

Nottingham Trent University

GCSE Equivalent Qualifications for Initial Teacher Training (ITT)

The requirements differ between Early Years and Primary, and Secondary. As an Early Years or Primary teacher will be expected to teach all aspects of English, Maths and Science, whereas for Secondary you will be teaching your subject specialism. We have to ensure the qualifications accepted for Early Years and Primary ITT courses have the breadth and depth needed for an applicant to be able to teach all areas.

This is why we accept certain qualifications for Secondary courses, but not for Primary or Early Years courses.

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1. What is not acceptable?

- Access to HE course – Key skills components and Functional skills components
- Level 2 Key Skills / Functional Skills in Application of Number (Maths) and Communication (English)
- Certificates at Level 2 in Adult Literacy and Numeracy
- Modules in any Foundation Degree or Degree course
- Master degree modules and the English for Academic Purposes
- IELTS (Note: this may be an entry requirement as well as the GCSE equivalence)
- A Level / AS-Levels at any grade (although they are a higher level they don't cover the breadth and depth of a GCSE)
- ONC / OND
- BTEC Level 3 - any BTEC Level 3 qualification does not carry the breadth and depth of a GCSE
- University of Cambridge "English for Speakers of other Languages" or "Certificate of English Language Skills" (Higher)
- Any qualifications not listed as acceptable on the "English Language requirements – International" document
- International / EU English Language qualifications deemed 'Second Language' by NARIC.

2. Common GCSE Equivalent Qualifications

Below are the acceptable grades from GCSE, CSE and O Level.

| GCSE | | CSE Grade | O Level | | |
|------------|--------------|-----------|--------------|--------------------|-----------------------|
| Grade Mark | Numeric Mark | | 1975 Onwards | Pre 1975 (Numeric) | Pre 1975 (alphabetic) |
| A* | 8 | | | | |
| A | 7 | | A | 1 | A |
| | | | | 2 | B |
| B | 5 | | B | 3 | C |
| | | | | 4 | |
| C | 4 | 1 | C | 5 | D |
| | | | | 6 | E |

3. International / EU Applicants

We can accept international qualifications which are considered GCSE A*-C by NARIC. We will require the official and translated certificate from you during your application process but will carry out our own checks directly with NARIC. For qualifications that NARIC assess, if they deem English to be studied as a 'Second Language' then we **cannot** accept it.

4. GCSE English

Suitable equivalent qualifications for PGCE (Early Years, Primary, Secondary)/School Direct (Primary and Secondary)/BA Primary/Assessment Only (Early Years, Primary and Secondary).

Any UK board (includes old awarding bodies such as MEG, SEG and NICCEA):

- GCSE English (Language or Literature), grade A*-C or grades 4-9
- O Level English, grade A-C or 1-3.
- CSE English, English language or English studies, grade 1.

Scottish Qualifications Authority:

- National 5, Intermediate 2, Skills for Work National 5.
- Standard Grade – Credit Level (a credit level is grades 1-2).

European Baccalaureate:

- A score of 6/10 or higher in English (we can accept a First or Second Language).

University of London Examinations and Assessment Council:

- Certificate of attainment in English at Level 4 or above.

Irish Republic Awards:

In or after 1975 - Irish Leaving Certificate with the subject 'English'. Grading system below depending on if they took them before or after 2016:

- **Up to and including 2016**

Ordinary Level

Every subject passed at Ordinary Level, where grades of O1-O4 (or A-C / A1-C3) have been achieved, may be considered comparable to GCSE A*-C / 9-4 standard.

Higher Level

Every subject passed at Higher Level, where grades of H1-H7 (or A-D / A1-D3) have been achieved, may be considered comparable to GCSE A*C / 9-4 standard.

- **2017 onwards**

Ordinary Level

Every subject passed at Ordinary Level, where grades of O1-O4 have been achieved, may be considered comparable to GCSE A*-C / 9-4 standard.

Higher Level

Every subject passed at Higher Level, where grades of H1-H6 have been achieved, may be considered comparable to GCSE A*C / 9-4 standard.

International Baccalaureate:

- English grade 4 or above at Standard Level.
- English 'passed' at Higher Level.

IGCSE:

- IGCSE in English Language grade A*-C or grades 4-9
- IGCSE English First Language grade A*-C or grades 4-9

GCSE English Equivalency Test

- Please note NTU does not currently offer equivalency tests.
- We accept the GCSE equivalency taken via equivalencytesting.com and astarequivalency.co.uk
- We also accept GCSE equivalency tests previously obtained at NTU or another University

5. GCSE Maths

Suitable equivalent qualifications PGCE (Early Years, Primary, Secondary)/School Direct (Primary and Secondary)/BA Primary/Assessment Only (Early Years, Primary and Secondary).

Any UK board (includes old awarding bodies such as MEG, SEG and NICCEA):

- GCSE Mathematics grade A*-C or grades 4-9
- GCSE Additional Mathematics grade A*-C or grades 4-9
- GCSE Application of Maths when combined with Methods of Maths A*-C in both or grades 4-9
- GCE O-Level Mathematics (only), grade A-C or 1-3.
- CSE Mathematics grade 1.
- O-Level or AO-Level in Additional Mathematics grade A-C.

