

Options for HKCEE graduates in the UK

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Options for HKCEE graduates

- **GCE A-levels**
- **International Baccalaureate Diploma**
- **BTEC/OCR National Diplomas/Certificates/Awards**
- **Pre-University Foundation Programmes**

Education System in the UK

Age*	UK (Eng, Wales, N. Ire)
14-15	Secondary 4/ Yr 10
13-14	Secondary 3/Yr 9
12-13	Secondary 2/Yr 8
11-12	Secondary 1/Yr 7
10-11	Primary 6
9-10	Primary 5
8-9	Primary 4
7-8	Primary 3
6-7	Primary 2
5-6	Primary 1
4-5	Pre-primary
3-4	Pre-school

 GCSE starts

Education System in the UK

Age*	UK (Eng, Wales, N. Ire)	
20-21	UG 3	
19-20	UG 2	
18-19	UG 1	
17-18	Secondary 7 (Y13)	A-level/IB/ BTEC/ORC
16-17	Secondary 6/Y12	A-level/IB/ BTEC/ORC
15-16	Secondary 5/Yr 11	GCSE
14-15	Secondary 4/ Yr 10	GCSE

- ➔ World Class reputation
- ➔ Internationally recognized
- ➔ Home of English language

GCE A-levels

Two-year preparation for UK universities
For secondary school students aged 16+

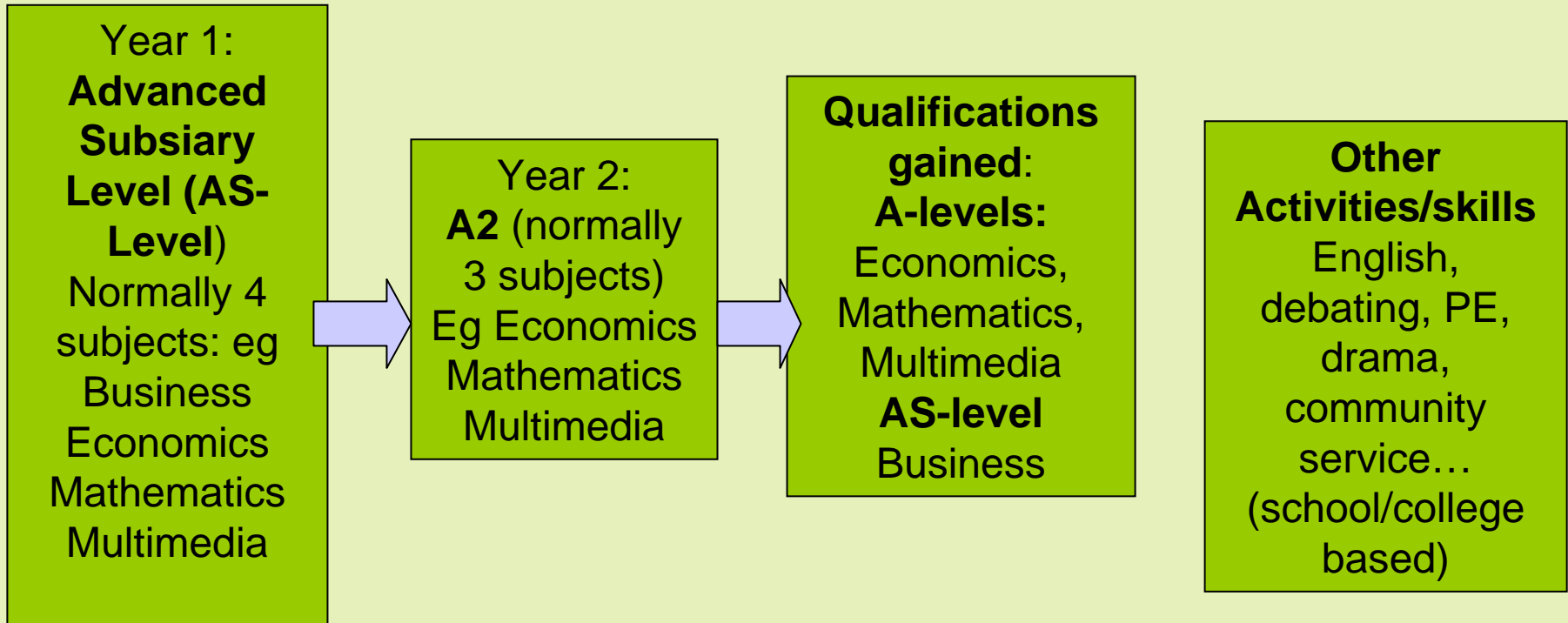
Why study A-Levels?

