Rescore Application Form* at <https://public.education.alberta.ca/eDARTS2/>.

The deadline to request a rescore is provided on your *Results Statement* and on *eDarts2*. Requests received after the deadline **will be denied**. The fee for rescoring each examination is \$26.25 (including GST). This fee is refunded if your examination mark is raised by 5% or more as a result of a rescore. The mark resulting from rescoring becomes your **final examination mark, even if it is lower than the original mark**. Your most recent school-awarded mark will be blended with the rescore examination mark, and a new *Results Statement* will be mailed to you. You should know, however, that rescoring the machine-scored section rarely changes the score. Refer to the written-response raw score reported on your *Results Statement* to help you decide if you want your examination rescored.

If you have explored all avenues of appeal at your jurisdictional level and feel you have a case requiring special consideration, you should apply, in writing, to the Executive Secretary, Special Cases Committee, Alberta Education. The written submission should provide reasons for the appeal and the remedy expected.

Check out our website at education.alberta.ca/admin/testing.aspx.