The Ministry of Education, following consultation with its stakeholders, has decided to administer the Bahamas Junior Certificate (BJC) and the Bahamas General Certification of Secondary Education (BGCSE) Examinations commencing Monday 13th July, 2020. The Grade Level Assessment Tests (GLAT) at Grades 3 and 6 will not be held this academic year.

While we are aware that this was a particularly demanding year for many, our decision to conduct the said examinations is grounded in the following factors:

- The country has now moved into Phase 4 of The Bahamas Government’s measured approach to reopening the economy and society. The Government’s Plan indicates that national examinations could have been held as early as Phase 3.
- Our obligation is always to provide a service for which clients have paid and have a reasonable expectation to receive.
- Students require credentials which they can use to compete for places in the labour market or to further their educational pursuits;
- Our operational capacity, especially the physical distancing requirement, makes it near impossible to hold the examinations during the first term of the upcoming school year without creating major disruptions to the instructional programmes.

The Examination and Assessment Division will issue revised BJC and BGCSE Timetables to examination centres Monday 15th June.
The new deadline for the submission of Coursework is Friday 24th July. Schools or Private Candidates that are now ready to submit Coursework may contact the Examination and Assessment Division at telephone number 604-3800 or email – test.ed@batelnet.bs.

The examination dates are:

- BJC  Monday 13th July – Wednesday 5th August, 2020
- BGCSE  Monday 13th July – Friday 14th August, 2020

New Individual Timetables will be issued to ALL candidates by 1st July, 2020. Students can collect their timetables from their respective schools. Private/Unattached Candidates can collect their timetables from the following locations:

- New Providence – Examination and Assessment Division, Tonique Williams Darling Highway
- Grand Bahama – Ministry of Education, C.A. Smith Complex
- Family Islands – District Superintendent’s Offices

Please be advised that in addition to being governed by the regulations outlined in the Examination and Assessment Division Handbook for Centres, ALL examinations will be conducted in accordance with the protocols provided by the Ministry of Health.
The Department of Education will provide School Administrators with guidelines for the preparation of examination centres during this COVID-19 era. Students must maintain all school rules during the examination period, with particular adherence to uniform and personal conduct rules.

Because the examinations are scheduled during the summer vacation, Public School Teachers are not required to provide invigilation services. However, the Ministry of Education invites all who wish to serve as invigilators to complete the application, which will be available on Monday, June 15th, instant and which can be collected from their various schools, the District Superintendent’s office or the Ministry’s website. All persons engaged by the Ministry of Education who serve as invigilators will be paid for this service. Applications must be submitted by Friday 26th June, to the attention of:

Mr. Julian Anderson  
Deputy Director of Education  
Department of Education  
julian.anderson@moe.edu.bs

Ms Serethea Clarke  
Under Secretary  
Ministry of Education  
seretheaclarke@bahamas.gov.bs

Students are encouraged to continue to prepare for the examinations. The Ministry is committed to offering as much assistance as possible through The Virtual Learning Platform, which will provide review content for both the BJC and BGCSE examinations, beginning Monday 15th June 2020.

Additionally, the One-On-One (the Learning Management System for the Virtual School) pre-tests for skills in the subject areas is also available to students. The results of the pre-tests at the BJC and BGCSE levels will show students the areas of their strengths and weaknesses, and will help teachers identify the areas they need to emphasize as they review with students. Teachers who are willing to work with students face-to-face are invited to indicate their availability to their respective Principals as soon as possible so that interested students may access the help they need. Interested students can contact the schools which will arrange appropriate review times. Safety protocols of physical distancing will be enforced during these face-to-face sessions.

The Ministry acknowledges the concerns voiced about the lack of preparedness by some students to sit the national examinations. For the reasons carefully outlined by the Ministry of Education, all students are strongly encouraged to sit the national examinations for which they have registered. However, in circumstances where students are unable to participate in the exams at this time, requests for refunds will be considered on a case by case basis by the Examinations Division. Any student wishing to make such requests must do so in writing through their school. All private candidates should write directly to the Assistant Director of Education, Examinations and Assessments Division. All refund payments are subject to normal Bahamas Treasury refund procedures.

If any student does not receive formal permission for either a deferral or a refund, please be advised that they will receive an “X” for the subject, indicating that said student was absent, and this is not considered a grade.

The Ministry extends its sincere gratitude to all educators throughout The Bahamas who have made, and are committed to continuing to make, significant sacrifices to ensure that our students are given every opportunity to demonstrate what they know, understand and can do.

Lorraine Armbrister

PERMANENT SECRETARY