



UCT ONLINE
HIGH SCHOOL

POLICIES

Subject Selection & Curriculum Plan Rules Policy



in collaboration with
VALENTURE INSTITUTE



Cambridge Assessment
International Education

Cambridge International School

UCT Online High School is a registered
online Cambridge International School



OVERVIEW

Purpose	This policy provides an overview of the subjects on offer and their selection
Custodian	Valenture Institute Registrar
Approval Authority	Storm Clery, Grant Ruskovich
Version History	Version 2, Effective 3 August 2022



CONTENTS

CONTENTS	3
Introduction	4
Subject Offering	5
Lower Secondary	5
International GCSE	6
International AS Levels	
International A Levels	7
Subject Selection	8
Lower Secondary	10
Year 8	10
Year 9	10
International GCSE (IGCSE)	12
International A Level	14
International AS Levels (18 month course)	15
International A Levels (2 year/24 month course)	15



Introduction

UCT Online High School (OHS) for the Cambridge International Curriculum offers an International Curriculum in association with Cambridge Assessment International Education. Cambridge International is a part of Cambridge Press & Assessment which is “an organisation that provides world-leading academic research, learning and assessment globally.”

Cambridge International is a provider of international qualifications, offering examinations and qualifications to 10,000 schools in more than 160 countries. It has been developed to empower schools to prepare learners for the Cambridge International qualifications.



Subject Offering

In January 2023, learners applying to UCT Online High School will be able to elect to follow the Cambridge International Curriculum which culminates in IGCSE, AS and A Level examinations. The following qualifications and subject offerings will be available:

Lower Secondary (this comprises of Year 8 and Year 9; each Year group is 12 months in duration) with the following subject offering:

The Lower Secondary qualification comprises Year 8 and Year 9. Each Year group is 12 months in duration) with the following subject offering:

1. English
2. Mathematics
3. Science
4. Afrikaans
5. Computing
6. Social Studies
7. Business (at Year 8 & 9 only)

2.2 International GCSE (this is a 24 month course, starting in Year 10 and ending in Year 11) with the following subject offering:

The IGCSE qualification is a 24 month course, starting in Year 10 and ending in Year 11 with the following subject offering:



1. English - First Language (0500)
2. Mathematics (0580) - either Core or Extended Mathematics
3. Afrikaans - Second Language (0548)
4. Physics (0625)
5. Chemistry (0620)
6. Biology (0610)
7. Geography (0460)
8. History (0470)
9. Business Studies (0450)
10. Information & Communication Technology (0417)

**Additional subjects for 2024 are under consideration.*

All learners start their chosen subjects on the Extended level, with the exception of Mathematics. For Mathematics the learner can choose to begin the course on either the Core or Extended level. Learners opting for the Extended level, can be moved to the Core level should their achievement during the course be below the required standard.

If a learner is not coping with the extended curriculum in any of their other subjects, they can be moved to the Core curriculum. However, a learner starting on the Core level cannot be moved up to the Extended level. Any subject written on the Core level cannot be taken at A Level.

The following qualifications and subjects are under consideration for the near future:



International AS Levels (18 month course) with the following subject selection:

1. English - Language (9093)
2. English - Literature (9695)
3. Afrikaans Language (8679)
4. French (9716)
5. Mathematics (9709)
6. Physics (9702)
7. Chemistry (9701)
8. Biology (9700)
9. Geography (9696)
10. History (9489)
11. Business (9609)
12. Information Technology (9626)

International A Levels (24 month course) with the following subject selection:

1. English - Language (9093)
2. French (9716)
3. Mathematics (9709)
4. Physics (9702)
5. Chemistry (9701)
6. Biology (9700)
7. Geography (9696)
8. History (9489)
9. Business (9609)
10. Information Technology (9626)



Decisions will be made during the course of the year as to whether additional subjects will be added to this offering.

Subject Selection

Any learner who is a South African citizen or South African permanent resident who is contemplating studying at a South African tertiary institution, needs to take the Matriculation Exemption (ME) requirements into account when making their subject choice. Cambridge Assessment International Education outlines the Matric Exemption subject specific requirements in this document ([University Recognition South Africa](#)).

After learners have received their AS or A Level results, they will need to apply to the [The South African Matriculation Board](#), which falls under Universities South Africa (USAF), to obtain their Matric Exemption Certificate.

