



What is Cambridge Assessment International Examinations (CAIE)?

- CAIE is an international qualification (not a foreign qualification).
- Allows for a South African Matric with exemption (via USAf) or without exemption (via SAQA).
- Students wanting to study medicine, veterinary or actuarial science must take 6 subjects from IGCSE to AS/A Level. Or 3 A level subjects with further AS and IGCSE subject combinations.
- Students wanting to pursue other academic fields are advised to take 5 subjects but should confirm this with the Universities.
- Official Cambridge Website: <https://www.cambridgeinternational.org/> The website can be accessed by anyone for CAIE materials such as syllabi, past papers, exam information, endorsed textbook material and the like.

How does Cambridge Upper Secondary (IGCSE) and Advanced Levels work?

IGCSE Level – Upper Secondary

- Entry level: 14 – 16 years old; variable factors taken into consideration or a pass for all subjects at grade 9 level.
- University entrance is made with IGCSE results, pending AS/A Level results.
- **Afrikaans is only available in a November exam session and cannot be written in a June session.

AS/A Level – Advanced Levels

- Entry level: 17 to 19 years or a pass at grade 11/12 in all subjects with C grades or higher
- Requirements for university entrance may be different for all countries outside of South Africa.
- This will allow for USAf exemption via AS Level for South African Matriculation purposes.
- **Afrikaans is only available in a November exam session and cannot be written in a June session.

Why would students complete A Levels?

- AS levels are sufficient for students wanting to enter SA universities.
- Students must ensure that they have the correct subjects, as per university admission requirements, AND achieve the correct grades for the required subjects.
- Students wanting to study abroad require two (2) to three (3) full A Levels; this is university and further study dependent.
- Students completing AS Levels by sixteen (16) years old are advised to take A Levels.
- More APS points: x2 A levels with C grades = 14 APS points (A level with C grade = 7 points) as apposed x2 AS levels with C grades = 10 APS points (AS Level with C grade =5 points).
- The two-sitting rule is no longer relevant if two or more A levels are completed.





USAf Two-Sitting Rule

- CIE exams are offered in a May/June and October/November of any given year.
- To clarify an exam session versus a sitting:
 For USAf purposes, the May/June exam session and October/November exam session of any given year counts as ONE SITTING, hence, AS levels can be completed in one exam sitting, for example, M/J and O/N of 2018 is one sitting (two exam sessions in the same year = ONE exam sitting), or exams can be split over two sitting as follows:
 M/J and O/N exam sessions of 2018, and M/J and O/N exam sessions of 2019 – will be TWO exam sittings (four exam sessions = two sittings)
- Where a subject is not examined in M/J, for example, Afrikaans, the following or preceding exam session will be regarded as the same session: Five (5) subjects written in M/J 2018 and Afrikaans written in O/N 2017 or O/N 2018 is one exam session and one sitting.
- The Cambridge recognitions officer for South Africa is Jolene Rugg: rugg.j@cie.org.uk

Hypothetical Exam session and sitting planning

Subjects for Matric exemption	Target level	2017 Oct/Nov	2018 May/June	2018 Oct/Nov	2019 May/June	2019 Oct/Nov
English (Group I)	AS		IG		AS	A Level possibility
<u>Afrikaans</u> (Group II)	AS	IG		AS (here)		Or AS (here)
Maths (group 3)	AS					AS
Biology (group 4)	AS		IG		AS	A Level possibility
History (group 4)	AS		IG		AS	
Geography (Group 4)	AS		IG			AS

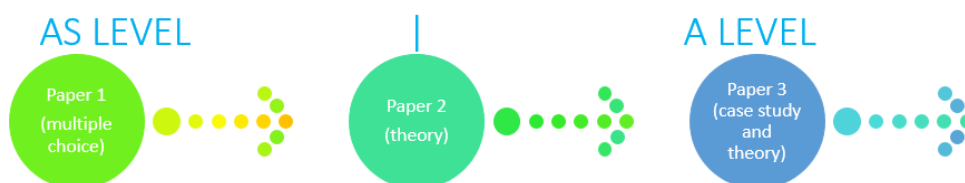




Understanding AS and A Levels

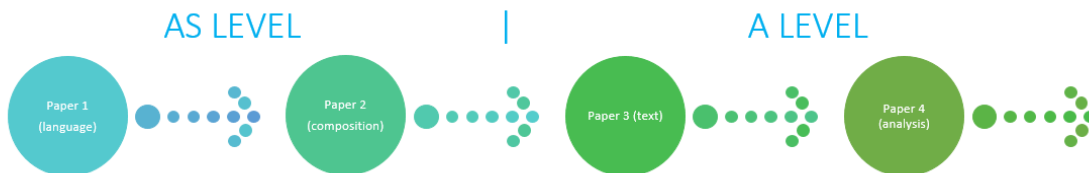
- AS level = Advanced Subsidiary
- AS level and A level consist of a different number of papers for all subjects.
- Some subjects only have 3 papers, others have 4 papers and some have 5 papers.
- A levels must be written within 13 months of AS level.
- Example: AS/A Level Economics

