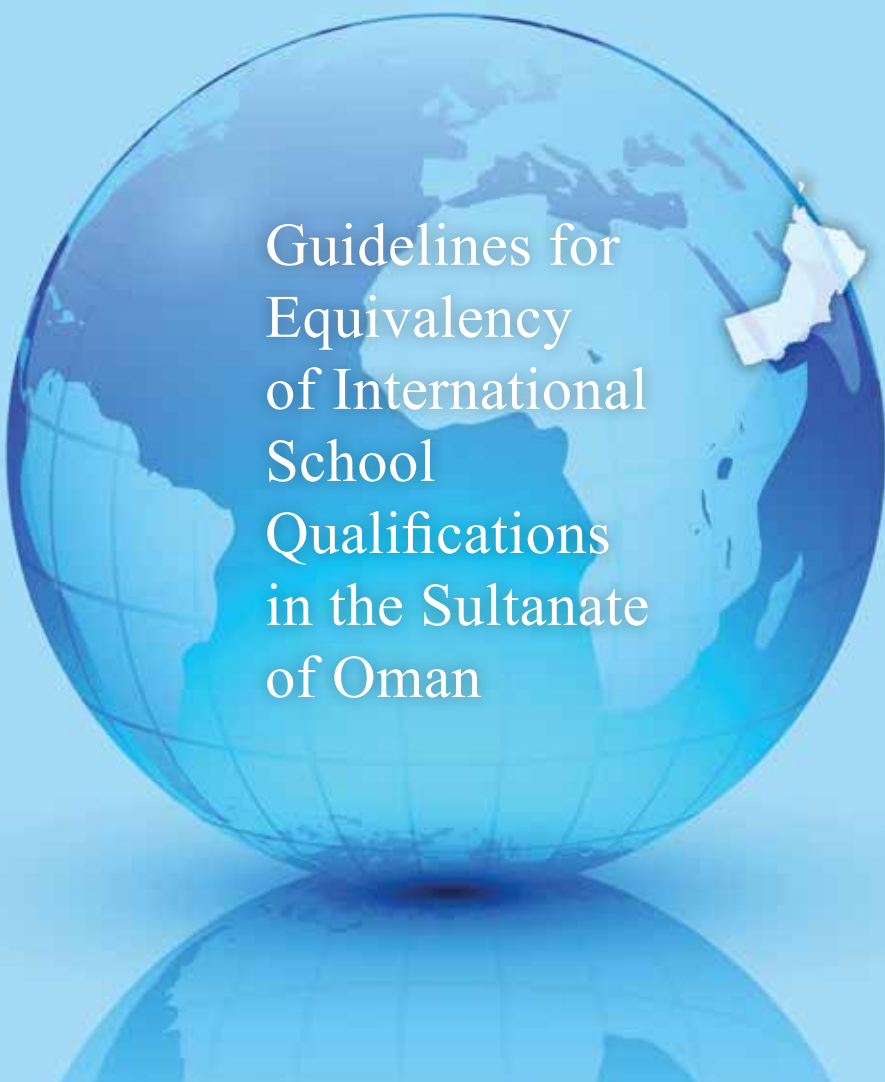





SULTANATE OF OMAN
MINISTRY OF EDUCATION



مركز القياس والتقويم التربوي
The Center for Educational Assessment
and Measurement (CEAM)



Guidelines for Equivalency of International School Qualifications in the Sultanate of Oman



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The late Sultan **Qaboos bin Said**, may his soul rest in peace





His Majesty **Sultan Haitham bin Tariq**





Foreword of
Her Excellency
the Minister of
Education

The provision of education has expanded significantly throughout the world in the last few decades. However, the organisation of the education systems that have arisen, and the educational outcomes that they produce, differ greatly. As a result, there is a wide variety in the qualifications and certificates obtained by students after the completion of the educational programmes they have followed.

