



**Kuwait National English School – Secondary Department  
External Examinations**



**Cambridge Assessment  
International Education**



Pearson

**PEARSON**

**edexcel** 



## **UK Examination boards used by Kuwait National English School:**

### **(a) Cambridge International General Certificate of Secondary Education (IGCSE)**



## **Cambridge Assessment International Education**

The Cambridge International General Certificate of Secondary Education (IGCSE) is usually chosen by international schools. The IGCSE offers rigour and depth enabling the more able to be stretched while still meeting the needs of others. IGCSE can be awarded without coursework, that is, 100% examination although coursework options exist. Examinations are graded as follows: Foundation targets (Core) grades C-G and Higher grades (Extended) A\*-G. Kuwait National English School (KNES) offers the IGCSE examinations to all students in year 11. In exceptional cases, students in other years may be offered the opportunity to take IGCSE examinations early. This is usually for students in year 10 who wish to take a language exam.

Examination timetables are set by the boards each year and cannot be altered. It is imperative that parents do not book any holidays for pupils in Year 11 during the examination session as any examinations that are missed cannot be taken at another time and normally result in an X (NO RESULT) grade in the final exam.

Kuwait National English School is an approved centre for all the United Kingdom based Examinations and as such Kuwait National English School pupils take their external examinations at the school (on site) in our Al Farabi School theatre.

### **Grading: Cambridge IGCSE grading choices - (A\*-G) and (9-1) grades**

#### **Option I: Existing syllabuses with (A\* - G) Grading:**

Cambridge IGCSEs are graded (A\*-G) around the world. This grade set is well established, widely-used systems that universities, parents and schools know and trust. Cambridge IGCSEs have been reported on an (A\*-G) grading scale for many years and offer a good level of differentiation between students' performance. Cambridge will continue to use the (A\*-G) grading. The majority of schools around the world are retaining the grading scale of (A\*-G), because they are so well understood.

#### **Option II: Existing syllabuses with (9-1) Grading:**

(9-1) grades have been introduced by the UK government for GCSEs in state schools in England. Under this system, 9 is the top grade. Students in England received (9-1) grades for GCSE in August 2017. Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland are now adopting (9-1) grading. Some other exam boards offering international GCSEs plan to introduce (9-1) grades. Schools in England, UK, are using the (9-1) grading for GCSEs. Over time, there is an increase demand for (9-1) grading from schools in a number of countries.



## Comparing the (A\*–G) grades with the and (9–1) grades

The table below compares the (A\*–G) grades with the (9–1) grades:

### How do A\*–G grades compare to 9–1 grades?

A*–G grades	9–1 grades	
A*	9	
A	8	
	7	
B	6	Anchor point
	5	
C	4	Anchor point
	3	
D		
E	2	
F		
G	1	
U	U	Anchor point

There are three anchor points where standards are benchmarked between the two systems.

### Choice of Kuwait National English School Pupils/Parents:

Cambridge IGCSEs is now extending the availability of (9 – 1) grades to all schools in Kuwait from June 2019. Registered schools in this region will have the choice of (A\*–G) grades or (9–1) grades for Cambridge IGCSEs.

Students and parents of Kuwait National English School must decide when registering for Cambridge IGCSEs whether they want to continue to have their exams grades (A\* - G) or adopting the (9 – 1) grades.

### Qualifications covered by Cambridge Assessment International Examinations (CAIE)

Cambridge Assessment International Examinations is the world's largest provider of international education programmes and qualifications for 5 to 19 year olds. CAIE is a Board used by schools outside the UK and is not part of the JCQ.

The qualifications covered by CAIE are:

- **IGCSE** (Cambridge International General Certificate of Secondary Education)
- **IGCSE 9 – 1** (Cambridge International General Certificate of Secondary Education 9 – 1)
- **AS Level** (Cambridge International Advanced Subsidiary Level)
- **A Level** (Cambridge International Advanced Level)



## **UK Examination boards used by Kuwait National English School:**

### **(b) Pearson Edexcel (London Examinations Board)**



Pearson provides a wide range of qualifications including academic, vocational, occupational and specific programmes for pupils. It is part of the UK Joint Council for Qualifications (JCQ) – an umbrella body that administers external qualifications. With Pearson Edexcel, international schools around the world can provide UK-based qualifications to secondary. It is recognised by universities all around the world. Pearson/Edexcel qualifications are built on the British educational system and accepted by universities worldwide. They offer learners across the world the opportunity for progress, to achieve their learning and career goals, at home and abroad. Starting from IGSEs through to and IAL levels, Edexcel/Pearson help guide students on their journey of academic success. Upon completing their IAL levels, that achievement is then recognised by some of the world's most prestigious universities.

### **International GCSE: Learners 14 to 16 years**

The new suite of International GCSE (9–1 grading) qualifications is now fully align with the UK government's GCSEs: grade-for-grade. This means that students' achievements will be recognised in the same way that British students are.

### **Edexcel International A levels: Preparing for university entry**

Edexcel/Pearson can also prepare pupils for the International Advanced Levels qualification, so that they can progress to prestigious universities across the world, including UK. Two certificates are available: International Advanced Subsidiary Level (IAS) and International Advanced Level (IAL).

### **Qualifications covered by Edexcel/Pearson are:**

The qualifications offered by Edexcel/Pearson are:

- **International GCSE**
- **IAS** (International Advanced Subsidiary Level)
- **IAL** (International Advanced Level)



## **General Note:**

- (i) Head of Departments are responsible for choosing the most appropriate syllabus and board for their students. If students are unsure which board they are studying for a particular subject, they should speak to their subject teacher.
- (ii) **Key Stage 4 /IGCSE (Year 10 and 11)**  
Kuwait National English School (KNES) pupils embark on a two-year Cambridge International General Certificate of Secondary Education (IGCSE) course in Year 10. Pupils are usually encouraged to take a broad base of IGCSE subjects chosen from: English; Mathematics; Literature in English; Sciences (Biology, Chemistry, Physics - a combination of one, two or all three); a modern foreign language (French, Spanish); Arabic; humanities (History, Geography); Art & Design; Business Studies; Economics; Accounting and Computer Science are offered. Social sciences (Sociology) have recently been added to the list of IGCSE subjects available. Non-IGCSE courses such as PE, Arabic (Ministry), Islamic (Ministry) and Quraan (Ministry) are available. Children usually make their IGCSE - option choices - in February of Year 9 following extensive consultation with the school, their parents, teachers and universities.
- (iii) **Key Stage 5 – A1/IAS/AS Level and A2/IAL/A Level (Year 12 and 13):**  
Advanced Subsidiary (A1)/(IAS)/(AS Level) and Advanced level (A2)/(IAL)/(A Level) Award can be taken in the Year 12 and 13. Students can choose when to cash in their awards. All A levels are now unitised rather than based on a final exam. Students can choose when to cash in their awards. Success at A Level/(IAL)/(A2) enable a pupil to be accepted with advanced credit for university study.
- (iv) **Examination sessions (Assessment):**  
There are three main exam sessions in the academic year:
1. **May/June Session** – this is the main period for IGCSE/IAL/IAS examinations. These exams commence at the end April and continue until the end of June.
  2. **October/November Session** – this is usually to cater for CAIE exams which offers re-sit opportunities in some IGCSE subjects.
  3. **January Session** – this is predominantly for year 12 & 13 students doing certain International AS/A Level units. International GCSE from Edexcel/Pearson also take place in the January session.