**Grade 11 CAS Advisors Interviews**

**Beginning of year interviews**

The purpose of the first interview is to:

• gauge the student’s understanding of CAS

• find out the interests of the student

• discuss the student’s plans for CAS experiences

• review the learning outcomes of CAS, ensuring his or her understanding and seeing how the student

might achieve these outcomes

• ensure the student is aware of ways to gather evidence of CAS.

**Student interests**

Students will already have thought about their answers to the following questions in the CAS introductory lessons:

• What are your main interests? How can you incorporate these interests into your CAS programme?

• What do you enjoy doing after school? Could this be part of any CAS experience?

• What are your personal goals? How could they be achieved through CAS?

• What do you expect to gain from CAS? What do you hope to accomplish?

• How can you advance your skills and talents through CAS?

• What school, community or other groups or teams are you already involved in?

• Have you had any previous experiences that you would view as CAS?

• How could something you do currently (for example, swimming) be made into a CAS experience with

new opportunities to add skills and meet challenges?

• What do you think your role could be in effecting change for the better?

• What issues of local significance concern you most? How could you address these in your CAS

programme?

• How do these local issues also have global significance?

**Student plans for CAS in Grade 11**

Students should upload the plans on MB by the 3rd of October. They should have all three of the strands covered. Please have a look at these plans before you interview them.

**Here are some questions you might want to ask if it is not obvious from their year’s plan.**

• What would you enjoy doing for creativity? Activity? Service?

• Have you made any plans for creativity? Activity? Service? For each, what are you hoping to learn or do you have skills you want to develop?

• Have you researched any groups that you could become involved in for any of the CAS strands? What are you doing to expand your options?

• What ideas do you have for a CAS project? Are these ideas worth developing for a month or more? What additional ideas do you have or backup plans if this is not viable?

• Who will you work with for your CAS project?

**Evidence of CAS learning outcomes**

Part of the students’ responsibility is to provide evidence that they have met the CAS learning outcomes through their accumulated experiences, have balanced their time in creativity, activity and service and have completed at least one project. How will they provide this evidence? This is important to discuss during the first interview.

**Questions to ask**

• Have you thought of how you will keep evidence (and the types of evidence) that you are engaging

with CAS and are meeting the CAS outcomes?

• How often do you plan to use your ManageBac portfolio?

• How will you reflect on your CAS experiences?

Are there any preferred ways you like to reflect? (Note: The student may require suggestions or

examples to develop a more diverse approach to reflection.)

• How can you keep track of your plans and meeting the learning outcomes through your portfolio?

• From the plans you already have, do you see any opportunities that may be helpful in meeting these

learning outcomes?

• What learning outcome appears as something you will easily do?

• What learning outcome might present a significant challenge?

• What learning outcome might you address in the first six months of your CAS programme?

**Understanding**

Please emphasise on two aspects to students – they should be involved in **meaningful experiences** and upload **reflections in the format provided**, **what is most important in CAS is the level of involvement and personal commitment**.

**Questions to ask**

• Do you have any questions or concerns about CAS?

• Which aspect of the programme excites you the most? Which aspect seems most challenging?

• What do you most hope to achieve from CAS?

• How do you think your CAS programme will enable you to grow? How do these areas of growth apply

to the attributes of the IB learner profile?

• What have you learned about the CAS stages, and how can the stages help you in CAS?

• How will you plan for an equal distribution of CAS strands across your CAS experiences?

• What organizational and time-management strategies do you have in place to ensure that CAS

remains an ongoing focus of your IB journey?

The CAS handbook is the primary reference for the student; any basic questions should be answered through the CAS handbook. However, let students know they can always approach the CAS coordinator or advisers to assist with their understanding.

The important thing here is to encourage students to find activities that they WANT to do - many of these will be things which they would be doing anyway.

**As indicated in the CAS guide, the CAS coordinator/adviser is required to take notes from this and the other two formal interviews. These should be written up in the notes box and the “Is this a CAS interview” box ticked.**

**These notes can include evidence of achievement in the learning outcomes, any concerns, recommendations for planning, highlights of the student’s programme to date, and advice for future planning and participation. In this way the interviews can serve as a review for the student of both the short- and long-term process and highlights of their CAS journey.**

**End of year interviews**

**AIM**: to review the student’s CAS so far and get an oversight as to how they are getting on toward fulfilling CAS requirements (summary below); see what needs to be done over the summer and in Grade 12. Help point them in the right direction.

**Final requirements of CAS programme**

* Reasonable balance between creativity, action and service
* 2/3 activities minimum per category
* Activities should vary in terms of length and commitment – but none trivial
* At least 1 activity/project\* must have an international focus
* Minimum of 10 hours of face-to-face service for a needy community outside of ISA
* At least one PROJECT (2 or more of elements, collaborative, allows them to show initiative and commitment – 6 months)

**INTERVIEW**

Please **record** the interview (or get the student to record it themselves) and then upload them on to the student’s MBac under the CAS DOCUMENTS section on their homepage.

**POSSIBLE INTERVIEW QUESTIONS:**

Here are some suggestions of the questions you can ask. **Please cover all of the section titles.**

**General overview:**

What have you enjoyed most /benefitted the most from so far in CAS? And why?

What has been a highlight of Creativity? Activity? Service?

What have you learned most from your involvement in CAS so far?

What have been the biggest challenges for your CAS involvement and how have you overcome them?

What difficulty has been hardest to overcome? Where might you need support at this time?

**Challenge**

Give examples where you have challenged yourself to try new things, experience different situation which may have taken you out of your comfort zone? (please push them on this one press them for an explanation. If you don’t think they have really challenged themselves, ask what they are going to do next year that will be a true challenge)

What have you tried /done that was totally new for you this year? What did you learn from that experience?

**CAS Project**

What is your CAS project? If they haven’t got one “What will your CAS project be?”

Whether this involves Creativity, Activity, and/or Service,

What are your roles and responsibilities in the group?

How are you able to show initiative within the group (press them if they just say something like “ I contribute ideas in meetings”)

What are your group / personal goals? What is your progress to date?

**International and face-to-face**

What humanitarian and environmental issues has the programme made you consider/act on this year?

What have you done in terms of face to face for a **needy** community outside of school?

* + In what way did you benefit from this?
  + How did the recipient/community benefit from this?

If nothing yet – what are you planning to do next year for this?

**New Skills**

What new skills have you developed?

Outline a skill that you have strengthened or developed from engaging in a CAS experience

**Learning Outcomes:**

Choose a learning outcome and discuss your evidence of achieving it, and what stands out as most significant and memorable.

What Learning Outcome are you finding most problematic in meeting? Why?

**Reflection**

How have you used reflection to gain insights or understandings?

In what ways have you especially enjoyed and learned from reflecting?

Can you describe a situation where reflection happened very naturally and easily? Did you have a guided reflection opportunity that was helpful?

Explain something that has happened in CAS that provoked some strong emotions (I was really sad when….; I was quite angry when…; I was really disappointed when…).

**Next year**

What new things would you like to explore next year?

What is your plan of action for next year?

Have you been able to get variety into your programme so far? If not what are you planning for next year?

**FEEDDBACK to the student**

**Please summarise the interview in the note box on their homepage. Tick the “is this an interview” box and label it End of Grade 11.**