



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



UNIVERSITY of CAMBRIDGE
International Examinations
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University of Cambridge International Examinations, in conjunction with Higher Education 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 HESA 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	E	Students must choose ONE subject from each of Groups I, II and III at either A Level or IGCSE/O Level.	More than one subject can be chosen from a group providing that the minimum requirements have been met.
		PLUS 3 subjects at IGCSE/O Level	C	The fourth and fifth subjects for either A Level or IGCSE/O Level may be taken from any of the groups.	
Cambridge International A Level	4	3 subjects at A Level	E	Students must choose ONE subject from each of Groups I, II and III at either A Level or IGCSE/O Level.	More than one subject can be chosen from a group providing that the minimum requirements have been met.
		PLUS 1 subject at IGCSE/O Level	C	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	D	Students must choose ONE subject from each of Groups I, II and III at either AS Level or IGCSE/O Level.	More than one subject can be chosen from a group providing that the minimum requirements have been met.
		PLUS 1 subject at IGCSE/O Level	C	The fourth and fifth subjects for either AS Level or IGCSE/O Level may be taken from any of the groups. English Language must be taken at AS Level.	
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.	More than one subject can be chosen from a group providing that the minimum requirements have been met. Two examination sittings only.
Cambridge HIGCSE	5	4 subjects at HIGCSE	3	Students must choose ONE subject from each of Groups I and II and TWO subjects from Groups III, IV and V at either HIGCSE or IGCSE/O level.	Where a subject is not examined in Oct/Nov session the following or preceding June session will be regarded as the same sitting
		PLUS 1 subject at IGCSE/O Level	C	The fifth subject for either HIGCSE or IGCSE/O Level may be taken from any of the Groups. English Language must be taken on HIGCSE Level.	
NSSC	5	4 subjects at Higher NSSC	3	Students must choose ONE subject from each of Groups I, II and III at either Higher NSSC or NSSC Ordinary Level.	
		PLUS 1 subject at NSSC Ordinary Level	C	The fourth and fifth subjects for either Higher NSSC or NSSC Ordinary Level may be taken from any of the groups.	

Certificates of Conditional Exemption may be granted by HESA 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 HESA.**

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	Divinity
English Language and Literature	Arabic	Biology	Biology	Business Studies	Literature in English
	Chinese	Chemistry	Chemistry	Computer Studies	Religious Studies
	Czech	Mathematics	Economics	Computing	
	Dutch	Physics	Environmental Science	Design and Technology	
	French	Physical Science	Geography	Geometrical and Mechanical Drawing	
	German	Combined Science	History	Further Mathematics	
	Greek		Mathematics	Home Economics	
	Hindi		Music		
	IsiZulu		Physics		
	Japanese		Physical Science		
	Korean				
	Latin				
	Malay				
	Marathi				
	Nepali				
	Portuguese				
	Russian				
	Swahili				
	Setswana				
	Spanish				
	Tamil				
	Telugu				
	Thai				
	Turkish				
	Urdu				

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.hesa-enrol.ac.za/mb/exreq.htm>

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.

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