

A Guide for the Placement and Transcript Evaluation of Foreign-Born Students



Department of Multicultural Education

Based on information provided by IAU. Portions reprinted with permission from the School Board of Broward County.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Preface	1
Transcript Evaluation Guide produced by the School Board of Broward County, Florida	3
Addendum	
❖ Additional Countries	115
Dominican Republic	
Estonia	
Finland	
Ghana	
Iceland	
Jordan	
Malta	
Morocco	
Republic of Georgia	
❖ Supplemental Grading Scale for Haiti	124

This page intentionally left blank

PREFACE

The newly updated A Guide for the Placement and Evaluation of Foreign-Born Students is a resource provided to Guidance Counselors and ESOL Coordinators by the Department of Multicultural Education of the School District of Palm Beach County, Florida. As the face of our world changes, so do the educational systems of foreign countries. The most current information available by the IAU's WHED (World Higher Education Database) is provided in this guide. *Users are encouraged to research the country's secondary education system to see if any information has changed since the date of this printing (May, 2010).*

Some useful websites to check are:

- <http://www.iau-aiu.net/onlinedatabases/index.html>
- <http://www.ibe.unesco.org/en.html> (click on "Access by Country" on the left side of the page)
- http://eacea.ec.europa.eu/education/eurydice/eurybase_en.php
- http://www.wes.org/wes_tools/
- <http://www.wes.org/ewenr/research.asp>
- <http://www.euroeducation.net/>
- http://www.nafsa.org/publication.sec/epublications/online_guide_to/
- http://www.nafsa.org/uploadedFiles/NAFSA_Home/Resource_Library_Assets/Publications_Library/EvaluatingForeignEdCredentials.pdf

Also, a search for the Department or Ministry of Education for the country in question is recommended.

For information on academic placement procedures, awarding of transfer credits, and programmatic assessment, please refer to the ESOL Procedures Manual and Student Progression Plan:

- <http://www.palmbeachschools.org/multicultural/documents/10PROGPLCMT.pdf>
- <http://www.palmbeachschools.org/sc/StudentProgressionPlans.asp>

The Department of Multicultural Education is available to assist with transcript evaluation, translation, and placement. Please call 434-8620 (PX4-8620).

This page intentionally left blank

Country**AFGANISTAN****Diploma Awarded****Baccaluria or Upper Secondary School Diploma****School Year** March - December

Compulsory Education:

Ages 6-12; Grades 1-6

Educational System**U.S. EQUIVALENT**

Pre-school	Kindergarten
Primary School - 1st	1st
2nd	2nd
3rd	3rd
4th	4th
5th	5th
6th	6th
(Maktabeh Motevaseteh) Entrance exam (academic or vocational) - 7th	7th
8th	8th
High School (Doreyeh Aali) - 9th	9th
10th	10th
11th	11th
12th - Baccaluria	12th - Standard High School Diploma

Grading Scale**U.S. EQUIVALENT**

9-10	Excellent 4 90%	A
7-8	Good 3 80%	B
5-6	Fair 2 70%	C
3.5-4	Poor 0 55%	D
0-3	Failure 0 50%	F

Grading Remarks

Marking is on a percentage scale: 40 per cent is the minimum pass mark for individual subjects; the minimum average is 55 per cent of the sum of the highest marks for all subjects.

Country Notes

Primary education lasts for six years and is compulsory. However the draft Constitution recommends that there be nine years of compulsory education. Admission to secondary education is, at present, based on an intra-school examination not a national Baccaluria. Secondary education covers six years divided into two three-year cycles: grades 7 to 9 in middle school (Maktabeh Motevaseteh) and grades 10 to 12 at high school (Doreyeh Aali). At the end of the first cycle, pupils sit for an examination. At the end of the second cycle, they sit for intra-school examinations. Technical secondary education is offered in the lower and upper secondary cycle at middle schools in such subjects as Commerce, Applied Arts, Teacher Training, Agriculture and Civil Aviation. Courses lead to a Baccaluria equivalent level qualification. A structure of eight years of general basic education followed by four years of secondary education had been introduced for a few years during the educational reform of 1975.

Structures of different kinds will probably be reconsidered in the near future.