Obtaining a Bachelor's pass is a prerequisite for entry into South African universities. If a learner is 100% sure that they will not be doing their tertiary studies in South Africa, then the ME requirements do not need to be considered. In this instance, the school will require guardians to sign acknowledgment that the learner will not meet the subject requirements for a South African matric exemption.

Learners who are not South African citizens or South African permanent residents but want to apply to a South African tertiary institution for their tertiary studies also do not need to consider the ME requirements and can apply to the relevant tertiary institution as an international student.

It is important to note that South African citizens and South African permanent residents need to take a second language at least to IGCSE level to qualify for a



ME. Afrikaans is the second language being offered at UCT Cambridge International Curriculum. If a learner has not taken Afrikaans in the year preceding the grade they are applying for, then the applicant will need to write an Afrikaans assessment as part of their application process, in order to assess their Afrikaans ability.

Learners wishing to enrol with other academic service providers for subjects not offered by UCT Online High School for the Cambridge International Curriculum are free to do so provided the required minimum (compulsory) number of subjects are taken at UCT Online High School for the Cambridge International Curriculum. The exception to this rule is for South African citizens or permanent residents who choose to take a different second language than Afrikaans. If the choice is made to do a different second language to Afrikaans, guardians need to ensure that the second language chosen is part of the acceptable second languages that can provide Matriculation Exemption ([University Recognition South Africa](#)).

Lower Secondary

There are two Year groups in Lower Secondary, namely Year 8 and Year 9. Subjects on offer at Lower Secondary include English, Mathematics, Science, Afrikaans, Computing, Social Studies and Business. Each year group is 1 year (12 months) in length.

Year 8

In Year 8, learners will take the following 6 compulsory subjects (South African citizens or permanent residents will take 7 compulsory subjects, to include Afrikaans - see "Important note" below):



1. English
2. Mathematics
3. Science
4. Computing
5. Social Studies
6. Business

Year 9

In Year 9, learners will take the following 6 compulsory subjects (South African citizens or permanent residents will take 7 compulsory subjects, to include Afrikaans - see “Important note” below):

1. English
2. Mathematics
3. Science
4. Computing
5. Social Studies
6. Business

Important note: To South African citizens or South African permanent residents regarding Afrikaans

At UCT Online High School for the Cambridge International Curriculum, the second language on offer is Afrikaans. Afrikaans is a compulsory subject at Lower Secondary for South African learners due to South African Matriculation Exemption requirements.

South African learners will be required to take Afrikaans in Year 8 and 9. This is to enable South African learners to take Afrikaans at IGCSE.

Learners must achieve a “C symbol” or higher for their IGCSE Afrikaans examination in order to meet the second language requirement for Matric



Exemption. Learners may not take IGCSE Afrikaans if they have not passed it at a Year 9 Level.

For learners applying for the first time for Lower Secondary (Year 8 or 9), a declaration of having studied Afrikaans prior to application is required. This will appear on the application form. Applicants who have not studied Afrikaans in the year prior to their application for a place in Lower Secondary (Year 8 or 9), will need to write an Afrikaans assessment to ascertain their proficiency.

Should they not meet the required standard, they will be required to commit to getting an Afrikaans tutor (at the guardian's expense) to enable them to achieve the correct standard.

Should a learner wish to take a second language other than Afrikaans the following will apply:

- Learners will be required to source an external provider for this.
- This provider must be familiar with and preferably taught the second language at IGCSE level. Please note that for matric exemption purposes it is not acceptable to mix a South African curriculum second language (e.g. CAPS/IEB/SACAI) offering with an IGCSE language offering.
- Guardians will be required to sign an acknowledgement that the learner will not be competing their second language through UCT OHS Cambridge International Curriculum.

International GCSE (IGCSE)

IGCSE is a 2 year (24 month) qualification offered by Cambridge International. Learners need to choose a total of 6 subjects from those that are offered.



Learners need to bear in mind that subject selection needs to take a number of aspects into account when making their decision. For specific details regarding subjects, please navigate to the relevant section below.

Learners need to bear in mind that subject selection needs to take a number of aspects into account when making their decision. For specific details regarding subjects, please navigate to the relevant section below.

It is the learners' and guardians' responsibilities to ensure that they have researched any potential tertiary opportunities and to take into account any prerequisites that a tertiary institution and course may require, when making their subject selection at this stage.

All learners will need to take English Language and Mathematics (either core or extended). The remaining subjects will be the learner's choice but their previous achievement at UCT Online High School for the Cambridge International Curriculum (for learners who have completed Year 9 at UCT Online High School for the Cambridge International Curriculum) and their aptitude (from their Admissions Assessment) will be taken into account. The school will have the final approval as to which subjects the learner will take as learners need to be set up for success.

