

O' Level in APSACS

GCE (General Certificate of Education) O' Level is a UK standard qualification followed by A' Level studies. It provides a strong foundation to students for further study at university or employment.

O' Level in APS is three years scheme of studies that starts from class VIII (O' Level I). The students appear in Cambridge International Examination in O' Level II for two to three subjects (Usually Urdu, Islamiat and Pak. Studies). For the other five papers (2 compulsory and 3 elective) Cambridge International Exams (CIE) are held in O' Level III. However, schools conduct regular Assessments, Term Exams, Pre-Mock and Mock examinations to monitor academic progress of students.

The students of O' Level I appeared in school exam for both terms and are promoted to O' Level II

O' Level and A' Level

O' Level (Ordinary Level)

3 years scheme of studies

Age: 13 – 15 years

Class level:

O' Level I : equivalent to class VIII

O' Level II : equivalent to class IX

O' Level III : equivalent to class X

A' Level (Advanced Level)

A' Level is two years scheme of studies for students aged between 16-18 years.

AS – Advanced Subsidiary is AI (where students appear in Cambridge Exam after the completion of one year)

A' Level – Advance Level (2 years programme) where students appear in Cambridge Exam after completion of two years Scheme of studies.

O' Level Subject Options:

In Pakistan subjects are bifurcated into Compulsory and Elective subjects according to Group offered to students.

The following subjects are compulsory subjects which is mandatory for students to pass and get equivalence certificate from IBCC, Islamabad.

a) Compulsory Subjects:

English Language
Mathematics
Urdu
Islamiat
Pakistan Studies

b) Elective subject combination in different groups:

1) Science Group:

<u>Group A</u>	<u>Group B</u>
Physics	Physics
Chemistry	Chemistry
Biology	Computer Studies
Additional Mathematics – as 9th subject	

2) Business / Commerce Group:

<u>Option A</u>	<u>Option B</u>
Principles of Accounts	Principles of Accounts
Economics	Economics
Business Studies	Computer Studies

3) Humanities Group:

Sociology
Fine Arts
English Literature
History

O' Level Cambridge exams are held twice a year in May/June and October / November. Most of school systems send their entries for exams in May/June because Cambridge offers awards to students in May/June. Exam for all papers at the same time.

Students who pass GCE, O' Level and A' Level are required to get equivalence certificates from Inter Board of Committee of Chairman (IBCC). IBCC follows certain rules to equate qualification and marks.

The major principle for equivalence of qualification is to identify the relevant stage in Pakistani system by considering the number of schooling years and subjects of a foreign system, if the system does not match with the Pakistani model.

GCE O' Level is considered equivalent to Secondary School Certificate (SSC) subject to meeting the requirement of Scheme of studies as under:

- i) Pakistan Based Examinations:
8 Subjects (5 compulsory + 3 elective)
- ii) Overseas Based Examinations:
5 subjects including Math, and 3 electives.

To qualify for Science Group it is necessary to pass Physics, Chemistry, Mathematics and Biology / Computer Science. Rest will be placed in General / Arts Humanities Group.

All Pakistani nationals appearing for examinations from Pakistan shall have to pass five Compulsory and three Elective Subjects to qualify for equivalent.

GCE O' Level / A' Level equivalent to Pakistani Marks

<u>Grades</u>	<u>Pak Marks</u>
A+	90
A	85
B	75
C	65
D	55
E	45

Schools receive CIE Results directly from UK through mail on the day of result declared. However, hard copy of results and student certificates are also sent to schools after a week through British Council.

CIE charges exam fee as per subject. It varies from year to year e.g. in year 2013, the Registration and fee per subject was as follows:

Registration Fee: Rs.3000
Fee per subject: Rs.7740 × No. of subjects
 $7740 \times 8 = \text{Rs.}61920$

An Orientation Session will be arranged in school for parents of class VII on Result and PTM of the First Term Exam. The Section Head of middle section will be responsible to send a circular to brief the parents about date and commencement of O' Level classes in his/her school and discuss in detail the selection criteria for O' Level Scheme of studies. This helps parents to decide the most appropriate stream (Matric or O' Level) for their child.