

# LONDON EXAMINATIONS GCE / GCSE / IGCSE

## UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE INTERNATIONAL EXAMINATIONS GCE / IGCSE

### General Information 2011 – 2012

(Position as of July 2011)

#### 1. INTRODUCTION

Examination	Full Names	Targets	Levels
GCE	General Certificate of Education Examinations	International candidates	O-level (Nepali only) 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 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 recognized as the equivalence of an O-level pass in a British International GCE.
- c. Given below is an equivalence 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. British GCSE, IGCSE and International GCE O-level are internationally recognized as being equivalent in standard in principle.
- f. In general, it is for individual users of qualifications to define their own threshold levels of performance for admission/recruitment purposes. As far as the HKEAA is concerned, for the purpose of meeting the HKALE entry requirements, a grade D or above in GCE O-level/GCSE/IGCSE is considered as satisfying the corresponding subject result requirement at grade E/Level 2 in the HKCEE subjects.

#### 3. EXAMINATION BODIES

The HKEAA administers GCE, IGCSE and GCSE on behalf of two UK awarding bodies:

Examination	Awarding Board	Website
London Examinations, GCE/GCSE/IGCSE	Edexcel International	<a href="http://www.edexcel.com">www.edexcel.com</a>
University of Cambridge International Examinations, GCE/IGCSE	University of Cambridge International Examinations	<a href="http://www.cie.org.uk">www.cie.org.uk</a>

#### 4. ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

No entry requirement is needed.

#### 5. REGISTRATION

##### (A) GCSE CHINESE EXAMINATION

GCSE Chinese will only be offered to school candidates. Only GCE/GCSE/IGCSE participating schools of the HKEAA can 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 Edexcel as a sub-centre. The application charge and the annual registration fee will be waived if the schools apply to become sub-centres attached to the HKEAA. It follows that the student entries and the submission of recordings and coursework will be made through the HKEAA to Edexcel.

Schools interested in becoming Edexcel sub-centres for submitting student entries 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 approval by Edexcel, Edexcel will arrange for a one-off sub-centre inspection for ensuring that the sub-centre has suitable premises for teaching purposes and the teachers are aware of the needs of the new specifications.

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

## **(B) GCE / IGCSE EXAMINATIONS**

### **(a) School Candidates**

School candidates should submit their entry forms through their school heads. Schools wishing to present candidates for the GCE/GCSE/IGCSE examinations must be a registered school with the Education Bureau. Schools may write to the HKEAA to apply for becoming a GCE/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/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 week 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 Date	Registration Period		
		School candidate (through school)	Private candidate	
			By Post	In Person
London Examinations, GCSE (Chinese only)	May/June 2012	Early December 2011	N/A	N/A
London Examinations, IGCSE	Jan/Feb 2012	6 – 12 September 2011	25 – 31 August 2011	6 – 12 September 2011
	May/June 2012	Early December 2011	Late November 2011	Early December 2011
London Examinations, GCE AS/AL	Jan/Feb 2012	6 – 12 September 2011	25 – 31 August 2011	6 – 12 September 2011
	May/June 2012	Early December 2011	Late November 2011	Early December 2011
University of Cambridge International Examinations, IGCSE	Oct/Nov 2011	N/A	23 – 29 June 2011	5 – 11 July 2011
	May/June 2012	Early December 2011	Late November 2011	Early December 2011
University of Cambridge International Examinations, GCE O-level (Nepali only), GCE AS/AL	Oct/Nov 2011	N/A	23 – 29 June 2011	5 – 11 July 2011
	May/June 2012	Early December 2011	Late November 2011	Early December 2011

## **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 awarding bodies’ websites.

## **7. ENQUIRIES**

Telephone No. : 3628 8761 / 3628 8787

Facsimile No. : 3628 8790

E-mail Address : [ie3@hkeaa.edu.hk](mailto:ie3@hkeaa.edu.hk)

Website : [http://www.hkeaa.edu.hk/en/ipe/gce\\_gcse\\_igcse/](http://www.hkeaa.edu.hk/en/ipe/gce_gcse_igcse/)

