

Statement from the Chief Executive of the SACE Board, Professor Martin Westwell

Wednesday 11 November 2020

SACE Psychology electronic exam unable to proceed today

Students to receive a derived result

Unfortunately, due to an unforeseen technical issue, 2,720 students in 164 exam centres were unable to sit today's SACE Psychology electronic exam.

The examination is worth 30% of the overall subject result.

Students will receive a derived result for this exam.

We are investigating what has happened and are working with our system vendor to investigate the issue. We apologise to all students that they didn't get the experience we had planned for today.

We are disappointed for the schools and students who have put so much effort in planning for today's exam.

The derived result process works as follows:

The School Assessment part of the subject is worth 70% and has been completed and will be moderated.

The method used to derive this exam result is the following:

The student's teacher provides us with a predicted examination result.

The teacher bases this predicted result on the assessment that most closely matches the exam such as trial exam and test.

Based on an analysis of SACE data, we have developed a statistical process that uses both the student's achievement in the school assessment part and their teacher's predicted result to produce an examination result for each student.

Our derived result process is better than using teachers' predicted mark alone. Our analysis has shown that if we had used this method last year, 97% of students would receive a final subject grade that either matched or was within one grade increment of their actual grade, for example from B to B+.

While we acknowledge this action doesn't make up for the stress of today, and the opportunity for students to demonstrate their learning in the exam, this process provides the fairest outcome for students.

I am proud of the way all schools have gone about preparing for this electronic examination, and supported students during this incident.

We will continue to transition to electronic exams because it opens doors to new questions and ways for students to demonstrate their learning using technology they will use outside of the classroom.