

25 August 2016

CIE Examinations Officer

Dear colleague

Policy Change – Equivalence of Qualifications

Recently, the Ministry of Education announced some changes to the equivalence of qualifications from England to the upper secondary school levels (Matayom 6) in Thailand. The Thai version of this announcement is attached (*Thailand Equivalency Statement*). Here is a translation (contributed by a teacher):

Students who graduate with IGCSE, GCSE, or GCE 'O' level with no less than five different subjects for each of which a grade between A-C was given together with GCE 'AS' level with no less than 3 subjects for each of which a grade between A-C was given or together with GCE 'A' level with no less than 3 subjects for each of which a grade between A-C was given.

Different GCE 'AS' and 'A' level subjects can be counted together for no less than 3 subjects and can be the same subjects as the ones in other levels, but GCE 'AS' and 'A' level subjects must be different.

Effective for examinees from the year 2017

The implication of this announcement would be that students will now need to obtain a Grade C or better in at least 3 Cambridge International AS Level or A level subjects, in addition to a minimum of Grade C or better passes in 5 Cambridge International IGCSE subjects in order to obtain the equivalent of a Thai High School Diploma.

Cambridge International AS & A Level

Due to this policy change I anticipate that students who previously would have concluded their studies of Cambridge programmes with the IGCSE would now be interested to progress to Cambridge International AS & A Level. This programme is typically for learners aged 16 to 19 years who need advanced study to prepare for university and higher education. It builds on the foundations of the Cambridge IGCSE stage, although learners do not need to have completed that stage. AS Level take one year of study after IGCSE. A Level takes one year of study after AS Level or 2 years after IGCSE.

Why choose Cambridge International AS & A Levels?

- Develop unique skills – in-depth subject content, independent, critical and logical thinking
- Flexible subject choices – Wide choice of over 50 subjects is available
- In-depth preparation for universities
- Recognised by universities worldwide

For more information, please refer to the Cambridge Advanced brochure (attached) or see here our website at <http://cie.org.uk/programmes-and-qualifications/cambridge-advanced/cambridge-international-as-and-a-levels/>

Professional Development Courses

For schools that wish to offer Cambridge International AS & A Levels, we offer training courses to assist your teachers in teaching the subjects. There are 2 levels of training courses: *Introductory Training* is strongly recommended for teachers who are new to Cambridge or new to a specific qualification. *Extension Training* is recommended for teachers who have attended Introductory Training and/or have been teaching Cambridge programmes and qualifications for at least one year or one exam cycle.

On-line courses

Introductory level online self-study courses are available year round. These courses would equip teachers with some knowledge for them to attend extension level training. The list of courses can be found here:

http://www.cie.org.uk/cambridge-professional-development/events-and-training-calendar/index.aspx?filter=keyword:133|21025||event_type|&filter=keyword:118|3811||qualification_type

Face to Face training

A number of face to face extension training courses are planned in the region. Please see attached file *AS_A_Level_Training_2016_2017*.

Should you require any specific Face to Face training to be held in Thailand, please let me know so that we can consider for it to be made available early next year.

You may also refer to the training and events calendar to stay updated on the availability of courses.

<http://cie.org.uk/cambridge-professional-development/events-and-training-calendar/>

Information Session for careers and guidance counsellors

On 30 November 2016, we will be conducting an information session "Going to University with Cambridge International AS and A Levels" in Bangkok. This will be a half day event will be aimed at staff members who provide career and guidance counselling. I will be sending you more information on this once the details of the event are finalized.

I hope that the information above is helpful. Please feel free to contact me if you have any further questions. I will contact you via email shortly to discuss these developments and give you any assistance that may be required.

I look forward to speaking with you.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Daryl', with a long, sweeping horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Daryl Khong

Manager, Singapore and Thailand

Cambridge International Examinations

Enclosed

Thailand Equivalency Statement

Cambridge Advanced brochure

AS_A_Level_Training_2016_2017
