

## **Cancellation of Optional Grade 12 Exams Effective September 2011**

On August 18, 2011, the Minister of Education announced that as of this year all optional exams are cancelled. Students will now write only required provincial exams. The cancellation of optional exams will result in:

- **Revisions to the provincial exam schedule**
  - This revised schedule has been posted at:  
[www.bced.gov.bc.ca/exams/handbook/schedules.htm](http://www.bced.gov.bc.ca/exams/handbook/schedules.htm)
- **Revisions to the Provincial Exam Scholarship Program**
  - The revised *Handbook of Procedures for the Graduation Program 2011/2012* will provide specific details on the updated Provincial Exam Scholarship Program, but here is a brief overview.
  - Students will need to earn a B blended mark in English 12, which is what was required under the old rules. They will need to achieve overall one A and three Bs in four of the five required exams.
  - We will also relax the rewrite rule for a year to allow students in grade 11 and 12 to rewrite grade 10 exams to improve their marks, if they wish to do so.
  - Under the new scholarship rules, more students will win scholarships and all students will have the opportunity since they are required to write the exams.
- **Revisions to the *Handbook of Procedures for the Graduation Program***
  - The Handbook is delayed in publication while we make edits based on these recent decisions. We hope to have a final PDF copy posted online later next week.
  - We will inform you through these TRAX updates when the PDF copy is posted.
  - In addition to online access, schools can anticipate receiving print copies of the revised Handbook by mid-September.

### **IMPORTANT NOTE:**

The following is the list of courses with **required** exams. Courses below which have French equivalents will also continue to have required exams. Effective immediately, these are the only courses for which students will write a provincial exam. All other courses that had optional provincial exams prior to this change must now be reported in TRAX submissions as non-examinable if completed after August 2011.

• Apprenticeship and Workplace Mathematics 10	• Foundations of Mathematics and Pre-calculus 10
• English 10	• Français langue première 10
• English 10 First Peoples	• Science 10
• Civic Studies 11	• Social Studies 11
• BC First Nations Studies 12	• Communications 12
• English 12	• English 12 First Peoples
• Français langue première 12	• Français langue seconde immersion 12*

\* Only required for French immersion students who wish to earn their bilingual diploma

If you have any questions, please contact:

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**Please encourage other appropriate school staff to subscribe to these TRAX Information Update notifications.** This is the main way the ministry communicates data collection and administrative issues to schools regarding Grades 10, 11 and 12 exams and transcripts.

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