

# Conditions and requirements to gain exemption for entry to South African public universities



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Cambridge International Examinations, in conjunction with Universities South Africa, has produced this document as a guide outlining the minimum requirements for exemption into South African public universities.

The document is an easy reference for schools and universities' admissions departments. For detailed requirements please consult the Government Notice, Department of Education: Higher Education Act (Act 101 of 1997) No.1317 dated 5 December 2008.

## Summary of Universities South Africa minimum admission requirements for exemption for Bachelor Degree purposes

Complete Exemption	Number of Required Subjects	Minimum Qualification Combination	Minimum Grade Required	Subject Group Requirements	Notes
Cambridge International A Level	5	2 subjects at A Level PLUS 3 subjects at IGCSE/O Level	E C	Students must choose ONE subject from each of Groups I, II and III at either A Level or IGCSE/O Level. The fourth and fifth subjects for either A Level or IGCSE/O Level may be taken from any of the groups.	More than one subject can be chosen from a group providing that the minimum requirements have been met.
Cambridge International A Level	4	3 subjects at A Level PLUS 1 subject at IGCSE/O Level	E C	Students must choose ONE subject from each of Groups I, II and III at either A Level or IGCSE/O Level. The fourth subject for either A Level or IGCSE/O Level may be taken from any of the groups.	
Cambridge International AS Level	5	4 subjects at AS Level PLUS 1 subject at IGCSE/O Level	D C	Students must choose ONE subject from each of Groups I, II and III at either AS Level or IGCSE/O Level. The fourth and fifth subjects for either AS Level or IGCSE/O Level may be taken from any of the groups. English First Language must be offered and passed at an appropriate level. N.B. Two languages must be offered to qualify for complete exemption.	More than one subject can be chosen from a group providing that the minimum requirements have been met. Two examination sittings only. Where a subject is not examined in Oct/Nov session the following or preceding June session will be regarded as the same sitting.
Cambridge AICE	5	5 subjects at AS Level (full credit)	D	Students must achieve passes in: – English Language – at least one subject from Group II – at least one of the following: Biology, Mathematics, Physics, Chemistry, History, Economics or Geography The fourth and fifth subjects may be taken from any of the groups.	
Cambridge HIGCSE	5	4 subjects at HIGCSE PLUS 1 subject at IGCSE/O Level	3 C	Students must choose ONE subject from Groups I or II and TWO subjects from two of Groups III, IV or V. The fifth subject for either HIGCSE or IGCSE/O Level may be taken from any of the groups. English Language must be passed at HIGCSE Level. N.B. Two languages must be offered to qualify for complete exemption	
NSSC	5	4 subjects at Higher NSSC PLUS 1 subject at NSSC Ordinary Level	3 C	Students must choose ONE subject from Groups I or II and TWO subjects from two of Groups III, IV and V at Higher NSSC. The fifth subject for either Higher NSSC or NSSC Ordinary Level may be taken from any of the groups. English Language must be passed at Higher NSSC Level with a 3. N.B. Two languages must be offered to qualify for complete exemption	

Complete Exemption	Number of Required Subjects	Minimum Qualification Combination	Minimum Grade Required	Subject Group Requirements	Notes
A Level AS Level	5	2 subjects at A Level PLUS 3 subject at either LGCSE, BGCSE, SGCSE	E	Students must choose ONE subject from each of Groups I, II and III at either A Level or LGCSE, BGCSE, SGCSE Level. N.B. Two languages must be offered to qualify for complete exemption.	More than one subject can be chosen from a group providing that the minimum requirements have been met.  Two examination sittings only. Where a subject is not examined in Oct/Nov session the following or preceding June session will be regarded as the same sitting.
Plus		C			
LGCSE BGCSE SGCSE		OR	D	The fourth and fifth subjects for either AS Level or LGCSE, BGCSE, SGCSE Level may be taken from any of the groups. N.B. Two languages must be offered to qualify for complete exemption	
		4 subjects at AS Level PLUS 1 subject at LGCSE, BGCSE, SGCSE	C		

**Please note:**

To apply for an exemption certificate all results must be emailed to Universities South Africa on: [exemption2@universitiessa.ac.za](mailto:exemption2@universitiessa.ac.za) OR [application@universitiessa.ac.za](mailto:application@universitiessa.ac.za) or delivered to their offices at Unisa Sunnyside Campus, Building 3, Ground Level, Cnr. Rissik and Steve Biko street, Sunnyside, Pretoria.