Economics



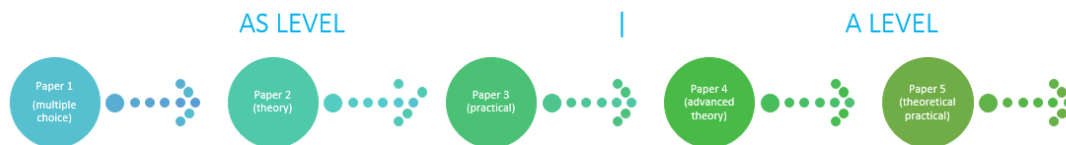
- Example: AS/A Level English

English



- Practical session workshops must be attended for AS level: Chemistry, Physics and Biology
- Example: AS/A Level Physics

Physics



Students can write all five papers in one session

Or

Students can split these over two sessions.

AS LEVEL (2018)



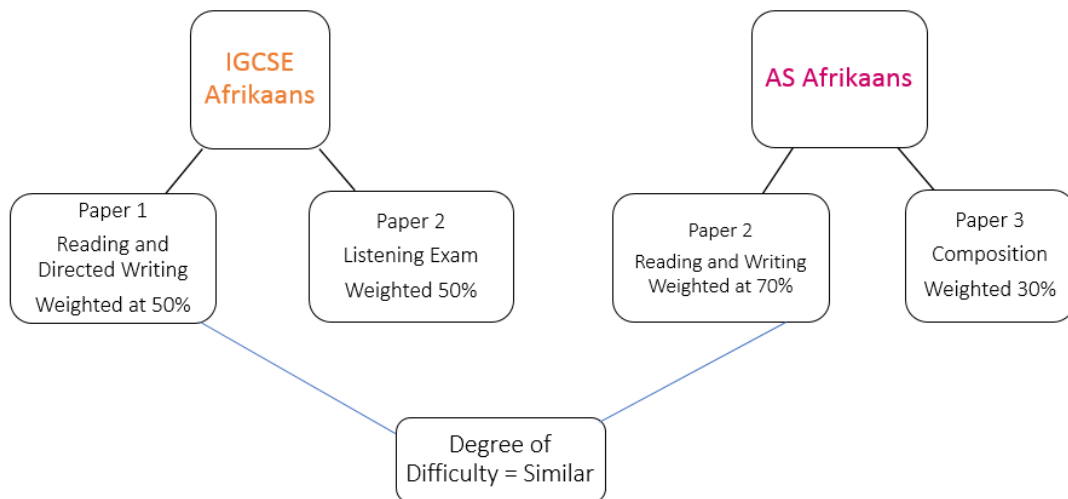
A LEVEL (2019)