Due to the Sultanate's safe and secure environment, it attracts many non-Omani holders of international qualifications. In addition, many Omanis are awarded qualifications from recognized educational institutions in countries around the world. These highly qualified individuals can make an important contribution to the continuing development of the country.

This document reflects the commitment of the Ministry of Education to evaluating the standards of international qualifications, and establishing clear equivalences between certificates awarded by international institutions both abroad and in Oman, and certificates awarded in Oman. The document specifies the criteria required for each educational programme to meet the requirements for equivalency with the general educational programmes in Oman and, in particular, the General Education Diploma.

This document is an official Ministry publication on the evaluation of international qualifications and is intended to act as a guide for all who are concerned with international programmes, and an important source of information for both parents and students. We trust that this document achieves its objectives and serves as an appropriate guide for all concerned specialists, institutions, parents and students.

Madiha Ahmed Al-Shaibani
Minister of Education
Sultanate of Oman



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INTRODUCTION

The equivalency system of qualifications evaluates different educational programmes and compares them with that of any given country to make judgment to which qualification they are equivalent. International school qualifications are one of the educational qualifications obtained by students after successful completion of educational programmes that are studied and examined internationally.

This document covers international school qualifications applied in the private and international schools in the Sultanate, with their evaluation and equivalency in comparison with the school educational system in the Sultanate. These qualifications are:

- **International General Certificate of Secondary Education (IGCSE)**
- **General Certificate of Education: Ordinary Level (GCE: O Level)**
- **General Certificate of Education: Advanced Level (GCE: A Level)**
 - **General Certificate of Education: Advanced Subsidiary Level (GCE: AS Level) (AS-L)**
 - **General Certificate of Education: Advanced Level (GCE: A Level) (A-L)**
- **International Baccalaureate Diploma (IB Diploma)**
- **International Baccalaureate Certificate (IB Course Certificate)**
- **BTEC Qualifications (Business and Technician Education Council Qualifications)**
- **High School Diploma**

The international school qualifications are evaluated according to the following principles:

- a) The minimum and higher requirements of number of academic years or credit hours required to obtain the relevant certificate.
- b) Curricula and courses of study leading to the certificate.
- c) Evaluation, examinations and tests systems of institutions which reward certificates.
- d) The academic status of institutions which issue certificates, especially with regard to:
 - Official accreditation of the institution in the country in which it operates.
 - The educational system and policy of the institution.
 - The objective behind the establishment of the institution, whether commercial or academic.
 - Whether the institution is private or public.
 - The reputation of the institution at local, regional and international levels.
- e) The status of the institution in international publications and periodicals concerned with evaluation of educational institutions. Such publications and periodicals are issued by countries and local or international organizations as well as universities.
- f) Documented information related to the value of the concerned certificate and its local, regional and international standards.
- g) Merits and rights given to holders of the certificate in the country in which it is issued.
- h) Certificates must be obtained through regular attendance and not via distance learning.

The international school qualifications are evaluated and equalized to achieve one or more of the following purposes:

- Enrollment in an educational level higher than the one for which the certificate is issued.
- Employment in a public or private organization.
- Pursuing university education in a public or private institution.
- Getting promotion at career or vocational stream.

In case that a student wants to enroll in any international programme rather than those mentioned in this document, he/she should contact the Centre for Educational Assessment and Measurement to get sure the possibility of equivalency of the desired qualification after completion of study. And due to the fact that the international programmes are widely diversified in terms of subjects introduced in each programme, students are expected to take into consideration their abilities, aspirations and career plans for the future when they select subjects they want to study as well as admission requirements set thereof by higher education institutions.

Students must also take into consideration that equalization of academic certificates does not mean eligibility to compete to get enrolled in an academic programme offered by higher education institutions. Requirements specified by these institutions for some specializations may require higher terms and requirements than these of equalization of the academic certificate. Equalization is the minimum requirement to apply for enrollment.

