

# University recognition in South Africa

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



Cambridge Assessment International Education, in conjunction with Universities South Africa (USAf), 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 USAf 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	nbridge at A Level		Students must choose ONE subject from each of Groups I, II and III at either A Level or	More than	
International A Level	5	PLUS 3 subjects at IGCSE/O Level	С	IGCSE/O Level. The fourth and fifth subjects for either A Level or IGCSE/O Level may be taken from any of the groups.	one subject can be chosen from a group
Cambridge International	4	3 subjects at A Level <b>PLUS</b>	E	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	providing that the minimum requirements
A Level	7	1 subject at IGCSE/O Level	С	A Level or IGCSE/O Level may be taken from any of the groups.	have been met.
Cambridge		4 subjects at AS Level	D	Students must choose ONE subject from Group I or II and another TWO subjects from two of	
International AS Level	5	PLUS 1 subject at IGCSE/O Level	С	Groups III, IV and V. English First Language must be offered and passed at an appropriate level.  N.B. Two languages must be offered to qualify for complete exemption.	
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, 3rd Language  The fourth and fifth subjects 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.
			3	Students must choose ONE subject from Groups I or II and TWO subjects from two of	Two examination
Cambridge HIGCSE	5	4 subjects at HIGCSE PLUS 1 subject at IGCSE/O Level	С	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	sittings only. Where a subject is not examined in Oct/Nov session the following or preceding June session will be
		4 subjects at	3	Students must choose ONE subject from Groups I or II and TWO subjects from two of Groups III, IV and V at Higher NSSC.	regarded as the same sitting.
NSSC	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		2 subjects at A Level <b>PLUS</b>	E	Students must choose ONE subject from each of Groups I, II and III at either A Level or LGCSE,	More than one subject can be chosen from a
AS Level		3 subject at either LGCSE, BGCSE, SGCSE/ EGCSE	C	BGCSE, SGCSE/EGCSE Level.  N.B. Two languages must be offered to qualify for complete exemption.	group providing that the minimum requirements have been met.
Plus  LGCSE  BGCSE	5	OR  4 subjects at AS Level	D	The fourth and fifth subjects for either AS Level or LGCSE, BGCSE, SGCSE/EGCSE Level may be	Two examination sittings only. Where a subject is not examined in Oct/Nov session the following or
SGCSE/ EGCSE		PLUS 1 subject at LGCSE, BGCSE, SGCSE/EGCSE	C	taken from any of the groups. <b>N.B.</b> Two languages must be offered to qualify for complete exemption	preceding June session will be regarded as the same sitting.

### Please note



To apply for an exemption certificate all results may be:

- emailed to USAf at applications@usaf.ac.za
- delivered to their offices at Block E, Hadefields Office Park, 1267 Pretorius Street, Hatfield, Pretoria, 0083.

Submit online via http://mb.usaf.ac.za/online-assessment-and-application/

Some universities require students to write the National Benchmark Tests: Please take note of these at: www.nbt.ac.za

Learn more! Contact Joleen Rugg, Recognition Manager, Sub-Saharan Africa at: joleen.rugg@cambridgeinternational.org

# 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 below)
English Language and Literature	Arabic	Biology	Biology	Business	Applied Information and Communication Technology
Any other recognised First Language (see note)	Chinese	Chemistry	Chemistry	Computer Studies	Drama
	Czech	Combined Science	Economics	Computing	Travel and Tourism
	Dutch	Co-ordinated Science	Environmental Management	Computer Science	Information Communication Technology
	French	Mathematics	Geography	Design & Technology	
	German	Physics	History	Divinity	
	Greek	Physical Science	Mathematics	Further Mathematics	
	Hindi		Music	Information Technology	
	IsiZulu		Physics	Religious Studies	
	Italian		Physical Science		
	Japanese				
For t or AS Lang For t	Korean			All C for g Math	Ungrouped any groupi grouping p
he As Lan; Lage uage he A	Latin			roup roupi rema tp://i	Ungroupe any group grouping p
S Leve guage for G Level	Malay			V sul ng pu tics w mb.u:	ed subject ping requi purposes
exer exerr	Marathi			ojects Irpose /ith a saf.ac	jects equire
mptic Litera II. nptior , AS E	Nepali			at Ca es if tl minir .za/e:	are re
on stu Iture I stud	Portuguese			ambri ne cai num xemp	s anc
idents for gr lents I	Russian			dge landida ndida of gra	ised/;
s not oup l may (	Swahili			ntern te ha ide C requi	accep efore
offeri must offer l	Setswana			ationa s pass s For c	table will n
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	Spanish			al AS sed IC setail detail	subje 10t be
	Tamil			Level CSE c	ects bi
	Telugu			are c or O I quirer	ut do า into
st Lar ;lish Fi ;st Lan evel L	Thai			All Group V subjects at Cambridge International AS Level are only recognised for grouping purposes if the candidate has passed IGCSE or O Level Mathematics with a minimum of grade C. For detailed requirements please go to http://mb.usaf.ac.za/exemption-requirements/	d subjects are recognised/acceptable subjects but do not meet ing requirements and therefore will not be taken into account for surposes.
irst irst Iguage angua	Turkish			cognis	ınt foi
ge.	Urdu			sed go	

### **Explanation of the Two-Sitting Rule**

The Two-Sitting Rule for USAf 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 within a twelve (12) month period are regarded as one sitting ie June and the previous/following November; November and the previous/ following June; and June and November.

