

United Kingdom (England and Wales)

Background

Academic Calendar	September-June
What is year nine called?	Form three, key stage three, year nine
Where is year nine typically located?	Final year of lower secondary school
Native Language(s)	English
Graduation Timeline	
Varies (11, 12 or 13)	See document-specific timelines below.

ACCEPTABLE FORMS OF PROOF OF HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION

This section is divided into three “tiers.” All tiers are acceptable forms of proof of high school graduation. Each tier has a separate expected timeline for completion and builds upon the previous tier.

Tier One

1. *General Certificate of Secondary Education* (GCSE) [Must pass **five** or more GCSE examinations in separate subjects to qualify as an acceptable form of proof of high school graduation]

Expected Timeline of Completion	11 years (three years or six semesters from the initial start of year nine)
Issuing Body	Various examination boards
First Available Date of Issue (Typical)	August

2. *International General Certificate of Secondary Education* (IGCSE) [Must pass **five** or more IGCSE examinations in separate subjects to qualify as an acceptable form of proof of high school graduation]

Expected Timeline of Completion	11 years (three years or six semesters from the initial start of year nine)
Issuing Body	Various examination boards
First Available Date of Issue (Typical)	August

3. *Level 1/Level 2 Certificates* [Must pass **five** or more Level 1/2 certificate examinations in separate subjects to qualify as an acceptable form of proof of high school graduation]

Expected Timeline of Completion	11 years (three years or six semesters from the initial start of year nine)
Issuing Body	Various examination boards
First Available Date of Issue (Typical)	August

4. *General Certificate of Education* (GCE) Ordinary Level (O-level) examinations [Must pass **five** or more O-level examinations in separate subjects to qualify as an acceptable form of proof of high school graduation]

Expected Timeline of Completion	11 years (three years or six semesters from the initial start of year nine)
Issuing Body	Various examination boards
First Available Date of Issue (Typical)	August



5. *General National Vocational Qualifications (GNVQ or NVQ) Intermediate Level (Level 2)*

Expected Timeline of Completion	11 years (three years or six semesters from the initial start of year nine)
Issuing Body	Various examination boards
First Available Date of Issue (Typical)	June/July

6. *International General Certificate of Secondary Education (IGCSE) Core Examinations* [Must pass **five** or more IGCSE core examinations in separate subjects to qualify as an acceptable form of proof of high school graduation]

Expected Timeline of Completion	11 years (three years or six semesters from the initial start of year nine)
Issuing Body	Cambridge Issuing Body
First Available Date of Issue (Typical)	August

Tier Two

The expected timeline for completion of all tier two acceptable forms of proof of high school graduation is upon successful on-time completion of year 12. Earning a Tier Two-acceptable form of proof of high school graduation will advance the expected date of high school graduation **one year** from the on-time expected timeline of a Tier One document.

1. *General Certificate of Education, Advanced Subsidiary Level (GCE) AS-level examinations* [Must pass **two** or more AS-level examinations in separate subjects to qualify as an acceptable form of proof of high school graduation]

Expected Timeline of Completion	12 years (four years or eight semesters from the initial start of year nine)
Issuing Body	Various examination boards
First Available Date of Issue (Typical)	August

2. *International Advanced Subsidiary Level (AS-level) Examinations, Oxford Cambridge and RSA Examinations (OCR) Level 3 Advanced Subsidiary Levels* [Must pass **two** or more AS-level examinations in separate subjects to qualify as an acceptable form of proof of high school graduation]

Expected Timeline of Completion	12 years (four years or eight semesters from the initial start of year nine)
Issuing Body	Various examination boards
First Available Date of Issue (Typical)	August

3. *Oxford Cambridge and RSA Examinations (OCR) Level 3 Cambridge Technical Diploma*

Expected Timeline of Completion	12 years (four years or eight semesters from the initial start of year nine)
Issuing Body	Oxford/Cambridge
First Available Date of Issue (Typical)	June/July

