



GUIDELINES FOR EQUIVALENCE TO GCSE ENGLISH AND MATHEMATICS B GRADE FOR ENTRY TO INITIAL TEACHER EDUCATION AND TRAINING IN WALES

This paper has been agreed by an all-Wales working group of admissions and academic staff to enable a consistent approach across Wales for those who are applying to courses of initial teacher education and training (ITET). The content of this paper will be reviewed annually.

All ITET provision in Wales now require a minimum B grade or equivalent in English Language and Mathematics at GCSE to be eligible to apply for entry to ITET courses. For courses of primary ITET, a minimum C grade in science is also required.

Concerning recent changes to GCSE qualifications, a grade 5 will be accepted as equivalent to the B grade requirement from the reformed GCSE's within England. Both Mathematics and Numeracy at grade B will be accepted as equivalent to Maths from the changes within GCSE's in Wales.

Suitability for interview for an ITET place is at the discretion of the ITET provider and will be based on each applicant's overall profile.

Notes

- Level 2 key skills and essential skills qualifications in application of number and communication are not sufficient to meet the requirements for entry to ITET.
- A CSE Grade 1 in English or mathematics will not be acceptable as GCSE B grade equivalent.
- A GCSE Statistics Grade B is not an acceptable equivalent qualification.
- Candidates who are not able to supply evidence of equivalent qualifications should contact individual institutions for advice.
- Please check with individual institutions to ensure that equivalent qualifications are acceptable.

Equivalent overseas qualifications

- The National Academic Recognition Information Centre (NARIC) provides guidance on whether an overseas qualification is comparable in standard to a given UK qualification, but decisions about suitability for entry to ITET courses remain at the discretion of ITT providers.
- There is a requirement that applicants are able to demonstrate equivalent qualifications at a B grade level in GCSE English Language and Mathematics.

A list of proposed equivalents for English Language and Mathematics B grades follows. The list is for guidance only and is not exhaustive. The following are baseline expectations which may be considered at institutions as minimum entry requirements in relation to equivalents for GCSE B grade English Language and Mathematics.

English

Achievement	GCSE B grade equivalence guidance
Access	15 credits with a minimum of 3 credits at Level 3 within English units (Agored Cymru) <i>*Individual institutions should be consulted.</i>
GCE O level	English Language B grade or above or equivalent (for example pre-1970 achievement at Grades 1 to 4).
IGCSE/Cambridge International Level 2	English Language B grade or above.
A2	E grade or above in A2 English Language (but not an O level pass at A2 level sitting)
AS	C grade or above in AS English Language.
Scottish Certificate of Higher Education	Grade B or above at National 5, or grade C or above at Highers, or grade E at Advanced Highers. In or after 1986, grade 2 or above on the standard grade of the Scottish certificate of education. Until 1985, B or above on the ordinary grade of the Scottish certificate of education. Grade B or above in the certificate of sixth-year studies in English
Irish Leaving Certificate	Prior to 2017, grade B or above at Ordinary or Grade C or above at Higher. 2017 onwards, O3 or above at Ordinary or H4 or above at Higher.
OU	A pass in any Level 1, 2 or 3 undergraduate (30 credit minimum) module prefixed with the letter A, D, B or E.
International Baccalaureate	Until 2015, Higher or Standard level in English language at a minimum of Grade 3. Higher level in English A: Language and Literature at a minimum of Grade 3.
European baccalaureate	Pass (Grade 6 minimum) in English as a mother tongue or English as a foreign language. English Language (mother tongue) pass (Grade 6 minimum).
International English Language Testing System (IELTS)	IELTS band score 7 or above in each component of the 'academic' IELTS test.
BTEC	Pearson BTEC (QCF)/OCR/NQF – First, National or Higher National Diplomas dependent on level of study and achievement.
Certificate of Higher Education or university credits	Certificate of attainment in English at Level 4 or above (minimum of 20 credits). <i>Only considered when combined with a minimum grade D in GCSE English Language.</i>

Mathematics

Achievement	GCSE B grade equivalence guidance
Access	15 credits with a minimum of 3 at Level 3 within mathematical units (Agored Cymru) <i>*Individual institutions should be consulted.</i>
GCE O level	B grade or above in Mathematics, or a subject with mathematics in the title (for example commercial mathematics, technical mathematics) or equivalent (for example pre-1970 achievement at Grades 1 to 4).
IGCSE/ Cambridge International Level 2	B grade or above in Mathematics.
A2	E grade or above in A2 Mathematics or any A2 level subject with mathematics in its title. A2 in statistics or mechanics (but not an O level pass achieved at A level sitting).
AS	C grade or above AS in mathematics, mechanics, statistics, additional statistics or pure mathematics.
Scottish Certificate of Higher Education	Grade B or above at National 5, or grade C or above at Highers, or grade E at Advanced Highers. In or after 1986, grade 2 or above on the standard grade of the Scottish certificate of education. Until 1985, B or above on the ordinary grade of the Scottish certificate of education. Grade B or above in the certificate of sixth-year studies in Maths.
Irish Leaving Certificate	Prior to 2017, Grade B or above at Ordinary or Grade C or above at Higher. 2017 onwards, O3 or above at Ordinary or H4 or above at Higher.
OU	A pass in any Level 1, 2, or 3 undergraduate (30 credit minimum) module prefixed with the letter M, S or T.
International baccalaureate	Higher or Standard level in Mathematics at a minimum of Grade 3.
European baccalaureate	Pass (minimum Grade 6) in mathematics.
BTEC	Pearson BTEC (QCF)/OCR/NQF – First, National or Higher National Diplomas dependent on level of study and achievement.
Certificate of Higher Education or university credits	Certificate of attainment in Mathematics at level 4 or above (minimum of 20 credits). <i>Only considered when combined with a minimum grade D in GCSE Mathematics.</i>