Evaluation
of International
School Qualifications
in the Sultanate
of Oman

International General Certificate of Secondary Education (IGCSE)

Awarded by	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Cambridge Assessment International Education (CAIE). ■ Pearson Qualifications - Edexcel. ■ Oxford, Cambridge and Royal Society of Arts Examinations (OCR). ■ Council for the Curricula , Examinations and Assessment (CCEA). ■ Assessment and Qualifications Alliance (AQA). ■ Welsh Joint Educational Committee (WJEC).
Duration of study	Two years as per prescribed subjects selected by students.
Age group	14 - 16 years old
Grade level	Grade 9 and 10 or years 10 and 11*
Fields of study	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ The IGCSE program covers both theoretical and practical aspects and they are suitable for all levels of students' performance. ■ More than 70 subjects are introduced so students can select as many subjects as they can study. ■ Most important fields of study are: languages, social studies and humanities, science, mathematics, arts, creative skills and technology.
Dates of examinations & results	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ To know the dates of examinations and results, visit the websites of the awarding body or the approved examinations centers. ■ Examinations are normally conducted at the end of grade ten.

*According to UK Educational System, students obtain this certificate after year 11.

Recognition	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ The IGCSE is internationally recognized and it is equivalent to the GCSE of the United Kingdom. ■ More than 100 countries use it for certification. ■ It qualifies students to obtain advanced international certificates, e.g. GCE and IB Diploma. ■ Most of bilingual and international schools in Oman implement the program of this certificate.
Requirements of obtaining the certificate	<p>Duration of study must not be less than two years. Students choose subjects as per their interests.</p>
Grades of students' attainment	<p>Grades awarded to students in each subject are: A*, A, B, C, D, E, F, G according to the old system while the new system awarded (1-9).</p> <p>A* or (9) is awarded for the highest level of attainment while G or (1) is for the lowest.</p> <p>Students may refer to the websites of the awarded boards to know about levels of attainment for each subject and relevant marking systems.</p>
Certification	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ IGCSE is given to students for each subject they get passed.
Sites	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ www.cambridgeinternational.org ■ qualifications.pearson.com ■ www.ccea.org.uk ■ www.aqa.org.uk ■ www.ocr.org.uk ■ www.wjec.org.uk
Conditions of equalization in the Sultanate of Oman	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Get a pass mark in at least five subjects. ■ Students must study and get pass mark in Islamic Education subject. (for Omani students sitting for exams inside Oman). ■ This certificate is equivalent to completion of grade ten of the Omani school system.

General Certificate of Education: Ordinary level (GCE: O level)

Awarded by	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Cambridge Assessment International Education (CAIE). ■ Pearson Qualifications - Edexcel.
Duration of study	150 hours of study of prescribed subjects during two years.
Age group	14 - 16 years old
Grade level	Grade 9 and 10 or years 10 and 11)*
Fields of study	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Its programme covers both theoretical and practical aspects. ■ More than 60 subjects are introduced. The minimum subjects to be studied by a student are five and the maximum are nine. ■ Fields of study are: languages, English language, humanities, science, social studies, mathematics, arts and information technology.
Dates of examinations & results	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ To know the dates of examination, visit the websites of the approved examinations centers. ■ Examinations are conducted at the end of grade ten.

*According to UK Educational System, students obtain this certificate after year 11.

Recognition	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ It qualifies students to obtain the GCE–Advanced Level. ■ Some international and private schools in Oman implement the programme of this certificate.
Requirements of obtaining the certificate	<p>Duration of study must not be less than two years. Students choose subjects according to their interests.</p>
Grades of students' attainment	<p>Grades awarded to students in each subject are: A, B, C, D and E. A is awarded for the highest level of attainment while E is for the lowest.</p>
Certification	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ General Certificate of Education (GCE: Ordinary Level) is awarded to students for each subject they get passed.
Sites	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ www.cambridgeinternational.org ■ qualifications.pearson.com
Conditions of equalization in the Sultanate of Oman	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Students must get pass mark in at least five subjects. ■ Students must study and get pass mark in Islamic Education subject (for Omani students sitting for exams inside Oman). ■ This certificate is equivalent to completion of grade ten of the Omani school system.

