

AS: To Resit, or not to Resit? That is the question. (with apologies to Shakespeare)

Dilemma: You have a lower than desired AS result. You have 3 choices:

- 1) Resit in November.
- 2) Resit in June, along with the AII portion of the exam.
- 3) Don't resit, but improve your overall grade by doing really well on the AII portion of the exam.

1) Resit in November.

A resit in November will, obviously, require an investment of time sooner rather than later. The pros are that you get it out of the way sooner and that you get your new grade in January. The cons are that the studying must be done when you already have a lot on your plate (SAT prep, college research, applications and essays, etc.). You also need to maintain your school grades and continue your activities. Can you do it without anything suffering?

If, in order to get stronger in one area (AS), you get weaker in another (ex: poor December exam grades, falling behind in your AII knowledge) then the net benefit is marginal. Also, can you devote enough time to really make sure your grade goes up as much as you want? The original grade will be on your transcript when it first gets sent, as well as on the June CIE certificate, so it will be seen - you just get to replace it with a higher grade before the application decision is made.

The Lyceum policy allows students to register to resit **only 1 examination in November.**

2) Resit in June, along with the AII portion of the exam.

The pros of a resit in June are that you have more time to prepare, and you can do some of your studying after your applications have been sent/tests taken, etc. Your studies will also not be disrupted in the fall. The cons are that you will have to study AS material on top of the A Level material in the spring term. Also, the original grade will stay on your transcript/certificates, and not be replaced in Jan.

3) Don't resit, but improve your overall grade by doing really well on the AII portion of the exam.

No resit would be the best choice if you feel that the time and energy spent on preparing for a resit would not be the best use of your time, and that you would rather focus on the AII exam to bring up your grade. This may be the case if: a) your grade was at the high end of the range and your teacher thinks that, with a good grade on the AII exam, that you can pull up the overall grade, or b) if the AS material was really difficult and you worry that you will need to spend too much time re-learning it, and/or c) that you may not be able to improve your AS grade in any case.

Ask for Advice

In ALL cases, do speak with your teacher. Ask him or her which of the above scenarios he thinks is best for YOU, and in which one you have the potential to achieve your highest grade. Only your teacher has had enough experience with the subject exams and with students of a wide range of capabilities to advise you as to what is the best plan for a student like you. However, in the end, you are doing the studying, and you know what all of your other commitments are (which your teacher does not), so while considering your teacher's advice you still need to make the choice that you feel is best for you.

Final Analysis

If you can do a resit without other things suffering, then go ahead. If you feel that your rise in grade on the AS would be counterbalanced by a lower school grades, lower SAT scores, less polished statements, etc, then leaving the weaker grade on your transcript for the time being, balanced by a good projected grade, should not be a big problem. Note: Some universities will not look at grades from resits (LSE, for one.) For any private exams, at any time of year, provide the School with a copy of your new result as soon as you receive it.