

# Comparing Post 16 Options



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# TODAY we'll try to understand

- The different systems available at Post-16 (last 2 years of school)
- A Levels (International and UK)
- IB (International)
- US curriculum including AP
- How these apply to universities worldwide, including Thai university



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# A Level (Advanced Level GCE)

International  
(Cambridge / Edexcel):

- 2 X 1 year course
- 3-4 subjects
- “Free” choice

UK A levels (Edexcel /  
OCR / WJEC / AQA /  
CCEA):

- 1 X 2 year course
- 3-4 subjects
- “Free” choice



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# Cambridge:

1st Year / Year 12 = AS

Choose  
3-5 subjects  
Exams after  
1 year

2nd Year / Year 13 = A2

Continue  
3-4 subjects  
Exams after  
1 year

**AS + A2 = A Level (scored A\*-E)**



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# Benefits

Slightly less pressure on “final” examinations

Opportunity to “re-sit”

Recognised by universities worldwide for university entry

Students can choose specific interests:

*E.g. You can do Maths / Chemistry / Biology / Physics OR*

Students can choose a broad programme:

*E.g. You can do Literature, Maths, Biology, History & French*

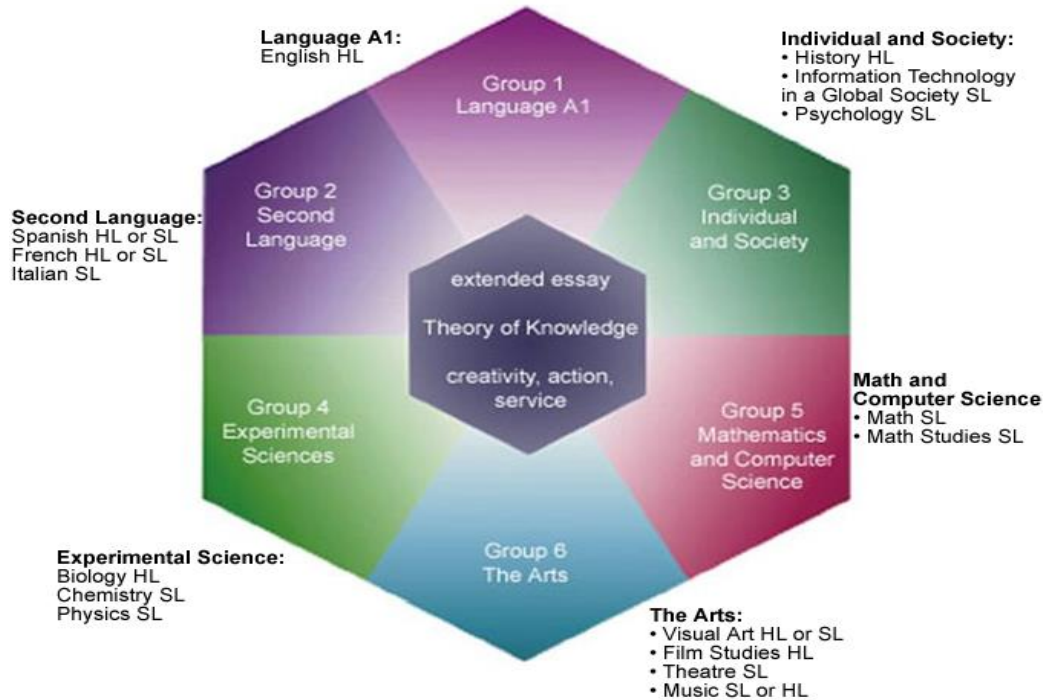
Additional subjects e.g. Global Perspectives are optional



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# IBDP (International Baccalaureate Diploma)



**6 subjects**

**3 standard  
3 higher**

**+ CAS / TOK etc.**

Exams after 2 years

Scored out of 7

Maximum score = 45



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# Benefits

Rewards additional activities e.g. TOK /independent project (3/45 marks)

Recognised by universities worldwide for university entry

Students do a broad programme - covering numeric / English / foreign language / science / humanities / arts

Students can get a DP Course Result if they do not complete the full programme

# US system: High School Diploma

Awarded for successful completion of courses in Grade 9-12  
(Years 10-13)

Linked to attendance (90%)

Mandatory streams upto a number of credits (English 4 years /  
Maths 2 years / Science 2 years / Social Sciences 2 years)

Roughly equivalent to IGCSE

GPA (Grade Point Average) 4.0



# GED

General Educational Development Tests

Maths / Science / Social Science / English

Scored 100-200 (“pass” is 145)

Is EQUIVALENT to High School graduation

Designed for students unable to attend High School  
(e.g. in prisons / military etc.)

# US College preparation courses

AP / Advanced Placement: optional “college level” curriculum

Done usually 2nd/3rd year of High school

30+ courses - depends on the school

1 year course - exam in May / scored out of 5

“Honours courses” also seen as a little more rigorous

# Benefits?

High School Diploma is significantly easier than other systems (but not seen as college prep)

Generally is very flexible - students chose number of courses and when they do them

AP and GED can be studied for independently

Very familiar to US institutions (less so elsewhere)



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# A level / IB / AP: what's the difference...

Very little...

- All “college preparation courses”
- All will get you access to universities worldwide
- High scores in all will get you “college credit” in North America
- All stand completely separate from standardised tests such as SAT / ACT / TOEFL / IELTS etc.



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# Hard stats

Cambridge A Level Schools (not including UK A Level programmes): over 10,000

IB schools: just less than 5,000

AP: unknown! (1.7 million entries a year including USA)

# International curriculum for Thai Universities

Equivalent to Mathayom 6

- A Level: 5 IGCSE (A\*-C) plus 5 AS or 3 A Level (A\*-E)
- IB: score 24 and pass EE / TOK / CAS or 5 subjects with GPA 2.0
- US system: 4 subjects GED score 145



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# International curriculum for Dutch universities

Equivalent to VWO (Research University)

- UK - 3 A Level and 3 IGCSE at C or above
- IB - Full diploma, score 24+
- US: AP - Grade 3-5 in minimum 4 subjects

Equivalent to HAVO (University of Applied Science)

- UK - 2 AS level at E or above + IGCSE at C or above
- Can be DP Course Result
- US - High School Diploma

# International curriculum for Australia / New Zealand

## University of Melbourne (Commerce)

- UK - A Level ABB
- IB - Diploma score 36
- US - SAT 1380 / AP score 3+  
in minimum 2 subjects

## Massey University (Commerce)

- UK - 3 A Levels (E +, and  
minimum 1 C+)
- IB - Diploma score 24
- US - SAT 1100 / diploma



# International curriculum for Canada

- A Level: 3 A Level or 6 AS Level (generally C and above)
- IB: Full diploma
- US system: SAT / diploma required, specific AP programmes required for some programmes

	<b>A Level</b>	<b>IB</b>	<b>AP</b>
<b>UK (A Level)</b>	Preferred	Accepted	Accepted
<b>USA (Diploma, SAT, AP)</b>	Accepted	Accepted	Preferred
<b>Singapore (Singapore A Level)</b>	Accepted	Preferred	Accepted
<b>Germany (Abitur)</b>	Accepted	Accepted	Not generally accepted
<b>New Zealand (NCEA Level 3)</b>	Accepted	Accepted	Not generally accepted
<b>South Korea (CSAT)</b>	Accepted	Accepted	Accepted
<b>Malaysia (STPM)</b>	Accepted	Accepted	Accepted



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Questions?