Scottish Qualifications Authority:

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- National 5, Intermediate 2, Skills for Work National 5.
- Standard Grade – Credit Level (a credit level is grades 1-2)

European Baccalaureate:

- A score of 6/10 or higher is acceptable in place of GCSE grade C

BTEC/TEC/BEC suitable for Secondary and PCET only:

- Higher National Certificate or Diploma Award in Mathematics.
- Any National Certificate or National Diploma Award that incorporates a pass with Merit or Distinction in Mathematics at Level 2 or higher.

Irish Republic Awards:

In or after 1975 - Irish Leaving Certificate with the subject 'English'. Grading system below depending on if they took them before or after 2016:

- **Up to and including 2016**

Ordinary Level

Every subject passed at Ordinary Level, where grades of O1-O4 (or A-C / A1-C3) have been achieved, may be considered comparable to GCSE A*-C / 9-4 standard.

Higher Level

Every subject passed at Higher Level, where grades of H1-H7 (or A-D / A1-D3) have been achieved, may be considered comparable to GCSE A*C / 9-4 standard.

- **2017 onwards**

Ordinary Level

Every subject passed at Ordinary Level, where grades of O1-O4 have been achieved, may be considered comparable to GCSE A*-C / 9-4 standard.

Higher Level

Every subject passed at Higher Level, where grades of H1-H6 have been achieved, may be considered comparable to GCSE A*C / 9-4 standard.

International Baccalaureate:

- Maths grade 4 or above at Standard Level.
- Maths 'passed' at Higher Level.

IGCSE:

- IGCSE in Mathematics grade A*-C or grades 4-9

GCSE Mathematics Equivalency Test

- Please note NTU does not currently offer equivalency tests.
- We accept the GCSE equivalency taken via equivalencytesting.com and astarequivalency.co.uk
- We also accept GCSE equivalency tests previously obtained at NTU or another University

6. GCSE Science

Suitable equivalent qualifications for PGCE (Early, years, Primary)/School Direct (Primary)/BA Primary/Assessment Only QTS (Primary and Early Years Initial Teacher Training).

Any UK board (includes old awarding bodies such as MEG, SEG and NICCEA):

The following GCSEs in Science are accepted with grades A*-C or grades 4-9

- GCSE Additional Science
- GCSE Additional Applied Science
- GCSE Biology
- GCSE Chemistry
- GCSE Electronics
- GCSE Environmental Science
- GCSE Further Additional Applied Science
- GCSE Human Health and Physiology
- GCSE Physics
- GCSE Human Biology
- O Level in Science, Physics, Chemistry, Biology at grade A-C or 1-3.
- CSE in Science, Physics, Chemistry, Biology at grade 1.

Scottish Qualifications Authority:

- National 5, Intermediate 2, Skills for Work National 5.
- Standard Grade – Credit Level (a credit level is grades 1-2)

European Baccalaureate:

- A score of 6/10 or higher is acceptable in place of GCSE grade C.

Cambridge Nationals

- Cambridge National Certificate Level 2 Science = Pass (Note the certificate must be requested to determine whether qualification is level 1 or 2.

BTEC:

- BTEC Level 2 Certificate in Science / Applied Science = 1 GCSE
- BTEC Level 2 Extended Certificate in Science / Applied Science = 2 GCSE
- BTEC Level 2 Diploma Science / Applied Science = 4 GCSE
- BTEC First Certificate in Science / Applied Science = 2 GCSE
- BTEC First Diploma in Science / Applied Science = 4 GCSE
- BTEC First Award Application of Science = 1 GCSE
- BTEC First Award Principles of Applied Science = 1 GCSE

Irish Republic awards:

In or after 1975 - Irish Leaving Certificate with the subject 'English'. Grading system below depending on if they took them before or after 2016:

- **Up to and including 2016**

Ordinary Level

Every subject passed at Ordinary Level, where grades of O1-O4 (or A-C / A1-C3) have been achieved, may be considered comparable to GCSE A*-C / 9-4 standard.

Higher Level

Every subject passed at Higher Level, where grades of H1-H7 (or A-D / A1-D3) have been achieved, may be considered comparable to GCSE A*C / 9-4 standard.

- **2017 onwards**

Ordinary Level

Every subject passed at Ordinary Level, where grades of O1-O4 have been achieved, may be considered comparable to GCSE A*-C / 9-4 standard.

Higher Level

Every subject passed at Higher Level, where grades of H1-H6 have been achieved, may be considered comparable to GCSE A*C / 9-4 standard.

International Baccalaureate:

- Science grade 4 or above at Standard Level.
- Science 'passed' at Higher Level.

IGCSE:

- IGCSE in Science grade A*-C or grades 4-9
- IGCSE in Biology, Chemistry or Physics grade A*-C or grades 4-9
- IGCSE in Physical Science, Coordinated Sciences or Combined Science grade A*-C or grades 4-9

GCSE Science Equivalency Test:

- Please note NTU does not currently offer equivalency tests.
- We accept the GCSE equivalency taken via equivalencytesting.com
- We also accept GCSE equivalency tests previously obtained at NTU or another University

GNVQ:

- GNVQ Part One Intermediate Pass = 2 GCSE
- GNVQ Intermediate Pass = 4 GCSE

OCR:

- OCR National Award in Science = 2 GCSE
- OCR National Certificate in Science = 4 GCSE

7. Advice for applicants who do not have a GCSE

Applicants who do not have a GCSE or other suitable qualification must be advised to take a GCSE as a private candidate. For full information, refer them to AQA: <https://www.aqa.org.uk/student-and-parent-support/private-candidates/subjects-and-qualifications>