

The UCAS tariff is a points score system for entry to Higher Education:

- It gives numerical values to qualifications.
- It establishes agreed equivalence between different types of qualifications.
- It provides a framework for fair comparisons between applicants with different types of qualifications.

What qualifications does it cover?

- AVCE Double Award equivalent to 2 'A' Levels (12 units)
- GCE 'A' Level and AVCE single award (6 units) and stand-alone GCE Advanced units in Mathematics.
- GCE A/S and ASVCE (3 units)
- The three main Key Skills (Application of Number, Communication and IT) at levels 2, 3 and 4
- CACHE theory and practical qualifications relating to the Diploma in Childcare and Education
- From 2004 entry the tariff includes music practical and theory grades 6, 7 and 8 offered by 4 boards. These are associated board (ABRSM), Guildhall, Trinity and London (LCMM)

How will H.E. use the tariff?

- The tariff is a facility offered to H.E. to assist in expressing entrance requirements and making conditional offers.
- It reports achievement to Higher Education as points scores across a range of qualifications.
- It provides a tool for H.E. and employers to make broad comparisons between different types of achievement.
- It enables H.E. admissions staff to make flexible conditional offers.
- It is not obligatory for H.E. to use the tariff, although they are encouraged to do so.
- Entry requirements expressed as a points score may also specify a minimum level of depth and/or achievement in specified subjects.
- H.E. offers may still specify:
 - A minimum amount of depth, e.g. 2 A' levels.
 - Required specific subjects.
 - Required grade or points score in a specific subject or qualification.

How does the points system work?

The following chart indicates the agreed point scores:

As a base, a current full 2 year A' level is now a 6 unit award. An A/S is a 3-unit award. A grade 'A' in a full 6 unit 2 year A' level will provide 120 points. B will give 100 points, C = 80 points, D = 60 points and an E grade will offer 40 points. This establishes a 3:1 ratio between the highest and lowest grade. A/S qualifications provide exactly half the same points as full A' levels.

UCAS Tariff (2004 entry onwards)													
Music Examinations ¹						CACHE		Single units		GCE & VCE qualifications			score
Practical			Theory			Theory	Practical	1-unit ²	Key skills ³	GCE AS/ASVCE	GCE A level/AVCE	AVCE double award	
G6	G7	G8	G6	G7	G8								
						A						AA	240
												AB	220
						B						BB	200
												BC	180
						C						CC	160
												CD	140
						D	A				A	DD	120
							B				B	DE	100
						E	C				C	EE	80
		D											75
													72
		M											70
	D						D			A	D		60
	M	P											55
										B			50
													48
D													45
													42
M	P						E			C	E		40
													38
													35
					D				Level 4	D			30
													28
P					M								25
				D	P			A	Level 3	E			20
								B					17
			D	M									15
				P									13
			M					C					10
								D	Level 2				7
								E					5
			P										5

- Points scores can be aggregated (added together) from different qualifications, e.g. A levels, AVCE'S and A/S levels plus Key Skills.
- There is no ceiling to the number of points which can be accumulated, thereby recognising the full breadth and depth of students' achievements.
- There will be no double counting - students cannot count the same or similar qualification twice.

- GCE AS scores will be subsumed into a GCE A levels in the same subject, e.g. if students gets AS History grade A (60 points) then achieves 'A' level History Grade B (100 points) they can only count the higher score i.e. the 100 points.
- Points scores for Key Skills achievement will be reported separately.

For further information visit the UCAS web site at <http://www.ucas.com> or contact UCAS' Curriculum and Development Department on 01242 544862.

¹ The scores shown for the ABRSM, Guildhall, LCMM and Trinity music examinations, grades 6,7 and 8 come into effect for entry to HE in 2004 onwards.

² Covers free standing Mathematics qualifications and VCE units taken over and above those required to achieve the 12-unit Double Award.

³ The scores shown are for each of the 3 key skill qualifications in application of numbers, communication and information technology which are ungraded.