4. *Oxford Cambridge and RSA Examinations (OCR) Level 3 National Technical Diploma*

Expected Timeline of Completion	12 years (four years or eight semesters from the initial start of year nine)
Issuing Body	Oxford/Cambridge
First Available Date of Issue (Typical)	June/July

5. One Advanced Subsidiary (AS-level) examination and one Advanced (A-level) examination pass in **two** differing subjects (i.e., one AS-level in physics and one A-level in history)

Expected Timeline of Completion	12 years (four years or eight semesters from the initial start of year nine)
Issuing Body	Various examination boards
First Available Date of Issue (Typical)	August

6. *UAL Level 3 Diploma*

Expected Timeline of Completion	12 years (four years or eight semesters from the initial start of year nine)
Issuing Body	UAL
First Available Date of Issue (Typical)	June/July

7. *Level 3 Diploma in Business and Management*

Expected Timeline of Completion	12 years (four years or eight semesters from the initial start of year nine)
Issuing Body	Awards for Training and Higher Education
First Available Date of Issue (Typical)	June/July

8. *NCFE CACHE Level 3 Diploma*

Expected Timeline of Completion	12 year timeline (four years or eight semesters from start of year 9)
Issuing Body	NCFE CACHE
First Available Date of Issue (Typical)	June/July

9. *ATHE Level 3 Diploma*

Expected Timeline of Completion	12 years total
Issuing Body	ATHE
First Available Date of Issue (Typical)	June/July

10. *Cambridge Technical (CTEC) Level 3 Diploma*

Expected Timeline of Completion	12 years total
Issuing Body	Various examination boards
First Available Date of Issue (Typical)	June/July

11. *AQA Level 3 Certificate in Mathematical Studies*

Expected Timeline of Completion	12 years total (four years or 8 semesters from initial enrollment in year nine) when combined with any other acceptable exam-based Tier Two credential (e.g., two of the above-named credentials, or one of the above-named credentials and one AS-level examination credential).
---------------------------------	---

12. *Pearson Edexcel Level 3 Certificate in Mathematics in Context*

Expected Timeline of Completion	12 years total (four years or 8 semesters from initial enrollment in year nine) when combined with any other acceptable exam-based Tier Two credential (e.g., two of the above-named credentials, or one of the above-named credentials and one AS-level examination credential).
---------------------------------	---

13. *OCR Level 3 Certificate in Core Maths A*

Expected Timeline of Completion	12 years total (four years or 8 semesters from initial enrollment in year nine) when combined with any other acceptable exam-based Tier Two credential (e.g., two of the above-named credentials, or one of the above-named credentials and one AS-level examination credential).
---------------------------------	---

14. *OCR Level 3 Certificate in Core Maths B credentials*

Expected Timeline of Completion	12 years total (four years or 8 semesters from initial enrollment in year nine) when combined with any other acceptable exam-based Tier Two credential (e.g., two of the above-named credentials, or one of the above-named credentials and one AS-level examination credential).
---------------------------------	---

15. *OCR Level 3 Cambridge Technical Certificate*

Expected Timeline of Completion	12 years total (four years or 8 semesters from initial enrollment in year nine) when combined with any other acceptable exam-based Tier Two credential (e.g., two of the above-named credentials, or one of the above-named credentials and one AS-level examination credential).
---------------------------------	---

16. *OCR Level 3 Cambridge Technical Extended Certificate*

Expected Timeline of Completion	12 years total (four years or 8 semesters from initial enrollment in year nine)
---------------------------------	---

Tier Three

The expected timeline for completion of all Tier Three-acceptable forms of proof of high school graduation is upon successful on-time completion of year 13. Earning a Tier Three-acceptable form of proof of high school graduation will advance the expected date of high school graduation **one year** from the on-time expected timeline of a Tier Two document, or **two years** beyond the on-time completion of a Tier One document.

