

**EDEXCEL GCE / IAL / GCSE / IGCSE  
CAMBRIDGE ASSESSMENT INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION GCE / IGCSE**

**General Information 2017 – 2018**

**(Position as of November 2017)**

**1. INTRODUCTION**

<b>Examination</b>	<b>Full Names</b>	<b>Targets</b>	<b>Levels</b>
IAL	International Advanced Level Examinations	International Candidates	AS / A - Level
GCE	General Certificate of Education Examinations	International Candidates	O-level AS / A – Level
IGCSE	International General Certificate of Secondary Education Examinations	International Candidates	Single Level
GCSE	General Certificate of Secondary Education Examinations	Mainly UK Candidates	Single Level

**2. RECOGNITION AND EQUIVALENCE OF GCE / GCSE / IGCSE**

- a. Grade E or above in all HKALE# A-level and AS-level subjects is generally recognized as equivalent to an A-level pass and an AS-level pass respectively in a British International GCE.
- b. Grade C or above in most HKCEE# subjects is generally recognized as the equivalence of an O-level pass in a British International GCE.
- c. Given below is a rough comparison table between HKCEE 2007 language subjects (i.e. English Language and Chinese Language) and British IGCSE:

<b>HKCEE levels</b>	5*	5	4	3
<b>IGCSE grades</b>	A*	A	B	C

- d. The Universities and Colleges Admissions Service (UCAS) in the UK has included the Hong Kong Diploma of Secondary Education (HKDSE) in the UCAS Tariff system and the qualification is recognized as comparable to the British GCE A-level. For details, please visit the following HKEAA website:  
[http://www.hkeaa.edu.hk/en/ir/recognition\\_of\\_hkeaa\\_qualifications/overseas\\_studies/United\\_Kingdom/](http://www.hkeaa.edu.hk/en/ir/recognition_of_hkeaa_qualifications/overseas_studies/United_Kingdom/)
- e. The above information is for **reference only**. In general, it is for individual users of qualifications to define their own threshold levels of performance for admission/recruitment purposes.

# The Hong Kong Certificate of Education Examination (HKCEE) and The Hong Kong Advanced Level Examination (HKALE) was offered the last time in 2011 and 2013 respectively.

**3. AWARDING BODIES**

The HKEAA administers GCE, IAL, GCSE and IGCSE on behalf of two UK examination boards:

<b>Examinations</b>	<b>Examination Board</b>	<b>Website</b>
GCE / IAL / GCSE / IGCSE	Edexcel	<a href="http://www.edexcel.com">www.edexcel.com</a>
GCE / IGCSE	Cambridge Assessment International Education	<a href="http://www.cambridgeinternational.org/">http://www.cambridgeinternational.org/</a>

**4. ENTRY REQUIREMENTS**

No specific requirement.

**5. REGISTRATION**

**(A) GCSE CHINESE EXAMINATION**

Only GCE / IAL / GCSE / IGCSE participating schools of the HKEAA can apply as a sub-centre to enter their students for GCSE Chinese examination via the HKEAA. Such schools must be on the registered school lists of the Education Bureau. When a school applies to the HKEAA to become a participating school, a copy of the registration certificate and fees certificate issued by the Education Bureau should be attached to the application.

The participating schools should also register with the examination board, Edexcel, as a sub-centre via the HKEAA. The application charge and the annual registration fee will be waived if the schools apply to become sub-centres attached to the HKEAA. The examination materials for the controlled assessment should be submitted to the examination board through the HKEAA.

Schools who are interested in becoming Edexcel sub-centres and entering their students for the GCSE Chinese examination should complete and submit the Centre Recognition Application Form to the HKEAA before 1 September in the year preceding the Examination. Prior to the approval, Edexcel may arrange an one-off sub-centre inspection to ensure the school is suitable for teaching and conducting the controlled assessment of the specification upon request by the examination board.

Registration documents are available for the sub-centres' collection during the registration period.