For learners applying from schools outside of UCT Online High School for the Cambridge International Curriculum , they need to choose subjects that are most closely aligned with subjects they have taken at their previous school. Their Admissions Assessment might be considered in verifying their subject choices.

Important note to South African citizens or South African permanent residents regarding Afrikaans:

For learners considering tertiary studies in South Africa and requiring a South African Matriculation exemption (ie. not applying as an International student), there is a requirement to study a Second Language at IGCSE level. UCT Online



High School for the Cambridge International Curriculum offers Afrikaans as the Second Language and learners must achieve a “C symbol” or higher for their IGCSE Afrikaans examination in order to meet the second language requirement for ME.

For learners applying for the first time for IGCSE, declaration of having studied Afrikaans prior to application is required. This will appear on the application form. Applicants who have not studied and passed Afrikaans in the year prior to their IGCSE will need to write an Afrikaans assessment to ascertain their proficiency. Should they not meet the required standard, they will be required to commit to getting an Afrikaans tutor (at the guardian’s expense), during their IGCSE course, to enable them to achieve the correct standard.

Should a learner wish to take a second language other than Afrikaans the following will apply:

- Learners will be required to source an external provider for this.
- This provider must be able to offer a second language at IGCSE level. Please note that for matric exemption purposes it is not acceptable to mix a South African curriculum second language (e.g. CAPS/IEB/SACAI) offering with an IGCSE language offering.
- Guardians will be required to sign an acknowledgement that the learner will not be completing their second language through UCT OHS Cambridge International Curriculum.

International A Level

The A Level qualification has two components; AS Level and A2 Level. UCT Online High School for the Cambridge International Curriculum will offer two options at A Level.



1. An 18 month AS level course, and
2. A two year (24 months) A Level course that consists of the two components, AS and A2. Learners taking this option will write all their A Level exams when they have completed the full A Level course (ie. both the AS and A2 components).

Learners need to bear in mind that subject selection needs to take a number of aspects into account when making their decision. It is the learners' and guardians' responsibilities to ensure that they have researched any potential tertiary opportunities and to take into account any prerequisites that a tertiary course may require, when making their subject selection at this stage.

International AS Levels (18 month course)

Learners need to choose a total of 4 subjects from the subjects that they have been taking at IGCSE. In order to take any subject at Int AS, the learner would need to have achieved a Level 6 / Grade B or higher at IGCSE (this requirement is accepted practice in the UK and around the world).

If a learner applies from a school outside of UCT Online High School for the Cambridge International Curriculum, they may choose 4 subjects that are most closely aligned with subjects they have taken at their previous school. If they have written a UK curriculum GCSEs, their selection will be based on them having achieved a Level 6 / Grade B or higher for their GCSE qualification. If they have not written UK curriculum GCSEs then their selection will be based on their entrance assessment results.

International A Levels (2 year/24 month course)

Learners need to choose 3 subjects from the subjects that they have been taking at IGCSE (if they have written International GCSEs either at UCT Online High



School for the Cambridge International Curriculum or at another school). In order to take any subject at International A Levels, the learner would need to have achieved a Level 6 / Grade B or higher at IGCSE (this requirement is accepted practice in the UK and around the world).

If a learner applies from a school outside of UCT Online High School for the Cambridge International Curriculum, and has not studied a UK curriculum, they may choose 3 subjects that are most closely aligned with subjects they have taken at their previous school. Their selection will be based on their entrance assessment results.

Summary of subjects offered, their articulation and compulsory and optional subjects at each qualification:

SUBJECT	QUALIFICATION				
	Lower Secondary Year 8 (take 6* subjects)	Lower Secondary Year 9 (take 7* subjects)	Int GCSE (take 6 subjects)	Int AS Level (take 4 subjects)	Int A Level (take 3 subjects)
English	Compulsory	Compulsory			
Mathematics	Compulsory	Compulsory			
Science	Compulsory	Compulsory			
Afrikaans	Compulsory*	Compulsory*	*Optional for non South African citizens and permanent residents		
Computing	Compulsory	Compulsory			
Social Studies	Compulsory	Compulsory			
Business	N/A	Compulsory			
English Language			Compulsory	Optional	Optional
Mathematics (extended)			Chose one of these two	Optional	Optional
Mathematics (core)				Cannot take Mathematics at A level	
Physics			Optional	Optional	Optional
Chemistry			Optional	Optional	Optional
Biology			Optional	Optional	Optional