Some universities require that all students write the National Benchmark Tests: Please take note of these at: [www.nbt.ac.za](http://www.nbt.ac.za)

## Explanation of the Two-Sitting Rule

The Two-Sitting Rule for Universities South Africa exemption purposes in terms of Cambridge qualifications applies to exemptions by means of Cambridge International AS Levels, Cambridge AICE Diploma and Cambridge HIGCSE.

Candidates qualifying for the above exemptions for Bachelor Degree purposes need to meet the minimum requirements in two examination sittings. Examinations taken in the same calendar year are regarded as ONE sitting.

Where a subject is only examined in either the Oct/Nov or the May/June session, the following or preceding Oct/Nov or May/June session will be regarded as the same sitting, e.g. Afrikaans Language is not offered by Cambridge in the June session and Portuguese Language, Turkish, German etc. are not offered in the October session.

## Recognised subject list

Group I	Group II	Group III	Group IV	Group V	Ungrouped but recognised subjects
English Language	Afrikaans	3rd Language (which is not offered as part of Group II requirement)	Art and Design	Accounting	Literature in English (see note on next page)
English Language and Literature	Arabic	Biology	Biology	Business 2016, 17,18)	
Any other recognised First Language (NB see note on next page)	Chinese	Chemistry	Chemistry	Computer Studies	
	Czech	Combined Science	Economics	Computing (last exam 2016)	
	Dutch	Co-ordinated Science	Environmental Management	Computer Science (from 2015)	
	French	Mathematics	Geography	Design and Technology	
	German	Physics	History	Divinity	
	Greek	Physical Science	Mathematics	Further Mathematics	
	Hindi		Music	Information Technology	
	IsiZulu		Physics	Religious Studies	
	Italian		Physical Science		
	Japanese		Drama		
	Korean				
	Latin				
	Malay				
	Marathi				
	Nepali				
	Portuguese				
	Russian				
	Swahili				
	Setswana				
	Spanish				
	Tamil				
	Telugu				
	Thai				
	Turkish				
	Urdu				

Minimum requirement for complete (full) exemption in terms of the two-sitting rule examples:

Candidate 1			Candidate 2		
Series	Qualification	Grade	Series	Qualification	Grade
October/ November 2010	IGCSE English Language	C	May/June 2010	IGCSE English Language	C
	IGCSE Mathematics	C		IGCSE Mathematics	C
	IGCSE Biology	C		IGCSE Biology	C
	IGCSE Geography	C		IGCSE Geography	C
	IGCSE Afrikaans	C	October/ November 2010	IGCSE Afrikaans	C
May/June 2012	AS English Language	D	May/June 2012	AS English Language	D
	AS Mathematics	D		AS Mathematics	D
October/ November 2012	AS Geography	D	October/ November 2012	AS Geography	D
	AS Biology	D		AS Biology	D

Candidate 3			Candidate 4		
Series	Qualification	Grade	Series	Qualification	Grade
October/ November 2009	IGCSE Afrikaans	C	October/ November 2010	IGCSE English Language	C
May/June 2010	IGCSE English Language	C		IGCSE Mathematics	C
	IGCSE Mathematics	C		IGCSE Biology	C
	IGCSE Biology	C		IGCSE Geography	C
	IGCSE Geography	C	May/June 2011	IGCSE Portuguese Language	C
May/June 2011	AS English Language	D	May/June 2012	AS Mathematics	D
	AS Mathematics	D		AS Geography	D
	AS Geography	D	October/ November 2012	AS English Language	D
October/ November 2011	AS Biology	D		AS Biology	D

**Please note:**

For the AS Level exemption students not offering AS English First Language or AS Language and Literature for group I must offer IGCSE English First Language for Group II. For the A Level exemption students may offer IGCSE English First Language, AS English Language, AS English Language and Literature or A Level Language.

