



Cambridge students at top universities

Good preparation for university study

After receiving straight A grades in Cambridge O Level while at Pakistan's Beaconhouse Garden Town Secondary School, and in Cambridge International A Level while at Aitchison College, Kamal Khan Virk has gone on to gain a place at the London School of Economics (LSE) where he is studying a BSc in Actuarial Science.

An interest in mathematics and its application in industry influenced Kamal's decision to choose Actuarial Science as a prospective career. In order to achieve his goal he needed to qualify in Further Mathematics and Mathematics which he studied at Cambridge International A Level. He also studied Physics, Chemistry, Urdu and the General Paper. Kamal's straight A grade results helped him to win a scholarship to study BSc Actuarial Science at the London School of Economics.

Speaking about his Cambridge studies, Kamal (pictured) said: 'The wide variety of subjects offered by CIE, and the freedom to choose any combination, means that students have more flexibility and can test their aptitude for various subjects. I feel that after going through my Cambridge O Level and International A Levels, I have developed reasonable thinking and analytical skills which will go a long way in helping me cope with advanced studies. Having studied Further Mathematics at Cambridge International A Level, I did

not encounter any problems during my first year university mathematics module. This was a big advantage.

'I think the best thing about Cambridge qualifications is that they teach students how to make practical use of concepts given in textbooks. They make you think analytically and beyond the scope of textbooks, leading to healthy discussions during lectures. The questions in exams are well planned and test the understanding of students. The questions often refer to practical situations that help students to understand and be precise in their answers.

'Although Physics and Chemistry had no direct relation to my degree, they have helped me think about things from a deeper perspective and to analyse them from different angles. The practicals were extremely useful in giving me an introduction to the professional world.

'Cambridge International A Level was more challenging than Cambridge O Level. The subjects I studied, especially Further Mathematics, were much more advanced and covered a lot of content. Studying different topics from different textbooks helped me to cement the concepts and made me compare and contrast different texts so as to find the most suitable one. This has also helped me a lot during my university study.



'As I mostly applied to UK universities, my Cambridge qualifications were viewed very favourably because UK students undertake similar qualifications. I had no problems getting equivalence certificates or getting my result cards translated or verified.

'After spending five years studying Cambridge qualifications and benefiting from their high quality and international recognition, I would undoubtedly recommend them to others.'