



# USAF Exemption Certificates

Understanding the requirements and process

**Tutors & Exams South Africa** provides learners, with access to assessment opportunities regardless of age or background.

We are the only exam centre approved to assess both Cambridge Assessment International Education (CAIE) and Pearson Edexcel qualifications.



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# USAF Exemption Certificates

## Understanding the Requirements and Process

Candidates who would like to study at South African universities would need to apply for exemption certificates. In deciding what subjects to take candidates should always be guided by the basic requirements set by the university of choice for the qualification they would like to follow.

According to the regulations, candidates can apply for the following types of certificates:

Complete Exemption	Number of Subjects Required	Minimum Qualification Combination	Minimum Grade Required	Subject Group Requirements	Notes
International A Level	5	2 Subjects at A Level  PLUS  3 Subjects at IGCSE Level	E	Students must choose ONE subject from each of Groups I, II and III at either A Level or IGCSE Level. The fourth and fifth subjects for either A Level or IGCSE Level may be taken from any of the groups.	More than one subject can be chosen from a group providing that the minimum requirements have been met.
International A Level	4	3 subjects at A Level  PLUS  1 subject at IGCSE Level	E	Students must choose ONE subject from each of Groups I, II and III at either A Level or IGCSE Level. The fourth subject for either A Level or IGCSE Level may be taken from any of the groups	
International AS Level	5	4 subjects at AS Level  PLUS  1 subject at IGCSE Level	D	Students must choose ONE subject from Group I or II and another TWO subjects from two of Groups III, IV and V. English First Language must be offered and passed at an appropriate level. N.B. Two languages must be offered to qualify for the complete exemption.	More than one subject can be chosen from a group providing that the minimum requirements have been met. Two examination sittings only. Where a subject is not examined in Oct/Nov session the following preceding June session will be regarded as the same sitting

Exemption Certificates are issued by USAF to candidates who do not follow the South African curriculum. This is done in accordance with the regulations set in the Government Gazette published on 5 December 2008.

[http://mb.usaf.ac.za/wp-content/uploads/2016/11/sc\\_regulations\\_gazetted\\_2008.pdf](http://mb.usaf.ac.za/wp-content/uploads/2016/11/sc_regulations_gazetted_2008.pdf)

## Subject Groups

GROUP I	GROUP II	GROUP III	GROUP IV	GROUP V	UNGROUPED RECOGNISED SUBJECTS
English Language	Afrikaans	3rd Language (which is not offered as part of Group II requirement)	Art & Design	Accounting	Literature in English – see note
English Language and Literature	Arabic	Biology	Biology	Business	Applied Information and Communication Technology
Any other First Language – see note	Chinese	Chemistry	Chemistry	Computer Studies	Drama/Performing Arts
For the AS Level exemption candidates not covering AS English First Language or AS Language and Literature for group I must cover IGCSE English First Language for group II  For the A Level exemption students may cover IGCSE English First Language, AS English Language and Literature or A Level Language	Czech	Combined Science	Economics	Computing	Travel & Tourism
	Dutch	Mathematics	Environmental Management	Computer Science	Information Communication Technology
	French	Physics	Geography	Design & Technology	Ungrouped subjects are recognised/acceptable subjects but do not meet any grouping requirements and therefore will not be considered for grouping purposes.
	German	Physical Science	History	Divinity	
	Greek		Mathematics	Further Mathematics	
	Hindi		Music	Information Technology	
	IsiZulu		Physics	Religious Studies	
	Italian		Physical Science	All Group V subjects are only recognised for grouping purposes if the candidates have passed IGCSE Mathematics with a minimum of grade C or grade 4	
	Japanese				
	Korean				
	Latin				
	Malay				
	Marathi				
	Nepali				
	Portuguese				
	Russian				
	Swahili				
	Setswana				
	Spanish				
	Tamil				
Telugu					
Thai					
Turkish					
Urdu					

For detailed requirements please go to <http://mb.usaf.ac.za/exemption-requirements/>  
Subjects may be a combination of Pearson/Edexcel and Cambridge International.

## Understanding the Two-Sitting Rule

The Two-Sitting rule applies in South Africa in terms of qualifications for IGCSEs and International AS Levels. Once you pass your International A Levels the rule will no longer apply.

In terms of the Two-Sitting rule, candidates need to meet the minimum requirements for the Exemption Certificate in two exam sittings. An exam sitting is seen as a 12-month period. Therefore, candidates would have 24 months to complete all subjects.


Each 12-month period has 3 exam sessions. Exams are available in Oct/November, January, and May/June. All subjects are not offered in all sessions and Cambridge International does not offer exams in January. Please double-check the entry guides for the relevant awarding body to see when subjects are available.

## Applying for your Exemption Certificate – The Process

The process is clearly defined on the USAF website and should be done online

<https://mb.usaf.ac.za/exemption-process/>

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