**Please note:**

All Group V subjects at Cambridge International AS Level are only recognised if the candidate has passed IGCSE or O Level Mathematics with a minimum of grade C. For detailed requirements please go to <http://www.universitiessa.ac.za/mb/exreq.htm>

Literature in English is a recognised subject but does not meet any grouping requirement and therefore will not be taken into account for exemption purposes.

## Examples indicating group, grade and subject options for complete and conditional exemptions

Candidate 1: Complete exemption for Cambridge International A Level (5 subjects). All requirements met				Candidate 1: Conditional exemption for Cambridge International A Level (5 subjects). Group II requirement not met			
Subject	Level	Grade	Group	Subject	Level	Grade	Group
English First Language	IGCSE	C	I	English First Language	IGCSE	C	I
French Language	IGCSE	C	II	Biology	IGCSE	C	III or IV
Mathematics	A Level	D	III or IV	Mathematics	A Level	D	III or IV
Biology	A Level	C	III or IV	Chemistry	A Level	E	III or IV
Geography	IGCSE	B	IV	Geography	IGCSE	C	IV

Candidate 2: Complete exemption for Cambridge International A Level (4 subjects). All requirements met				Candidate 2: Conditional exemption for Cambridge International A Level (4 subjects). Group II requirement not met			
Subject	Level	Grade	Group	Subject	Level	Grade	Group
English First Language	IGCSE	C	I	English First Language	IGCSE	C	I
French Language	A Level	D	II	Mathematics	A Level	E	III or IV
Mathematics	A Level	E	III or IV	Physics	A Level	D	III or IV
Biology	A Level	D	III or IV	Chemistry	A Level	E	III or IV

Candidate 3: Complete exemption for Cambridge International AS Level (5 subjects). All requirements met				Candidate 3: Conditional exemption for Cambridge International AS Level (5 subjects). Group II requirement not met			
Subject	Level	Grade	Group	Subject	Level	Grade	Group
English First Language	AS Level	C	I	English First Language	AS Level	C	I
Afrikaans	IGCSE	B	II	Accounting	IGCSE	C	V
Mathematics	AS Level	D	III or IV	Mathematics	AS Level	D	III or IV
Physical Science	AS Level	D	III or IV	Biology	AS Level	C	III or IV
Accounting	AS Level	D	V	Chemistry	AS Level	C	III or IV

Candidate 4: Complete exemption for Cambridge International AS Level (5 subjects). All requirements met				Candidate 4: Conditional exemption for Cambridge International AS Level (5 subjects). Qualification requirement not met			
Subject	Level	Grade	Group	Subject	Level	Grade	Group
English First Language	AS Level	C	I	English First Language	AS Level	C	I
French Language	IGCSE	B	II	French Language	IGCSE (AS Level E)	C	II
Mathematics	AS Level	D	III or IV	Mathematics	AS Level	D	III or IV
History	AS Level	C	IV	History	AS Level	C	IV
Art and Design	AS Level	C	IV	Art and Design	IGCSE	C	IV

*Note: Students may substitute subjects in the above examples with alternative subjects from within the same group.*

Certificates of Conditional Exemption may be granted by Universities South Africa to an applicant who lacks one requirement in meeting the exemption conditions on the previous page. **The granting of Conditional Exemptions is solely at the discretion of Universities South Africa.**

## Cambridge International A Levels

**Please note:** Cambridge International AS Level results can be carried forward to contribute towards an A Level a maximum of twice, and only within 13 months of taking the exam.

For example, if you sat your AS Level assessment in June 2014 you could carry forward your AS Level results to the November 2014 and/or June 2015 exam series only.

After 13 months it is no longer possible to use that AS Level result towards an A Level, however this will still be valid as an AS Level qualification.

## Recognition of Cambridge Pre-U

Cambridge Pre-U Diploma: This qualification comprises an Independent Research Report together with Global Perspectives which forms the compulsory core of the Diploma, plus three Principal Subjects. Up to two A Levels can be substituted for Principal Subjects.

Universities South Africa recognise the Diploma in its entirety. They also recognise the Principal Subjects separately in place of A Levels provided the A Levels are currently recognised subjects by the matriculation Board.

This qualification is only available to centres who have been authorised to offer it and is not available to private candidates.

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