General Certificate of Education: Advanced level (GCE: A level)

Awarded by	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Cambridge Assessment International Education (CAIE). ■ Pearson Qualifications - Edexcel. ■ Oxford, Cambridge and Royal Society of Arts Examinations (OCR). ■ Council for the Curricula, Examinations and Assessment (CCEA). ■ Assessment and Qualifications Alliance (AQA). ■ Welsh Joint Educational Committee (WJEC). 				
Duration of study	<p>AS : One year</p> <p>A2 : One year (combination of both AS and A2 to obtain A-L)</p> <hr style="width: 50%; margin: 0 auto;"/> <p>IAL: 2 years (started from 2015-2016)</p>				
Age group	16-19 years old				
Grade level	Grade 11 and 12 or years 12 and 13*.				
Fields of study	<table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 10%; vertical-align: top;">AS</td> <td style="padding-left: 10px;"> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Students must study 3 to 4 or more subjects. ■ More than 80 subjects are introduced including the following field: Social Studies and Humanities, Design, Commerce, Professional Technology, Mathematics, English Language, Science and Languages. </td> </tr> <tr> <td style="vertical-align: top;">A-L</td> <td style="padding-left: 10px;"> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Subjects of the AS-L equal to half of the subjects of the A level. ■ To obtain the GCE–A Level, students must study both AS-L and A2 levels. </td> </tr> </table>	AS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Students must study 3 to 4 or more subjects. ■ More than 80 subjects are introduced including the following field: Social Studies and Humanities, Design, Commerce, Professional Technology, Mathematics, English Language, Science and Languages. 	A-L	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Subjects of the AS-L equal to half of the subjects of the A level. ■ To obtain the GCE–A Level, students must study both AS-L and A2 levels.
AS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Students must study 3 to 4 or more subjects. ■ More than 80 subjects are introduced including the following field: Social Studies and Humanities, Design, Commerce, Professional Technology, Mathematics, English Language, Science and Languages. 				
A-L	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Subjects of the AS-L equal to half of the subjects of the A level. ■ To obtain the GCE–A Level, students must study both AS-L and A2 levels. 				
Dates of examinations & results	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ To know the dates of examination, visit the websites of the approved examinations centers. 				

*According to UK Educational System, students obtain this certificate after years 13.

Recognition	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Many private bilingual schools and international schools in Oman offer this program. ■ It is one of the highest academic qualifications awarded by international examination centers. ■ Accredited by many universities of the world and students have great opportunities to be enrolled in universities.
Requirements of obtaining GCE–A Level	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Duration of study must not be less than two academic years. Students choose subjects suitable for their career interests and aptitudes. 2. Students obtain the GCE–A level when they pass both the AS and A2 programmes.
Grades of students' attainment	<p>Grades awarded to students in each subject are: A*, A, B, C, D and E. A* is awarded for the highest level of attainment while E is for the lowest.</p>
Certification	<p>AS Students obtain the GCE in each subject of the AS level.</p> <p>A-L Students obtain the GCE in each subject of the A level.</p>
Sites	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ www.cambridgeinternational.org ■ qualifications.pearson.com ■ www.ccea.org.uk ■ www.aqa.org.uk ■ www.ocr.org.uk ■ www.wjec.org.uk
Conditions of equalization in the Sultanate of Oman	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Get a pass mark in four different subjects in the GCE of which two subjects are of the AS Level and two subjects are of the A Level OR get a pass mark in three subjects of the A level. ■ Students must get pass mark in Islamic Education and Social Studies (for Omani students sitting for exams inside Oman). ■ Students must obtain the IGCSE or an equivalent. ■ This qualification is equalized to the General Education Diploma of the Sultanate of Oman. ■ The International Advanced Certificate is equalized to the General Education Diploma according to the conditions specified for equalization of (GCE: A level).