- Best programme for students who seek flexible subject choice, or to specialise in one area such as sciences/arts (3-4 subjects), maximising exam performance
- Possibility to study non “English-heavy” subjects
- Internationally recognized qualification
- Access to full range of universities, depending on academic performance

GCE A-levels

- **AS**-Levels (Year 12) + **A2** (Year 13) = A-Levels
- **Graded A*-E** (U=Unclassified or Fail)
- Taken in units examined Jan/May-June (2 AS and 2 A2 units)
- Some coursework; Exams can be resat
- Extended project qualification (optional)

A-levels



Or try: Sociology + Economics + Art; Or Chemistry + Biology + Geography;
or Multimedia, Art, Philosophy of Religion;
or Maths, Further Maths, Economics, Physics

Choices

More than 80 subjects: schools may offer around 20

- Accounting
- Art and design
- Business studies
- Classics
- Computing
- Design and technology
- Drama and theatre studies
- Economics
- English literature
- English language
- English language and literature
- General studies
- Geography
- Government and politics
- History
- History of art
- Home economics
- Information and communication technology
- Law
- Media studies
- Modern foreign languages (MFL)
- Music and music technology
- Physical education
- Religious studies
- Sociology

National Diplomas/Certificates/Awards: the applied alternative

- 2-year BTEC/OCR courses in career-related subjects, eg art & design; tourism; engineering; health and social care
- More practical, real-world approach to learning + key theoretical background
- Taught in schools and colleges, as well as, or in place of, A levels
- Assessed in schools/by project (not exams)
- 18-unit National Diploma equivalent to 3 GCE A-levels; 12-unit National Certificate to 2 A-levels, 6 unit National Award to 1 A-level

National Diplomas/Certificates/Awards: the applied alternative

- For students aged 16 plus who prefer less academic approach
- Internationally recognised qualification
- Widely accepted for undergraduate study and further education, eg for nursing, tourism studies, art and design
- Included in UCAS Tariff (worth 40-360 UCAS points/subject) (Similar to A-levels and IB)



BTEC options

- Applied Sciences
- Art and Design
- Business, Management and Services
- Children's Care, Learning and Development
- Construction
- Education and Training
- Engineering
- Hairdressing, Beauty and Related Therapies
- Health, Care and Counselling
- Hospitality
- IT and Computing
- Land and the Environment
- Languages

- Media
- Performing Arts and Music
- Public Services and Security
- Sport, Leisure and Recreation
- Travel, Tourism and Transport Services



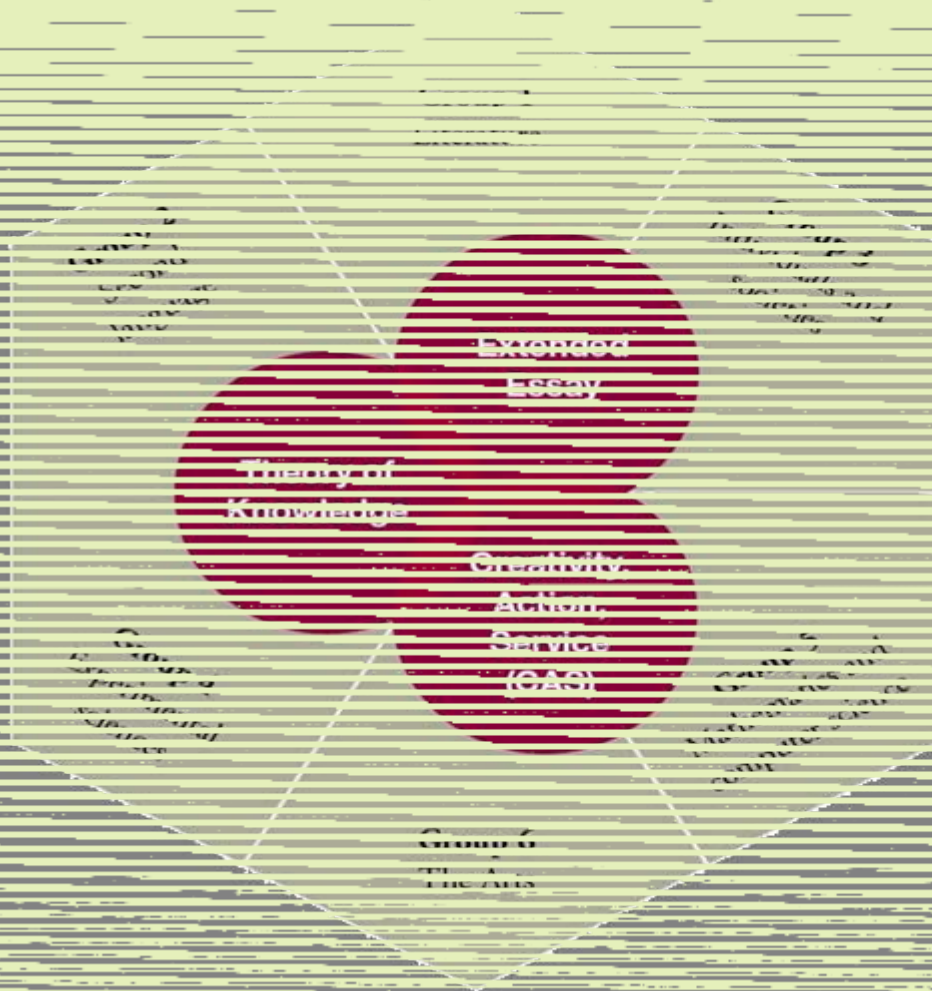
International Baccalaureate (IB) Diploma

