

## **BAC 2017, written exams, summary of APEEE activities, possible lessons learnt for next year**

While waiting for the school and Central BAC unit Secretariat general providing information on the official 2017 results, official complaints received etc, here already a summary of the APEEE activities:

- A task force within Interparents has coordinated - as in the last years - the feedback received by parents about problems arising during written bac exams so as to identify possible errors and patterns and bring them to the attention of those responsible for managing the Baccalaureate. This year a new online tool was developed that facilitated the exchange of information between the different schools and the interparents taskforce.
- On 6 June APEEE Woluwe informed all S7 parents about this new tool and the procedures to follow (see below the email).
- All European schools together have received 90 (informal) complaints by parents.
  - 26 complaints on Physics (in IT, FR, EN, ES, DE)
  - 24 complaints on Economics (EN, FR)
  - 23 complaints on Geography (DE, EN)
  - 6 complaint on Maths5 (SV, DE, EL)
  - 3 complaint on Chemistry (FR, EN)
  - 3 complaints on L1 NL
  - 3 complaints on L2 EN
  - 2 complaints on Maths (DE, EN)
- The number of schools using the system was 12 in total.
  - 21 complaints from Woluwe
  - 19 from Laeken
  - 14 from Uccle
  - 7 from Mol
  - 6 from Karlsruhe
  - 6 from Frankfurt
  - 6 from LuxI
  - 3 from Alicante
  - 3 from Ixelles
  - 2 from Culham
  - 2 from LuxII
  - 1 from Bergen
- As regards the 21 complaints from our school, these were the issues:
  - L2 EN: 3 complaints (one term not known)
  - L1 NL: 1 complaint (question about admissibility of religious reference in a text)

Physics: 8 complaints (IT, EN, FR) (main complaints were on length of exam and translation problems)

Geography: 5 complaints (DE, EN) (main complaints were about questions not covered by syllabus)

Maths5: 4 complaints (SV). (Problem at class level)

- After assessing the 90 complaints received, four formal letters of complaint to the Baccalaureate Unit were sent covering the following exams: Physics, Geo4, Eco, Maths5.
- In some cases, the Central BAC Unit acknowledged the complaints and issued special instructions to markers. For the cases where this didn't apply, they promised to closely monitor the final results to see if they match more or less the results from previous years. Any next steps would depend on the shape of the final "curve". Some other cases they have not considered at all.

#### Impression and suggestions:

- Generally speaking, APEEE/interparents received this year less complaints on written exams and issues raised by parents seemed to be less problematic than last years.
- The online tool developed by interparents worked well in our school.
- Woluwe lead the list of informal complaints, which was generally seen as the result of a good information policy by our APEEE. All parents received tailored answers and follow up.
- It is good to know that our school, teachers and school management alike followed up proactively certain problematic issues with the central Bac unit.

*For next year, our APEEE and school management should establish closer collaboration for, so to combine efforts more efficiently. In particular, it would be good to receive by the school management the contact details of all teachers involved in the written BAC, especially the coordinators for math and science and to agree that next years key person for our APEEE, the school management and relevant teachers exchange information on potentially problematic parts of the exam.*

- Generally speaking there is potentially a problem especially in science and math as syllabus is only translated in EN, FR, DE. Not only that this year again, there were some translation problems, but it is more difficult for the teachers/pupils and parents from other sections to understand the syllabus and to be able to compare it with what they are doing during the school year.

*Using more commonly agreed teaching material especially for math/science but also geography/history/economics (translated in all languages) would help teachers and pupils to follow better the requirements of the syllabus!*

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**FYI: email sent to S7 parents on 6 June 2017**

Dear Parents of S7 students,

The 'Bac season' is now underway and we wanted to inform you that for some years now it has been common practice for the Parent Associations of all the European schools to collate the feedback received from parents about problems arising during written bac exams so as to identify possible errors and patterns and bring them to the attention of those responsible for managing the Baccalaureate. INTERPARENTS, as coordinator for all the Parent Associations, has an open channel with the Baccalaureate Unit.

We would therefore propose you, in case (we hope it will not happen) your daughter/son comes home from the exam complaining that the exam was impossible for reasons like that there was an error, that there were questions which are not included in the syllabus etc to:

1. Read the attached '**information sheet**' put together by Interparents.
2. Use the **online form**, through which you can **informally share any concerns** you may have about an exam paper/session: <http://interparents.eu/bac/>.

Any information you submit will go directly to this year local BAC APEEE representative and simultaneously, to INTERPARENTS for analysis and follow up. Your Parent Association and INTERPARENTS reps will work closely together on any issues arising during the Bac Season and keep you informed of relevant progress.

Furthermore, Interparents is updating a **roster of 'experts.'** Are you a specialist in an academic field corresponding to one of the Baccalaureate subjects, or in one of the languages in which exams are conducted? Could you spare some time, if needed, to help us analyse any problems which may arise? If you don't have a child sitting an exam in the field in which you are expert, then we would like to hear from you! Please go to <http://interparents.eu/bac/>.

Kind regards and good luck to all

Vanessa Aulehla, BAC APEEE Woluwe representative

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Chers parents des étudiants S7,

La «saison Bac» est maintenant en cours et nous voulions vous informer que depuis quelques années, les associations des parents de toutes les écoles européennes s'organisent pour recueillir les commentaires reçus des parents à propos des problèmes qui se posent lors des examens écrits de bac, afin de identifier les erreurs potentiels et les porter à l'attention des responsables de la gestion du baccalauréat. INTERPARENTS, en tant que coordinateur pour toutes les associations des parents, dispose d'un canal ouvert avec l'Unité du Baccalauréat.

Nous vous proposerions donc, au cas où (nous espérons que cela ne se produira pas), votre fille / fils rentre de l'examen en se plaignant que l'examen était impossible pour des raisons comme par exemple une erreur ou des questions qui ne sont pas incluses dans le Syllabus etc à:

1. Lisez la «**fiche d'information**» ci-jointe mise en place par Interparents.
2. Utilisez le **formulaire en ligne**, par lequel vous pouvez **partager informellement** toutes les préoccupations que vous pourriez avoir sur un examens: <http://interparents.eu/bac/>.

Toute information que vous soumettez va directement au représentant BAC APEEE local et simultanément, à INTERPARENTS pour analyse et suivi. Les représentants de votre association parentale et INTERPARENTS travailleront en étroite collaboration pour tout problème qui survient pendant la saison Bac et vous informeront des progrès pertinents.

En outre, Interparents met à jour une liste d'experts. Êtes-vous un spécialiste dans un domaine académique correspondant à l'un des Baccalauréat ou dans l'une des langues dans lesquelles les examens sont effectués? Pouvez-vous épargner du temps, si nécessaire, pour nous aider à analyser tout problème qui pourrait surgir? Si vous n'avez pas d'enfant assis sur un examen dans le domaine où vous êtes expert, nous aimerions avoir de vos nouvelles! Veuillez consulter <http://interparents.eu/bac/>.

Cordialement et bonne chance à tous

Vanessa Aulehla, représentant BAC APEEE Woluwe