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.

Once you pass A Level subjects, the two-sitting rule no longer applies.

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

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

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

Learn more! Contact Joleen Rugg, Recognition Manager, Sub-Saharan Africa at: joleen.rugg@cambridgeinternational.org

# 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					
Subject	Level	Grade	Group		
English First Language	IGCSE	С	I		
French Language	IGCSE	С	II		
Mathematics	A Level	D	III or IV		
Biology	A Level	С	III or IV		
Geography	IGCSE	В	IV		

Conditional exemption for Cambridge International A Level (5 subjects). Group Il requirement not met					
Subject Level Grade Group					
English First Language	IGCSE	С	1		
Biology	IGCSE	С	III or IV		
Mathematics	A Level	D	III or IV		
Chemistry	A Level	E	III or IV		
Geography	IGCSE	С	IV		

Candidate 2					
Complete exemption for Cambridge International A Level (4 subjects). All requirements met					
Subject	Level	Grade	Group		
English First Language	IGCSE	С	1		
French Language	A Level	D	П		
Mathematics	A Level	E	III or IV		
Biology	A Level	D	III or IV		

Conditional exemption for Cambridge International A Level (4 subjects). Group Il requirement not met					
Subject Level Grade Group					
English First Language	IGCSE	С	1		
Mathematics	A Level	Е	III or IV		
Physics	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					
Subject	Level	Grade	Group		
English First Language	AS Level	С	I		
Afrikaans	IGCSE	В	II		
Mathematics	AS Level	D	III or IV		
Physical Science	AS Level	D	III or IV		
Accounting	AS Level	D	V		

Conditional exemption for Cambridge International AS Level (5 subjects). Group Il requirement not met					
Subject Level Grade Group					
English First Language	AS Level	С			
Accounting	IGCSE	С	V		
Mathematics	AS Level	D	III or IV		
Biology	AS Level	С	III or IV		
Chemistry	AS Level	С	III or IV		

Candidate 4					
Complete exemption for Cambridge International AS Level (5 subjects). All requirements met					
Subject	Level	Grade	Group		
English First Language	AS Level	С	1		
French Language	IGCSE	В	П		
Mathematics	AS Level	D	III or IV		
History	AS Level	С	IV		
Art & Design	AS Level	С	IV		

Conditional exemption for Cambridge International AS Level (5 subjects). Qualification requirement not met			
Subject	Level	Grade	Group
English First Language	AS Level	С	1
Accounting	AS Level	С	٧
Mathematics	AS Level	D	III or IV
History	AS Level	С	IV
Art & Design	IGCSE	С	IV

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



### **Conditional exemption**

Certificates of Conditional Exemption may be granted by USAf 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 USAf.

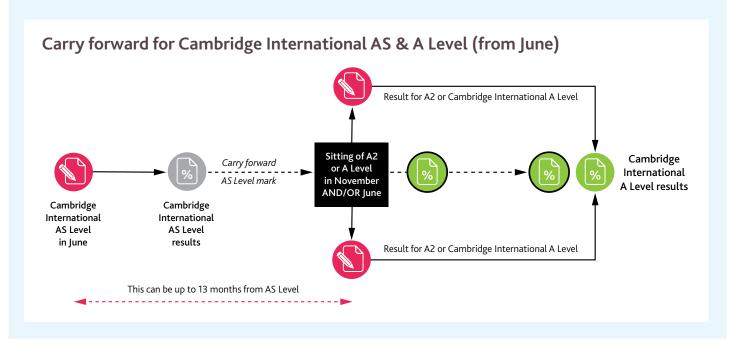


### **Cambridge International A Levels**

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.

Learn more! Contact Joleen Rugg, Recognition Manager, Sub-Saharan Africa at: joleen.rugg@cambridgeinternational.org

Cambridge Assessment is committed to making our documents accessible in accordance with the WCAG 2.1 Standard. We're always looking to improve the accessibility of our documents. If you find any problems or you think we're not meeting accessibility requirements, contact us at **info@cambridgeinternational.org** with the subject heading: Digital accessibility. If you need this document in a different format, contact us and supply your name, email address and requirements and we will respond within 15 working days.



Cambridge Assessment International Education The Triangle Building, Shaftesbury Road Cambridge, CB2 8EA, United Kingdom t: +44 1223 553554 www.cambridgeinternational.org

© UCLES December 2020



Universities South Africa, PO Box 3854, Pretoria, 0001, South Africa, 1st Floor, Block E, Hadefields Office Park, 1267 Pretorius Street, Hatfield, Pretoria, South Africa.

> Tel: +27 010 591 4401 or +27 010 591 4402

Email: applications@usaf.ac.za Website: https://mb.usaf.ac.za/