Two-year preparation for universities worldwide
For secondary students aged 16 +

Why study IB diploma ?

- Study a wider variety of subjects, well-rounded education
- Study English (literature) and your native language
- Receive internationally recognized secondary school diploma
- Access to top universities in the UK and worldwide

IB Diploma



Students study
3 subjects at
Higher Level,
3 at Standard

Grading:
maximum 7
points/subject + 3
bonus points.

Pass mark: 24
Maximum: 45



Who does the IB suit?

- Students with all-round strengths, of above average academic ability
- Students with motivation for depth and breadth of IB programme (the hard work)
- Students able to manage their own learning
- Students who will enjoy the range of subjects and extras such as Theory of Knowledge

IB is an exciting, challenging programme, but less flexible than A-levels

Pre-University foundation programmes

Bridging course for international or UK students

Duration: 9 months

Who is it for? Students completing Secondary 7, 6 and in certain circumstances S5

Start date: September, January, April

Why study foundation programmes?

- Can be completed in one academic year
- Focus on academic English, research & study skills, academic electives
- Recognized by many UK universities
- Second chance for S7 graduates who don't meet university entry requirements

Pre- university foundation programmes

Term 1

- Language Development
- English for Academic Purposes
- University Preparation
- British Culture
- Computer Fundamentals

Term 2

- IELTS preparation
- Quantitative and Qualitative Research Methods
- Specialist pathway 1

Term 3

- Critical Thinking
- Specialist pathway 2
- Specialist pathway 3

Comparison

A-Levels/ IB Diploma	Pre-university Foundation	National Certificates/Diplomas
High English and Academic standard is required	More flexible entry requirement	More flexible entry requirement
Different academic modules	English is the first focus	Vocational sixth form or higher education qualifications
Secondary school programmes	Aim to prepare students to be ready for Bachelors degree courses	Aim to prepare students to work in specific fields, or for higher education
Standardised syllabus and examinations	Modules are designed by colleges and recognised by universities	Modules are designed for vocational purposes
Can choose any universities in UK/HK/other countries	Can choose from recognised universities of the foundation program	Can choose any university in UK/HK/other country
Allows access to top universities	Guaranteed placement in the list	Provides access to relevant HE courses

Minimum requirements

- Students aged 16+
- English proficiency: IELTS 5.5 or above or equivalent
- Academic requirement: equivalent of 5 GCSE examination passes at grade C or above including mathematics, or equivalent

Check with schools and colleges!

There are preparation course for those students who have not achieved the minimum requirements.

Preparation courses for A-levels/ IB/Foundation/ BTEC/OCR

- Preparation course for students who are not ready for A-levels, IB Diploma or Foundation programmes
- **Duration:** 6 or 9 months
- **Who is it for?** S5 students who haven't met entry requirements for A-level and alternatives. S4 graduates (prep for A-levels)
- **Start Date:** September for 9-month & January for 6-month

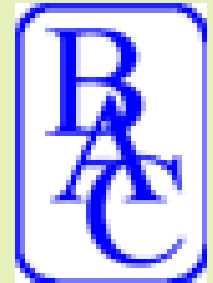
All courses have their advantages
Which one is the most suitable for YOU?

Tips for choosing the right pathways

- **Your aims**
- **Your budget**
- **Your English & academic abilities**
- **Your interests!**

What to consider when choosing a provider

- Accreditation and inspection record
- Teacher qualifications
- Size
- Nationality mix
- Location
- Extracurricular activities
- History/track record



More information?

www.britishcouncil.org.hk

www.educationuk.org.hk

www.the-bac.org

www.ukcosa.org.uk

www.ibo.org

www.edexcel.org.uk

www.ef.com

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