## 8. RANGE OF SUBJECTS OFFERED THROUGH THE HKEAA

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

### LONDON EXAMINATIONS – GCE A/AS LEVEL

Subject	January	May/June
<b>A-Level only:</b>		
Law	N/A	✓
<b>AS-Level and A-Level:</b>		
Accounting	✓	✓
Arabic	N/A	✓
Biology	✓	✓
Business Studies	✓	✓
Chemistry	✓	✓
Chinese	N/A	✓
Economics	✓	✓
General Studies	✓	✓
Geography	✓	✓
Government & Politics	✓	✓
Greek	N/A	✓
Japanese	N/A	✓
Mathematics	✓	✓
Further Mathematics	✓	✓
Pure Mathematics	✓	✓
Physics	✓	✓
Psychology	✓	✓

### CAMBRIDGE INTERNATIONAL EXAMINATIONS – GCE A/AS LEVEL

Subject	May/June	Oct/Nov
<b>A-Level only:</b>		
Accounting	✓	✓
Business Studies	✓	✓
Chinese	N/A	✓
Economics	✓	✓
Geography	✓	✓
Mathematics	✓	✓
Further Mathematics	✓	✓
Psychology	✓	✓
Sociology	✓	✓
<b>AS-Level only:</b>		
English Language	✓	✓

## LONDON EXAMINATIONS – GCSE / IGCSE

Edexcel has introduced the new GCSE Chinese 2009 and IGCSE 2009 to replace the GCSE Chinese, GCE O-level Urdu and IGCSE. The first examinations of the new GCSE Chinese 2009 and IGCSE 2009 took place in May/June 2011.

Subject	New GCSE 2009	New IGCSE 2009 <sup>note 1</sup>	
	May/Jun	May/Jun	January
Accounting		✓	✓
Arabic (First Language)		✓	✓
Art & Design : Fine Art		✓	N/A
Art & Design : Graphic Design		✓	N/A
Biology		✓	✓
Human Biology		✓	✓
Business Studies		✓	N/A
Chemistry		✓	✓
Chinese (Cantonese / Mandarin)	✓ <sup>note 2</sup>	✓	N/A
Commerce		✓	✓
Economics		✓	✓
English Language (Specification A, Route 1)		✓ <sup>note 3</sup>	✓
English Language (Specification B)		✓ <sup>note 3</sup>	✓
English as a Second Language		✓	N/A
English Literature (Route 1)		✓	✓
French		✓	N/A
Geography		✓	N/A
German		✓	N/A
History		✓	N/A
Mathematics (Specification A / B)		✓ <sup>note 4</sup>	✓
Further Pure Mathematics		✓	✓
Physics		✓	✓
Religious Studies		✓	N/A
Science (Double Award)		✓	✓
Spanish		✓	N/A
Urdu		✓	N/A

### Note:

- 1 The new IGCSE 2009 examinations take place in May/June and January annually.
- 2 The new GCSE Chinese 2009 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**.
3. 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.
4. 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.

**CAMBRIDGE INTERNATIONAL EXAMINATIONS – IGCSE / GCE O-LEVEL**

Subject	IGCSE		GCE O-level
	Oct/Nov	May/Jun	May/Jun
Accounting	✓	✓	
Biology	✓	✓	
Business Studies	✓	✓	
Chemistry	✓	✓	
Chinese (First Language)	N/A	✓	
Economics	✓	✓	
English (First Language)	✓	✓	
English as a Second Language	✓	✓	
Environmental Management	✓	✓	
French (Foreign Language)	N/A	✓ <sup>note</sup>	
Geography	✓	✓	
Hindi as a Second Language	N/A	✓	
History	✓	✓	
Literature (English)	✓	✓	
Mathematics	✓	✓	
Additional Mathematics	✓	✓	
Nepali			✓
Physics	✓	✓	
Religious Studies	✓	N/A	
Sociology	✓	✓	

Note:

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