**(B) GCE / IAL / IGCSE EXAMINATIONS****(a) School Candidates**

School candidates should submit their entry forms through their school heads. Schools wishing to present candidates for the GCE / IAL / GCSE / IGCSE examinations must be a registered school with the Education Bureau. Schools may write to the HKEAA to apply for becoming a GCE / IAL / GCSE / IGCSE participating school. A copy of the registration certificate and fees certificate issued by the Education Bureau should be attached to the application.

Registration details will be sent to all GCE / IAL / GCSE / IGCSE participating schools before the scheduled registration period.

**(b) Private Candidates**

Private candidates should submit their entry forms to the HKEAA. Registration in-person will take place at Hong Kong Examinations and Assessment Authority, San Po Kong Office, 17 Tseuk Luk Street, San Po Kong, Kowloon. About one day before the postal registration period, the Entry Form and the “Notes for Persons Entering for the Examination” will be available at the Authority’s web-site ([www.hkeaa.edu.hk](http://www.hkeaa.edu.hk)) and the following offices:

San Po Kong Office : 3/F, 17 Tseuk Luk Street, San Po Kong, Kowloon  
(Registration & Distribution of Entry Forms)

Wanchai Office : 12/F, Southorn Centre, 130 Hennessy Road, Wanchai, Hong Kong  
(Distribution of Entry Forms **ONLY**)

**(C) REGISTRATION PERIOD**

Examination	Examination Period	Registration Period				
		School Candidate (through school)		Private Candidate		
		In-person	Online Registration	By Post	In-person	Online Registration
Edexcel GCSE (Chinese only)	May / June 2018	Early December 2017	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Edexcel IGCSE	January / February 2018	Mid-September 2017	Early to Mid-September 2017	Early September 2017	Mid-September 2017	Early to Mid-September 2017
	May / June 2018	Early December 2017	Late November to early December 2017	Late November 2017	Early December 2017	Late November to early December 2017
Edexcel GCE AS / AL	May / June 2018	Early December 2017	Late November to early December 2017	Late November 2017	Early December 2017	Late November to early December 2017
Edexcel IAL AS / AL	January / February 2018	Mid-September 2017	Early to Mid-September 2017	Early September 2017	Mid-September 2017	Early to Mid-September 2017
	May / June 2018	Early December 2017	Late November to early December 2017	Late November 2017	Early December 2017	Late November to early December 2017
Cambridge International, IGCSE	October / November 2017	Early July 2017	Late June to early July 2017	Late June 2017	Early July 2017	Late June to early July 2017
	May / June 2018	Early December 2017	Late November to early December 2017	Late November 2017	Early December 2017	Late November to early December 2017
Cambridge International, GCE O-level, GCE AS/AL	October / November 2017	Early July 2017	Late June to early July 2017	Late June 2017	Early July 2017	Late June to early July 2017
	May / June 2018	Early December 2017	Late November to early December 2017	Late November 2017	Early December 2017	Late November to early December 2017

**6. SYLLABUSES / PAST QUESTION PAPERS**

Copies of the Syllabuses and Past Question Papers for the GCE / IGCSE Examination are available for purchase at the Publications Unit, Hong Kong Examinations and Assessment Authority, G/F, 17 Tseuk Luk Street, San Po Kong, Kowloon. Syllabuses are also available on the examination boards’ websites.

## 7. RANGE OF SUBJECTS OFFERED THROUGH THE HKEAA (TO BE CONFIRMED BY THE EXAMINATION BOARDS)

The HKEAA only administers GCE, IAL, IGCSE and GCSE subjects which have general demand in Hong Kong.

### EDEXCEL GCE A / AS LEVEL

Subjects	May / June	Remarks
<b>AS-Level and A-Level (Modular):</b>		
Arabic	✓	
Chinese #	✓	
Government & Politics #	✓	
Greek	✓	
Japanese	✓	
Mathematics #	✓	
Further Mathematics #	✓	
Pure Mathematics #	✓	
<b>AS-Level and A-Level (Linear):</b>		
Business	✓	AS level is a standalone qualification and no longer contributes to A level qualification.
Economics	✓	AS level is a standalone qualification and no longer contributes to A level qualification.
Psychology	✓	AS level is a standalone qualification and no longer contributes to A level qualification.

