

Frequently Asked Questions about Provincial Exams

To satisfy graduation requirements, what are the provincial exams students write?

Secondary school students begin working on their graduation requirements in Grade 10. In order to graduate, they must complete specified courses and write at least 5 provincial exams. The required provincial exams are: Language Arts 10, Science 10, Mathematics 10, Social Studies 11 or BC First Nations Studies 12, and Language Arts 12 (English 12, Communications 12, or English 12 First Peoples).

How much do the provincial exams count for in the final course mark?

Language Arts 10, Science 10, Mathematics 10, Social Studies 11, and BC First Nations Studies 12 count for 20% of the final course mark.

The English 12, Communications 12, and English 12 First Peoples exams count for 40 % of the final course mark.

There are provincial exams for other Grade 12 courses such as French 12, Mathematics 12 etc., are students required to write these exams?

Optional provincial exams are also offered for 16 courses at the Grade 12 level. Students (not the school) make the choice to write these optional exams. If a student chooses to write the optional exam, the result will count for 40% of the final course mark.

If the students choose to not write a provincial exam immediately following the completion of the course, can they write it in the future?

Students have three years in which to write the provincial exam after completing the course. If the exam is not written within three years, the student must retake the course.

Can students rewrite a provincial exam?

Students may rewrite a provincial exam once within the 12 month period following the first attempt at the examination. To rewrite a provincial exam more than once, the student must retake the course.

I thought post secondary institutions required provincial exam results for admission?

For general admission to most BC institutions students are not required to write BC provincial exams other than those required for high school graduation. BC provincial exams grades, including exams for English 12 and English 12 First Peoples, will be incorporated in the admission decision only if they increase a student's admission average. Admission requirements for specific programs or out of province institutions may have specific high school course requirements. Please check with your counsellor for information on specific program admission requirements.

If the post secondary institutions don't necessarily require provincial exam results, why should students write the optional exams?

At the Grade 12 level the required and optional Grade 12 exams give students an opportunity to compete for provincial scholarships. The Ministry will grant \$1000 and \$2500 scholarships based on the Grade 12 provincial exam results to students who meet established criteria.

Where can I get more information on provincial exams and high school graduation requirements?

You can access more information at www.bced.gov.bc.ca/exams/