1. *General Certificate of Education, Advanced Level (GCE A-level) examinations, Oxford Cambridge and RSA Examinations (OCR) Level 3 Advanced Level [Must pass **two** or more A-level examinations in separate subjects to qualify as an acceptable form of proof of high school graduation]*

Expected Timeline of Completion	13 years (five years or 10 semesters from the initial start of year nine)
Issuing Body	Various examination boards
First Available Date of Issue (Typical)	August

2. *International Advanced Level (A-level) examinations [Must pass **two** or more A-level examinations in separate subjects to qualify as an acceptable form of proof of high school graduation]*

Expected Timeline of Completion	13 years (five years or 10 semesters from the initial start of year nine)
Issuing Body	Various examination boards
First Available Date of Issue (Typical)	August

3. *General National Vocational Qualification (GNVQ or NVQ) Advanced Level (Level 3)*

Expected Timeline of Completion	13 years (five years or 10 semesters from the initial start of year nine)
Issuing Body	Various examination boards
First Available Date of Issue (Typical)	June/July

4. *Oxford Cambridge and RSA Examinations (OCR) Level 3 Cambridge Technical Extended Diploma*

Expected Timeline of Completion	13 years (five years or 10 semesters from the initial start of year nine)
Issuing Body	Oxford/Cambridge
First Available Date of Issue (Typical)	June/July

5. *Oxford Cambridge and RSA Examinations (OCR) Level 3 National Technical Extended Diploma*

Expected Timeline of Completion	13 years (five years or 10 semesters from the initial start of year nine)
Issuing Body	Oxford/Cambridge
First Available Date of Issue (Typical)	June/July

6. *Cambridge Pre-University Diploma [Pre-U Diploma]*

Expected Timeline of Completion	13 years (five years or 10 semesters from the initial start of year nine)
Issuing Body	Various examination boards
First Available Date of Issue (Typical)	June/July

7. *Pre-U Certificate in Principle Subject* [Must pass **two** or more separate Pre-U Principle subjects to qualify as an acceptable form of proof of high school graduation]

Expected Timeline of Completion	13 years (five years or 10 semesters from the initial start of year nine)
Issuing Body	Cambridge
First Available Date of Issue (Typical)	August

8. *NCFE Level 3 Extended Diploma in Sport and Activity*

Expected Timeline of Completion	13 years (five years or 10 semesters from the initial start of year nine)
Issuing Body	NCFE
First Available Date of Issue (Typical)	June

9. *UAL Level 3 Extended Diploma*

Expected Timeline of Completion	13 years (five years or 10 semesters from the initial start of year nine)
Issuing Body	UAL
First Available Date of Issue (Typical)	June/July

10. *VTCT Level 3 Extended Diploma*

Expected Timeline of Completion	13 years (five years or 10 semesters from the initial start of year nine)
Issuing Body	Vocational Training Charitable Trust (VTCT)
First Available Date of Issue (Typical)	June/July

11. *BTEC Level 3 Diploma*

Expected Timeline of Completion	13 years (five years or 10 semesters from the initial start of year nine)
Issuing Body	Pearson/Edexcel
First Available Date of Issue (Typical)	June/July

12. *BTEC Level 3 National Diploma in Sport*

Expected Timeline of Completion	13 years (five years or 10 semesters from the initial start of year nine)
Issuing Body	Pearson/Edexcel
First Available Date of Issue (Typical)	June/July

13. *BTEC International Level 3 Diploma*

Expected Timeline of Completion	13 years (five years or 10 semesters from the initial start of year nine)
Issuing Body	Pearson/Edexcel
First Available Date of Issue (Typical)	June/July

14. *BTEC Level 3 Extended Diploma*

Expected Timeline of Completion	13 years (five years or 10 semesters from the initial start of year nine)
Issuing Body	Pearson/Edexcel
First Available Date of Issue (Typical)	June/July

15. *BTEC Level 3 National Extended Diploma in Sport*

Expected Timeline of Completion	13 years (five years or 10 semesters from the initial start of year nine)
Issuing Body	Pearson/Edexcel
First Available Date of Issue (Typical)	June/July

