



A and AS Level Factsheet

What are Cambridge A and AS Levels?

GCE Advanced (A) Level is one of the most recognised qualifications around the world. For over 50 years, A Levels have been accepted as proof of academic ability for entry to universities and institutes of higher education. A Levels are also important to employers who frequently demand A Levels as a condition of job entry.

Advanced Subsidiary (AS) Level represents the first half of a full A Level course and gives students the opportunity to study a broader range of subjects without committing to doing a full A Level. You can choose to complete an AS Level examination, then stop studying for that particular subject. Or you can gain an AS Level qualification, then complete the remaining course of study in order to take the A Level assessment.

Cambridge A and AS Levels offer a flexible course of study that gives you the freedom to select the subjects that are right for you.

Where are Cambridge A and AS Levels accepted and recognised?

International A Level is a 'gold standard' qualification. It has exactly the same value in admitting students to universities as the UK equivalent and is accepted as an entry qualification by universities worldwide.

- Good A and AS Level grades are a key to admission for all the world's major English speaking universities and many non-English speaking universities
- Good grades at A Level can result in up to one full year of advanced standing or credit at universities in the USA and Canada
- AS Level carries half the weighting of an A Level and are typically awarded half the credit value.

This is a general guide. To find out the exact number of A and AS Levels and grades required for further study it is advisable to contact the individual university or institute of higher education. There are some examples below that should help for university study in the USA.

- Yale University awards credit for grades A and B
- Harvard University requires three A Level subjects at grades A and B
- Boston University grants advance credit for grades A, B and C
- New York University grants advance credit for grades A, B and C

Who can take A and AS Levels?

AS Level examinations are usually taken at age 17 and A Level examinations at age 18.

If you have already taken IGCSEs or O Levels, then you will find many of the skills you have already learnt relevant and beneficial to A Level study.

How are A and AS Levels taught?

A and AS Levels offer such flexible programmes that there is a lot of diversity in the way they are taught – typically each AS Level course would require guided learning time (in class, in the library or resource centre) of 180 hours. For A Levels the learning requirement would be double that amount.

The syllabus is set by Cambridge, but the exact way it is taught will depend on your school or college.

The course differs for each subject, but throughout there will be a mix of assessment methods, which may include coursework, practical exercises, oral and listening tests, projects and written examinations.

All syllabuses will require you to develop skills of analysis and of the application of knowledge in individual study. A Levels testify not only to your content knowledge in a subject but also to your ability to present a well-reasoned argument, to understand and apply principles and to acquire deep understanding of a body of knowledge. Studying for A Levels is academically challenging but offers an excellent preparation for the next stage in your education – for study at university or college.

Examination Information

A Level courses usually take two years to complete and exams are taken at the end of that period. AS Level examinations are usually taken after a year either as part of the A Level course, or as a qualification in their own right. Alternatively, the AS Level qualification can be taken at the end of a two year course.

Examinations are held in June and November each year with results issued in August and February respectively.

Students must enter for A and AS Levels through a registered CIE Centre.

More information overleaf ▶



Subjects on offer

Languages

A Level	AS Level
Arabic	Afrikaans Language
Chinese	Arabic Language and Literature
French	Chinese Language and Literature
German	First Language Portuguese
Hindi	First Language Spanish
Marathi	French Language and Literature
Portuguese	German Language and Literature
Spanish	Hindi Language and Literature
Tamil	Marathi Language and Literature
Telugu	Portuguese Language and Literature
Urdu	Spanish Language and Literature
	Tamil Language and Literature
	Telugu Language and Literature
	Urdu Language and Literature

Sciences

A Level	AS Level
Biology	Biology
Chemistry	Chemistry
Physics	Environmental Science
	Physics

Humanities and Social Sciences

A Level	AS Level
Divinity	Divinity
Economics	Economics
Geography	Geography
Hinduism	Hinduism
History	History
Islamic Studies	Islamic Studies
Law	Music
Psychology	Psychology
Sociology	Sociology
Accounting	General Paper
	Accounting

Business, Creative, Technical and Vocational

A Level	AS Level
Accounting	Accounting
Art and Design	Art and Design
Business Studies	Business Studies
Computing	Computing
Design and Technology	Design and Technology
Dress and Textiles	Thinking Skills
Food Studies	
Geometrical and Mechanical Drawing	

English

A Level	AS Level
Literature in English	English Language
	Language and Literature in English
	Literature in English

Mathematics

A Level	AS Level
Mathematics	Mathematics
Further Mathematics	Higher Mathematics

About CIE

University of Cambridge International Examinations (CIE) qualifications are taken in over 150 different countries and are recognised by universities, education providers and employers across the globe. CIE offers a wide range of academic and professional qualifications for people of all ages and abilities.

How to find out more