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International Baccalaureate Diploma (IB Diploma)

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International Baccalaureate Certificate (IB Course Certificate)

Awarded by	The International Baccalaureate Organization in Geneva – established in 1960.
Duration of study	Two academic years.
Age group	16 - 19 years old
Grade level	Grade 11 and 12 or years 12 and 13.
Fields of study	The diploma programmes includes 6 fields of study: language 1 and language 2 , individuals and societies, mathematics and computer sciences, fine arts and practical sciences of which students choose 6 subjects in addition to fulfilling the requirements of creativity, action, services (CAS), the theory of knowledge (TOK) and writing an extended essay (EE).
Dates of examinations & results	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ To know the dates of examination, visit the websites of the approved examinations centers.
Recognition	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ The diploma is accepted in universities all over the world. It provides students with great opportunities to be admitted to a university. ■ The IB Course Certificate is accepted in some universities and higher educational institutions. ■ It is one of the most integrated programmes which enhance critical thinking and analytical skills.

Requirements of obtaining the IB Diploma	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Students must get pass marks in six(6) subjects (three or four of high level subjects (HL) while remaining subjects can be of standard level (SL)). 2. 240 teaching hours for the high level subjects and 150 teaching hours for the standard level (SL). 3. Obtained average score must not be less than 24 points. 4. Completion of the creativity, action, service program (CAS). 5. Obtaining at least a (D) grade in one of the requirements of the theory of knowledge or the extended essay. 6. Obtaining at least 12 points in high level subjects.
Scoring system	<p>Points 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, and 7 are awarded. 7 is awarded to the highest level of performance and 1 is for the lowest.</p>
Certification	<p>International Baccalaureate Diploma International Baccalaureate Course Certificate</p>
Site	<p>www.ibc.org.</p>
Conditions of equivalence of the International Baccalaureate Diploma:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Submission of the IB diploma. ■ The diploma is equalized to the general education diploma of the Sultanate of Oman. ■ provided that the student has completed at least 12 years of study. ■ Omani students sitting for the examination inside Oman must study and pass Islamic Educations and Social Studies subjects
Conditions of equalization of the International Baccalaureate Certificate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Submission of the IB Course Certificate. ■ The IB Course Certificate is equalized to the General Education Diploma provided that the student completes study of 6 subjects of which 2 of them are of high level (HL) with not less than 3 points for each, and must obtain a total of not less than 21 points. ■ The IB Course Certificate is equalized to the General Education Diploma provided that the student has completed at least 12 years of study. ■ Omani students sitting for the examination inside Oman must study and pass Islamic Education and Social Studies subjects.

*These conditions shall be applicable starting from the school year 2023/2024.

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BTEC Qualifications

Conditions of equalization in the Sultanate of Oman

BTEC level 3 is equalized to Oman GED as following:

1. THE BTEC NATIONAL DIPLOMA-LEVEL 3 BEFORE (2010)
2. BTEC EXTENDED DIPLOMA-LEVEL 3 (2010-2017)
3. BTEC NATIONAL EXTENDED DIPLOMA -LEVEL 3 (2018 and up)
4. The student age is not less than 17 years old upon the completion of this programme
5. Student should pass Grade 10 or its equivalent

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High School Diploma

This certificate is obtained by students after successful completion of the secondary level in international or private schools in which the total duration of schooling is not less than twelve academic years.

Conditions of equalization in the Sultanate of Oman

1. The school from which the high school diploma is issued must obtain an academic accreditation certificate from an internationally recognized institution or from the educational board in the state if it is issued from the United State of America..
2. The stamp of the authority supervising the awarding school should be on the certificate.
3. Present the graduation certificate + 4 year-transcript (Grades 9-12)
4. These conditions applied to all High School Diploma issued in or out of the United States of America.