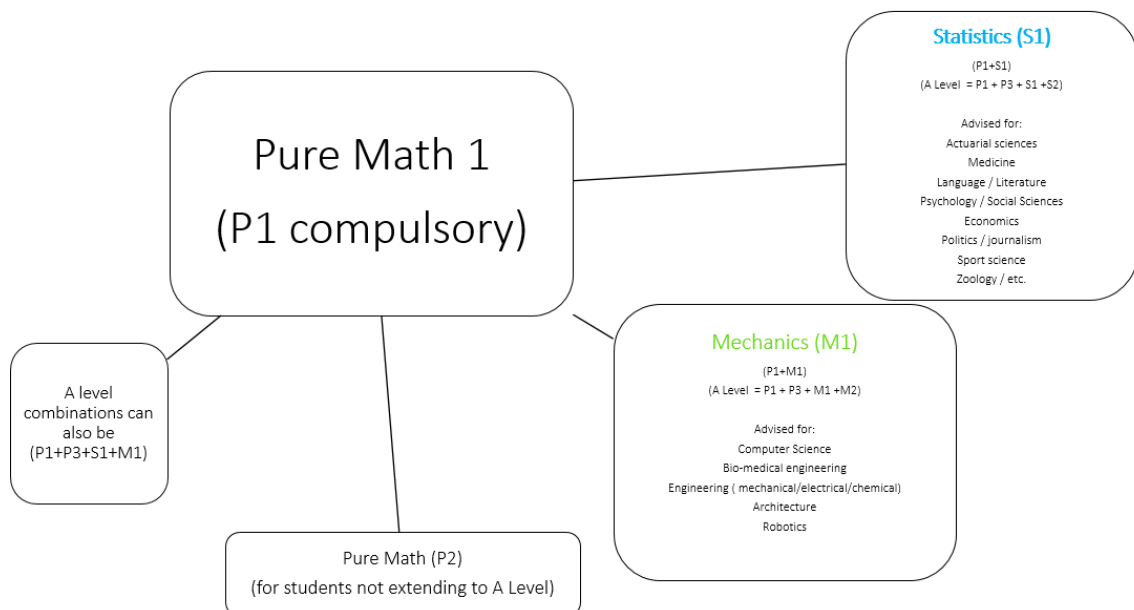


IGCSE Afrikaans versus AS Afrikaans

AS Afrikaans is preferably advised as an end goal



AS Levels Mathematics options





Possible subject combinations



IGCSE Level

Combinations (variations in combinations are permissible; see below for some examples with six subjects, but five subjects are permissible)

Combination A:

English
 Afrikaans
 Maths
 Physics
 Biology
 Chemistry

Combination B:

English
 Afrikaans
 Maths
 Business Studies
 Economics
 Accounting or History or Computer
 Science

Combination C:

English
 Afrikaans
 Biology
 Geography
 Computer Science
 Economics or Business Studies
 (Maths)

AS Level

The same combination as selected at IGCSE Level is taken through AS Levels. AS Level, minimum requirements are as follows for USAf (previously HESA) purposes:

X4 AS Levels (to be passed with a D grade or higher)

X1 IGCSE level (to be passed with a C grade or higher)

Or

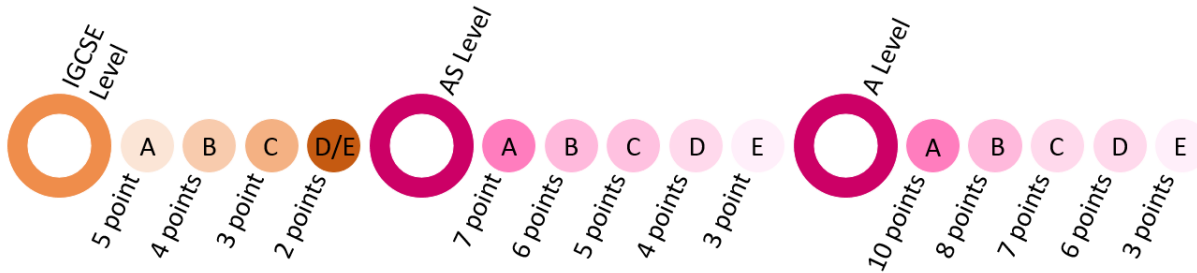
x5/6 AS Level (to be passed with a D grade or higher)

Note: This will allow for USAf exemption via AS Level for South African Matriculation purposes.





University Admission Point Score (APS)



Admission Point Score (APS) Conversion Table

The following tables can be used to convert your marks/symbols into an Admission Point Score (APS) when applying for studies at the University of Pretoria (UP).

APS (requirement level for subjects as well as overall APS)	NSC/IEB	SC HG M-score	SC SG M-score	HIGCSE NSSC HL	AS-Level	IB SL	IGCSE/ GCSE/ NSSC OL/ O-Level Grade 11*	IGCSE/ GCSE/ NSSC OL/ O-Level Grade 12**
7	7 (80–100%)	A		1	A	7	A	
6	6 (70–79%)	B	A	2	B	6	B	
5	5 (60–69%)	C	B	3	C	5	C	A
4	4 (50–59%)	D	C	3	D	4	C	B
3	3 (40–49%)	E	D	4	E	3	D	C
2	2 (30–39%)	F	E			2	E	D/E
1	1 (0–29%)	G	F			1	F	F/G

Admission Point Score (APS) Conversion Table only for Cambridge Advanced Level and IB Higher Level

APS		A-Level	IB HL
Requirement level for subjects	Requirement level for overall APS		
7	10	A	7
6	8	B	6
5	7	C	5
4	6	D	4
3	5	E	
2	4		
1	3		