English Literature			Optional	Optional	Optional
Geography			Optional	Optional	Optional
Business			Optional	Optional	Optional
Information & Communication Technology			Optional	No articulation to AS or A Level	

Subject Selection Guidance with respect to citizenship and permanent residence

When making your subject selection, take into consideration your citizenship or residency status in South Africa and where you'd like to complete your tertiary studies. The following scenarios may be of assistance in helping you make your choice

South African Learners wanting to study at a South African University

South African learners wanting to study at a South African University will require a Matric Exemption. In order to qualify for matric exemption learners must ensure they meet the following minimum Matric Exemption requirements at each qualification:

International GCSE (IGCSE)

- **Number of Subjects:** 6
- **Compulsory Subjects:** English Language, Mathematics, 2nd Language
- **Minimum Grade Needed:** C Symbol for Matric Exemption purposes



Please note, that the above are the minimum requirements for Matric Exemption. Each degree programme of study and tertiary studies institute will have their own entry requirements in addition. It is the responsibility of guardians and learners to ensure that they fully research any potential tertiary studies options prior to making subject choice.

International AS Level

- **Number of Subjects:** 4
- **Compulsory Subjects:** English Language
- **Minimum Grade Needed:** D Symbol for Matric Exemption purposes

For a full breakdown on Matric Exemption requirements please refer to the [Universities South Africa \(USAf\) website](#)

Please note, that the above are the minimum requirements for Matric Exemption. Each degree programme of study and tertiary studies institute will have their own entry requirements in addition. It is the responsibility of guardians and learners to ensure that they fully research any potential tertiary studies options prior to making subject choice.

Learners who are South African citizens or South African permanent residents wanting to do their tertiary studies outside of South Africa

We would strongly recommend that learners wanting to do their tertiary studies outside of South Africa, still ensure that they meet the minimum Matric Exemption Requirements as outlined above as a fail-safe in case their plans change while completing this qualification. For a full breakdown on Matric Exemption requirements please refer to the [Universities South Africa \(USAf\) website](#).



If a learner chooses not to take a subject selection that would allow them to receive a Matric Exemption they will be required to sign a waiver.

Learners who are South African citizens or South African permanent residents wanting to keep tertiary study options open for both South Africa and outside of South Africa

South African learners wanting to keep their tertiary studies options open will require a Matric Exemption. In order to qualify for matric exemption learners must ensure they meet the following minimum Matric Exemption requirements at each qualification:

International GCSE

- **Number of Subjects:** 6
- **Compulsory Subjects:** English Language, Mathematics, 2nd Language
- **Minimum Grade Needed:** C Symbol for Matric Exemption purposes

Please note, that the above are the minimum requirements for Matric Exemption. Each degree programme of study and tertiary studies institute will have their own entry requirements in addition. It is the responsibility of guardians and learners to ensure that they fully research any potential tertiary studies options prior to making subject choice.

International AS

- **Number of Subjects:** 4
- **Compulsory Subjects:** English Language
- **Minimum Grade Needed:** D Symbol for Matric Exemption purposes

For a full breakdown on Matric Exemption requirements please refer to the [Universities South Africa \(USAf\) website](#).



Please note, that the above are the minimum requirements for Matric Exemption. Each degree programme of study and tertiary studies institute will have their own entry requirements in addition. It is the responsibility of guardians and learners to ensure that they fully research any potential tertiary studies options prior to making subject choice.

Learners who are NOT South African citizens or South African permanent residents wanting to do their tertiary studies in South Africa

Learners and guardians need to ensure that they have researched the tertiary opportunities in South Africa and to take into account any prerequisites that the tertiary institutions and courses may require, when making their subject selection. Learners can then apply to those institutions as an International learner.

Learners who are NOT South African citizens or South African permanent residents wanting to do their tertiary studies in their home country

Learners and guardians need to ensure that they have researched the tertiary opportunities in their home country and to take into account any prerequisites that the tertiary institutions and courses may require, when making their subject selection.

Learners who are NOT South African citizens or South African permanent residents wanting to do their tertiary studies in a country other than South Africa or their home country



Learners and guardians need to ensure that they have researched the tertiary opportunities in the country/ies they are wishing to apply to and to take into account any prerequisites that those tertiary institutions and courses may require, when making their subject selection.