Candidates who want to know more about Edexcel GCE reform, please refer to <http://qualifications.pearson.com/en/qualifications/edexcel-a-levels/changes.html>

# May / June 2018 is the final examination series for Chinese, Mathematics and Government & Politics subjects at their current modular specifications. Candidates must decide which qualification (AS / A-Level) they plan to achieve. All contributing units of your intended qualification MUST be entered and all unit(s) MUST be cash-in by May / June 2018. Final re-sit opportunity for these modular specifications is scheduled for May / June 2019. Only those existing candidates who have previously sat the unit(s) and entered respective cash-in code(s) will be eligible for a final re-sit opportunity in May / June 2019. AS-Level candidates will also not be allowed to enter A-Level units to achieve A-Level qualification in May / June 2019.

Subjects	January / February	May / June	Remarks
Arabic	✓	✓	
Business Studies	✓	✓	
Mathematics	✓	✓	
Economics	✓	✓	
Biology	✓	✓	
Chemistry	✓	✓	
Physics	✓	✓	
Law (2015 Specification)	N/A	✓	
Accounting (2015 Specification)	✓	✓	
English Language	✓	✓	
English Literature	✓	✓	
History	✓	✓	
Psychology	✓	✓	

The IAL qualifications for a range of subjects are being updated.

For details, please refer to

<http://qualifications.pearson.com/en/qualifications/edexcel-international-advanced-levels/international-advanced-level-from-2018.html>

#### **CAMBRIDGE ASSESSMENT INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION – GCE A / AS LEVEL**

Subjects	May / June	October / November	Remarks
<b>A-Level only:</b>			
Accounting	✓	✓	
Arabic	N/A	✓	
Business	✓	✓	
Chinese	N/A	✓	
English Language	✓	✓	
Economics	✓	✓	
Geography	✓	✓	The final examination for old syllabus will be conducted in October / November 2017. The first examination with the revised syllabus will be implemented in May / June 2018.
History	✓	✓	
Mathematics	✓	✓	
Further Mathematics	✓	✓	
Psychology	✓	✓	
Sociology	✓	✓	
Tamil	N/A	✓	
<b>AS-Level only:</b>			
Arabic Language	N/A	✓	
Chinese Language	N/A	✓	
English Language	✓	✓	
French Language	✓	✓	
History	✓	✓	
Spanish Language	✓	✓	
Tamil Language	N/A	✓	

**EDEXCEL GCSE / IGCSE**

Subjects	GCSE 2012 Spec.	IGCSE Spec. <sup>note 1, 2, 8</sup>	
	May / June	May / June	January / February
Accounting		✓	✓
Arabic (First Language)		✓	✓
Art & Design : Fine Art / Graphic Design		✓ <sup>note 6</sup>	N/A
Biology		✓	✓
Human Biology		✓	✓
Business Studies		✓ <sup>note 6</sup>	N/A
Chemistry		✓	✓
Chinese (Cantonese / Mandarin)	✓ <sup>note 3, 6, 8</sup>	✓ <sup>note 2, 6</sup>	N/A
Commerce		✓	✓
Economics		✓	✓
English Language (Specification A, Route 1)		✓ <sup>note 4</sup>	✓
English Language (Specification B)		✓ <sup>note 4</sup>	✓
English as a Second Language		✓ <sup>note 6</sup>	N/A
English Literature (Route 1)		✓	✓
French		✓ <sup>note 2, 6</sup>	N/A
Geography		✓ <sup>note 6</sup>	N/A
German		✓ <sup>note 2, 6</sup>	N/A
History		✓ <sup>note 6</sup>	N/A
Mathematics (Specification A / B)		✓ <sup>note 5</sup>	✓
Further Pure Mathematics		✓	✓
Physics		✓	✓
Religious Studies		✓ <sup>note 6</sup>	N/A
Science (Double Award)		✓	✓
Spanish		✓ <sup>note 2, 6</sup>	N/A
Tamil		✓ <sup>note 6</sup>	N/A
Urdu		✓ <sup>note 7</sup>	N/A

