

CESS High School Diploma Certification Pathways

The CESS High School Diploma offers students the chance to pursue a variety of IB courses without having to complete the full breadth of the requirements of the full IB Diploma Programme Certification.

The CESS High School Diploma is suitable for those students who would find the academic demands of completing a full IB Diploma challenging. The CESS high school diploma offers students the chance to study alongside their peers within a smaller range of subjects. In this way the students can concentrate their studies and have a more accessible pathway to success. Each subject studied will be the full official IB course, and so CESS High School Diploma students will undertake the same assessments and have the opportunity to obtain IB endorsed subject certificates alongside working towards their CESS High School Diploma Certificate.

In the CESS High School Diploma there are two pathways:

Pathway One	Pathway Two
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Creativity action and service (CAS).• Two higher level subjects and two standard level subjects from the following four areas:<ol style="list-style-type: none">i. A group One Subject (Language)ii. A group Five Subject (Mathematics)iii. A group three or group four subject (Science or Humanities)iv. A second group three or Four subject.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Creativity, action and service (CAS).• One higher level subject and four standard level subjects from the following areas:<ol style="list-style-type: none">i. Group One Subject (Language)ii. Group Five Subject (Mathematics)iii. Group three or group four subject (Science or Humanities)iv. A second group three or Four subject.v. A group one, two or six subject. (Language or Arts)

Creativity, action and service (CAS) is considered to be a vital component of the CESS High School Diploma as it offers students a counterbalance to academic studies, allowing for students to enhance their profile beyond the school. CAS also allows for students to build up a variety of personal and interpersonal skills sets which could not be attained purely through academic study. These attributes are highly desirable to tertiary education institutes and employers.

How is this different from following the full certification IB diploma programme:

- No Theory of Knowledge or Extended Essay requirement.
- No need to follow six subject courses, with three at higher level.
- On the IB diploma students have to select at least one subject from groups 1-5, this keeps a wider breadth to your course of study, with the CESS High School Diploma pathway students will be able to select a more focused pathway.
- You cannot select a subject which is only available via Pamoja.

Keep in mind:

It is important to note that the IB Diploma Programme certificate has international recognition, selecting the CESS High School certification route means that the tertiary education options upon a students graduation will be more restricted.

Graduation:

A student undertaking the CESS High School diploma would receive both a CESS High School Diploma certificate and transcript upon their graduation. This is in addition to the individual IB endorsed subject certificates which the IB would award.

GESS High School Diploma Transcript (August 2016 onwards)

At GESS there are three reporting seasons in grades 11 and two reporting sessions in grade 12, the academic achievement awarded in each subject will be used to calculate the number of credits awarded over the two year period. The transcript is important for applications into tertiary education.

Two important pieces of terminology:

Grade Point Average (GPA): This will be calculated for each reporting session, and is based on a student's average attainment across all of the academic subjects they study.

Credits: During grades 11 and 12 students have the opportunity to earn a maximum of 150 credits. A credit is earned based on their academic achievement scaled against the course type (higher level or standard level).

How will we calculate the points and credits?

Step 1: Converting IB diploma subject achievement into a point score

IB Subject achievement (Graded on a scale of 1-7)	GESS High School Diploma Points (Converted to a scale 1-4)
1	1.0
2	1.5
3	2.0
4	2.5
5	3.0
6	3.5
7	4.0

For example if a student scores a 6 on their Economics report card, this would be converted to 3.5 points on the transcript. The GPA would be calculated by adding all the subject points together and dividing the total by the number of subjects taken.

Step 2: Calculating your credits

A point in a higher level subject is worth two credits, a point in a standard level subject is worth one credit. In addition students will be able to earn one credit each reporting season if they successfully complete their CAS activities.

The number of points attained in a subject will be multiplied by the number of credits for that course to obtain the total number of credits. For example if a student scores 3.5 points in HL economics this would count towards 7 credits in their GESS High School Diploma ($3.5 \times 2=7$).

	Pathway 1 (Two HL subjects and two SL subjects)	Pathway 2 (One HL and four SL subjects)
	Number of credits available per subject course	
Subject 1:	4 (SL)	4 (SL)
Subject 2:	4 (SL)	4 (SL)
Subject 3:	8 (HL)	4 (SL)
Subject 4:	8 (HL)	4 (SL)
Subject 5:		8 (HL)
CAS	1	1
Total maximum number of credits:	25	25

5 reporting seasons x 25 maximum credits each season = **125 credits** maximum.

62 credits required for a pass (GESS High School Diploma Awarded), 105 credits required for a distinction.