16. *BTEC Level 3 International Extended Diploma*

Expected Timeline of Completion	13 years (five years or 10 semesters from the initial start of year nine)
Issuing Body	Pearson/Edexcel
First Available Date of Issue (Typical)	June/July

17. *NCFE Level 3 Extended Diploma*

Expected Timeline of Completion	13 year timeline (five years or 10 semesters from start of year 9)
Issuing Body	NCFE CACHE
First Available Date of Issue (Typical)	June/July

18. *T-Levels*

Expected Timeline of Completion	13 year timeline (five years or 10 semesters from start of year nine)
Issuing Body	Varies
First Available Date of Issue (Typical)	June/July

19. *Cambridge Technical (CTEC) Level 3 Extended Diploma*

Expected Timeline of Completion	13 years total
Issuing Body	Various examination boards
First Available Date of Issue (Typical)	June/July

NOT ACCEPTABLE FORMS OF PROOF OF HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION

1. *GCSE Short Course Examinations*

Expected Timeline of Completion	11 years (three years or six semesters from the initial start of year nine)
Issuing Body	Various examination boards
Document Type	Certificate

2. *BTEC Level 3 National Extended Certificate in Sport*
3. *BTEC Level 3 National Foundation Diploma in Sport*
4. *BTEC (All BTEC documents at Level 2 and below)*
5. *BTEC First Certificate*
6. *BTEC First Diploma*
7. *BTEC Foundation Diploma*
8. *BTEC Introductory Certificate*
9. *BTEC Introductory Diploma*
10. *BTEC Level 3 90 Credit Diploma*
11. *BTEC Level 3 Subsidiary Diploma*
12. *BTEC International Level 3 Certificate*

13. *BTEC International Level 3 Subsidiary Diploma*
14. *BTEC International Level 3 Foundation Diploma*
15. *Cambridge Pre-university Certificate (Pre-U Certificate)*
16. *City and Guilds Level 3 Diploma*
17. *Colleges of Further Education*
18. *National Vocational Qualification (NVQ) Foundation Level*
19. *Pitman Qualifications*
20. *Vocational Certificate of Education (VCE)*
21. *BTEC International Level 3 Certificate*
22. *BTEC International Level 3 Subsidiary Diploma*

GRADING SCALES

For school transcripts in years nine through 11 (form three through form five), if alpha grades are present, apply the GCSE grading scale. For year 12, if alpha grades are present, apply the AS Level grading scale. For year 13, if alpha grades are present, apply the A-level grading scale.

GCSE		
Numeric Grade	U.S. Grade Equivalent	Quality Points
7, 8, 9	A	4
5, 6	B	3
4	C	2
1, 2, 3	F	0
U	F	0

GCSE					
Grade	U.S. Grade Equivalent	Quality Points	Grade	U.S. Grade Equivalent	Quality Points
A	A	4	E	C	2
B	B	3	F	D	1
C	B	3	G	D	1
D	C	2	Ungraded	F	0

GCE: Ordinary Level (O-Level) Examinations			
Grade	Numeric Grade	U.S. Grade Equivalent	Quality Points
A	1	A	4
B	2	B	3
C	3	C	2
D	4	D	1
E	5	D	1
F, G, H	-	F	0

Advanced Level (AS-Level, OCR Level 3 AS/A Level and A-Level/A2 Level) Examinations					
Grade	U.S. Grade Equivalent	Quality Points	Grade	U.S. Grade Equivalent	Quality Points
A	A	4	E	C	2
B	B	3	N, O	F	0
C	B	3	U		
D	C	2			

Advanced Level (Modular Scheme) Examinations		
Numeric Grade	U.S. Grade Equivalent	Quality Points
1	A	4
2	B	3
3	C	2 (lowest passing grade)

Business and Technology Education Council/BTEC and Cambridge Pre-University Diploma		
Grade	U.S. Grade Equivalent	Quality Points
Distinction	A	4
Merit	B	3
Pass	C	2 (lowest passing grade)