**Note:**

- The IGCSE examinations are held in May / June examination series with some subjects available in the January examination series.
- Edexcel updated IGCSE specifications for English Language A, English Literature, Biology, Chemistry, Physics, Science (Double Award), History, Geography, Chinese, French, German and Spanish in 2011 and the specifications for these subjects are 2011 specifications. Moreover, International GCSEs in French, German, Spanish, and Chinese are revised in the examination format from summer 2014 onwards. The most significant change is the revised status of the speaking unit which is now compulsory. For the remaining subjects, the specifications are 2009 specifications.
- The GCSE Chinese examination involves coursework and internal assessment, and therefore will only be offered to **candidates of schools which have registered with Edexcel as an HKEAA sub-centre**. Schools which are interested in becoming an HKEAA sub-centre should contact the HKEAA at 3628 8761 and submit the registration application **before 1 September in the year preceding the examination**. Starting from May 2014, the candidates should take the examination in linear instead of in modular.
- English Language (Specification A) is based on the former IGCSE 2003 English Language. Specification A Route 1 involves 100% external examinations. English Language (Specification B) is based on the former GCE O-level English Language.
- Mathematics (Specification A) is based on the former IGCSE 2003 Mathematics whereas Mathematics (Specification B) is based on the former GCE O-level Mathematics B.
- The new 9-1 grading scale (with 9 as the top grade) and new specifications for a range of subjects are being introduced. The final examinations for the existing specifications with A\*-G grading scale in May / June 2018 are as follows.
  - IGCSE Subjects: Art and Design (4FA0, 4GD0), Business (4BS0), Chinese (4CN0), English as a Second Language (4ES0), French (4FR0), Geography (4GE0), German (4GN0), History (4HI0), Religious Studies (4RS0), Spanish (4SP0), Tamil (4TA0)**
  - GCSE Chinese**
- The last examinations for Urdu (4UR0) at the existing specifications with A\*-G grading scale will be conducted in May / June 2018 and this subject will not be re-developed to new 9-1 grading scale.
- For details of the change of the grading scale, <https://qualifications.pearson.com/en/support/support-topics/results-certification/understanding-marks-and-grades/9-1-awarding-faqs.html>  
For details of the new specifications,  
IGCSE Subjects: <http://qualifications.pearson.com/en/qualifications/edexcel-international-gcses-and-edexcel-certificates.html>  
GCSE Chinese: <http://qualifications.pearson.com/en/qualifications/edexcel-gcses/chinese-2017.htm>

**CAMBRIDGE ASSESSMENT INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION – IGCSE / GCE O-LEVEL**

Subjects	IGCSE		GCE O-level	
	October / November	May / June	October / November	May / June
Accounting	✓	✓		
Arabic			✓	N/A
Arabic (First Language)	✓	✓		
Biology	✓	✓		
Business Studies	✓	✓		
Chemistry	✓	✓		
Chinese (First Language)	N/A	✓		
Economics	✓	✓		
English (First Language)	✓	✓		
English as a Second Language	✓	✓		
Environmental Management	✓	✓		
French (Foreign Language)	✓ note	✓ note		
Geography	✓	✓		
Hindi as a Second Language	✓	N/A		
History	✓	✓		
Literature (English)	✓	✓		
Mathematics	✓	✓		
Additional Mathematics	✓	✓		
Nepali			N/A	✓
Physics	✓	✓		
Religious Studies	✓	N/A		
Russian (First Language)	N/A	✓		
Sociology	✓	✓		
Tamil			N/A	✓

**Note:**

French (Foreign Language) having papers 1, 2, 3 and 4 is offered to extended curriculum candidates.

**8. ENQUIRIES**

Telephone No.: 3628 8761 / 3628 8787 Facsimile No.: 3628 8790  
 E-mail Address: ie3@hkeaa.edu.hk Website: [http://www.hkeaa.edu.hk/en/ipe/gce\\_gcse\\_igcse\\_ial/](http://www.hkeaa.edu.hk/en/ipe/gce_gcse_igcse_ial/)