

KNSTE: GCSE Equivalent Qualifications for Initial Teacher Education (ITE)

A primary teacher will be expected to teach all aspects of English, Maths and Science. This is why it is necessary to have a minimum of a GCSE grade 4/C in these subjects. At present, the National College for Teaching and Leadership (NCTL) does not provide a list of qualifications that can be considered equivalent to the GCSE examinations in English, Mathematics and Science. When we are deciding on equivalencies, we look for evidence that a qualification is of a standard equivalent to GCSE grade 4/C. We look at the content not only in terms of its level but also in terms of its breadth. This is why we accept only certain qualifications. For KNSTE it is the standard, not the certificate that matters.

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1. What is not acceptable?

- Level 2 Key skills/Functional Skills in application of number and communication
- Certificates in adult literacy and numeracy.
- Modules in Foundation Degrees (or any other degree course).
- City and Guilds.
- IELTS (Note: this may be an entry requirement as well as the GCSE equivalence)
- International Diploma/Certificate "Higher or subsidiary level in English language at grade 4 or above".
- A Level/AS-levels (although they are a higher level they don't cover the breadth of a GCSE)
- ONC/OND.
- BTEC, Any first, national or higher national certificate or diploma in English.
- University of Cambridge English for speakers of other languages Certificate of English language skills (Higher).
- Any qualifications not listed as acceptable on the English Language requirements- International Document.

2. Common GCSE Equivalent Qualifications

Below are the acceptable grades from GCSE CSE and O Level

GCSE Grade	CSE Grade	O Level		
		1975 onwards	Pre 1975 (numeric)	Pre 1975 (alphabetic)
A*				
A		A	1	A
			2	B
B		B	3	C
			4	
C	1	C	5	D
			6	E

- We also accept GCSE equivalent qualifications provided by UK HE institutions.
- We can accept international qualifications which are considered GCSE A-C comparable on NARIC.

3. GCSE English – Suitable equivalent qualifications

- GCSE English, grade A/9 - C/4.
- O Level English, grade A-C or 1-3.
- CSE English, English language or English studies, grade 1.

- National 5, Intermediate 2, Skills for Work National 5.
- Standard Grade – Credit Level.

Irish Republic awards:

- In or after 1975, leaving certificate in English language at grade C or above (ordinary) or at grade D or above (higher), Level 4 certificate.

European baccalaureate:

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

C International baccalaureate:

- Higher or subsidiary level in English language at grade 4 or above.

University of London Examinations and Assessment Council:

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

IGCSE:

- IGCSE in English language

4. GCSE Maths – Suitable equivalent qualifications

Any recognised UK board:

- GCSE Mathematics, grade A/9 - C/4
- GCSE Additional Mathematics, grade A-C
- 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:

- National 5, Intermediate 2, Skills for Work National 5.
- Standard Grade – Credit Level.

Irish Republic awards:

- In or after 1975, leaving certificate in mathematics at grade C or above (ordinary) or at grade D or above (honours), Level 4 certificate.

European baccalaureate:

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

International baccalaureate:

- Higher or subsidiary level in mathematics at grade 4 or above.

IGCSE:

- IGCSE in mathematics.

5. GCSE Science suitable equivalent qualifications

Any UK board:

- GCSE in Science, Physics, Chemistry, Biology, Additional Applied Science at grade A/9 – C/4
- O Level in Science, Physics, Chemistry, Biology at grade A-C or 1-3.
- CSE in Science, Physics, Chemistry, Biology at grade 1.

- National 5, Intermediate 2, Skills for Work National 5.
- Standard Grade – Credit Level.

Irish Republic awards:

- In or after 1975, leaving certificate in mathematics at grade C or above (ordinary) or at grade D or above (honours), Level 4 certificate.

European baccalaureate:

- A score of 7/10 or higher is acceptable in place of GCSE grade C (according to equivalence sheet).

International baccalaureate:

- Higher or subsidiary level in mathematics at grade 4 or above.

BTEC

- BTEC Diploma Level 2 in Science/ Applied Science
- BTEC First in Science/Applied Science

IGCSE:

- IGCSE in science (double award).
- IGCSE in biology, chemistry or physics.
- IGCSE in physical science, coordinated sciences or combined science.

6. 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.

7. Other Equivalency tests

If you do not yet have a GCSE Grade C/4 or above or recognised equivalence, then we do recognise Maths, English and Science qualifications equivalencies. Equivalency tests will be available through Birmingham City University (BCU). Please get in touch with us if you require equivalency tests on 01782 432537 or email knste.enquiries@knste.set.org