Cambridge International General Certificate of Secondary Education (IGCSE) – Alpha Scale		
Grade	U.S. Grade Equivalent	Quality Points
A	A	4
B	B	3
C	B	3
D	C	2
E	C	2
F	D	1
G	D	1
Ungraded	F	0

CREDITING SECTION

BTEC CREDITS	
Units	Units Certified
10	1.0
5	0.5

IMPORTANT INFORMATION:

» The following are less commonly known course titles **approved** for use in an academic certification:

English/Native Language	Math	Science	Social Science	Additional Courses
Business Communication (BTEC Level-3 course only)	Methods in Mathematics	Anatomy for Sport and Exercise (BTEC Level-3 course only)	Business Communication (BTEC Level-3 course only)	Philosophy
Communications		Anatomy and Physiology (BTEC Level 3 National Diploma or Level 3 National Extended Diploma course only)	Citizenship (earned 2010 and after)	Religious Studies B
English as a Second Language (Cambridge/Pearson/Edexcel examination only)		Body in Action (BTEC Level-3 course only)	Citizenship, Diversity and the Public (BTEC Level-3 course only)	Philosophy & Ethics
		Environmental Management	Classical Civilization	

English/Native Language	Math	Science	Social Science	Additional Courses
		Environmental Science & Environmental Management (BTEC Level-3 course only)	Communication and Culture	
		Human Physiology (BTEC Level-3 course only)	Global Perspectives	
		Principles of Anatomy and Physiology in Sport (BTEC Level-3 course only)	Humanities	
		Sport and Exercise Physiology (BTEC Level-3 course Only)	Modern Studies	
			Psychology for Sports Performance (BTEC Level-3 course only)	
			Sport and Exercise Psychology (BTEC Level-3 course only)	
			World Development	
			Business and/or Business Studies (AS- or A-Level)	

» The following course titles have been reviewed and **not approved** for use in an academic certification:

- Applications in Mathematics.
- Current Issues in Sport.
- Environmental Education and Sustainability for Outdoor Adventurous Activities.
- Film Studies.
- General Studies.
- Human Health and Physiology.
- ICT (Information and Communication Technology).
- Media Studies.
- Professional Development in Sports Industry.
- Religious Studies.
- Research Methods in Sport.
- Sports Psychology.
- Not approved BTEC Level-3 courses:.
- Physiology of Fitness.
- Scientific Principles Module.
- Social Aspects of Sport.
- Social Principals of Sport.
- Sport and Society.

» Only BTEC coursework listed on a Level 3 document and included on the approved course list (above) can be considered for use in an academic certification. Those not listed as either approved or not approved will not be pursued by academic certification.

» Although most credentials in the United Kingdom are exam-based, the BTEC path of study is transcript-based. Courses taken at Level 3 are eligible for use in the certification (use the list of approved/not approved courses in the BTEC path of study for reference). Identical courses taken as part of multiple BTEC credentials (ie., *BTEC Level 3 Diploma* and *BTEC Level 3 Extended Diploma*) are considered duplicative with one another.

» “Attainment” or “Achievement” grades issued will be considered, if present. If not present, “Current Working Grade” or “Current Grade” may be used if present. If not present, “Predicted Grade” may be considered. If no comparable terminology is present, a task may be assigned for clarification for format clarification.

» If (I)GCSE exam results are used in the certification and the student earns a “double award” in a subject, it can be awarded double credit for the course/exam title.

» [Click here](#) for the welcome email students receive with additional information on documents to submit for this country.

REFERENCE DOCUMENTS

- » [Course Title Usage guide.](#)
- » [Determination of Credit resource.](#)
- » [International initial-eligibility flyer.](#)
- » [Student account task information.](#)
- » [NCAA Guide of International Academic Standards for Athletics Eligibility.](#)
- » [Country-specific webpages.](#)
- » [Multi-country references.](#)