System of Education: http://www.unesco.org/iau/onlinedatabases/systems_data/af.rtf

Country**ALBANIA****Diploma Awarded*****Deftese Pjekurie Maturity Certificate*****School Year** October to June

Compulsory Education:

Ages 7-13; Grades 1-8

Educational System**U.S. EQUIVALENT**

	Kindergarten
Compulsory education begins - 1st	1st
2nd	2nd
3rd	3rd
4th	4th
5th	5th
6th	6th
7th	7th
8th - Deftese Linimi (Leaving Certificate)	8th
9th	9th
10th	10th
11th	11th
12th - Deftese Pjekurie Maturity Certificate	12th - Standard High School Diploma

Grading Scale**U.S. EQUIVALENT**

10-dhjete	excellent	A
9-nente	very good	B
8-tete	good	B
7-shtate	average	B
6-gjashte	satisfactory	C
5-pese	lowest passing grade	C
4-kater; 3-tre, tri; 2-dy; 1-nje	poor	F

Grading Remarks

Upon completion of grade 8, the Provime Lirimi (Leaving Examination) is required. All students are tested in language, literature and mathematics. Those who pass the examination receive the Dëftesë Lirimi (Certificate of Leaving), which is required to continue studies in middle school. If the examinations are failed, students may retake the examinations.

Country Notes

Basic education lasts for eight years, divided into two cycles of four years each and leads to the Dëftesë Lirimi (Leaving Certificate). Secondary education consists of the ninth through twelfth grades, which are taught in the shkollë e mesme (high school). The Dëftesë Pjekurie (Maturity Certificate) is awarded at the end. Access to higher education requires the passing of an entrance examination. Admission to high school requires a Dëftesë Lirimi (Leaving Certificate) from a shkollë 8-vjecare (eight-year school).

System of Education: http://www.unesco.org/iau/onlinedatabases/systems_data/al.rtf

Country**ALGERIA****Diploma Awarded****Baccalaureat de L'Enseignement Secondaire**
(Secondary School Diploma)**School Year** September to June

Compulsory Education:

Grades 1-12

Baccalaureat Technique (Secondary Technical School Diploma)**Educational System****U.S. EQUIVALENT**

Pre-school	Kindergarten
Ecole fondamentale (age 6) - 1st	1st
2nd	2nd
3rd	3rd
4th	4th
5th	5th
6th	6th
7th	7th
8th	8th
9th - Brevet d'Enseignement fondamental	9th
Lycée d'Enseignement général, lycées polyvalents; technique (technicum)- 10th	10th
11th	11th
12th - Baccalauréat de l'Enseignement secondaire or technique	12th - Standard High School Diploma

Grading Scale**U.S. EQUIVALENT**

15 - 20	Tres Bien (Excellent)	A+
13 - 14.9	Bien (Good)	A
12 - 12.9	Assez Bien (Quite Good)	B+
11 - 11.9	Passable (Satisfactory)	B
10 - 10.9	Moyene (Sufficient)	C
9 - 9.9	-	*

Grading Remarks

* May be considered passing grade if entire year is passed.

Country Notes

Basic education (Enseignement fondamental) lasts for nine years and leads to the Brevet d'enseignement fondamental. Secondary education is compulsory and consists of a three-year cycle of study provided in secondary schools and technicums. There are two branches of secondary education: general and specialized and technical/vocational. Students in general secondary and specialized secondary education study for three years. Successful students are awarded the Baccalauréat de l'Enseignement secondaire in one of the various streams offered. The Baccalauréat gives access to higher education but some institutions require it to be of a certain type (science, arts, etc.). The objective of technical and vocational secondary education is to prepare students for active life and industry (technicians and qualified workers). Studies last between one and four years, according to the type of training undertaken and can also lead to the Baccalauréat technique and higher education.

System of Education: http://www.unesco.org/iau/onlinedatabases/systems_data/dz.rtf

Country**ANTIGUA & BARBUDA****Diploma Awarded****Caribbean Examinations Council Education Certificate (CXC)****or****General Certificate of Education (GCE) or
General Certificate of Secondary Education (GCSE) O-Levels****Minimum 5 Subjects****School Year** Mid-September to Mid-July

Compulsory Education:

Ages 5 to 15, 11 years

Educational System**U.S. EQUIVALENT**

Infant School (Ages 4-5)	Kindergarten
1st	1st
2nd	2nd
3rd	3rd
4th	4th
5th	5th
6th - Pass national exam at end	6th
7th	7th
8th	8th
9th - Must pass a national certificate exam	9th
10th	10th
11th	11th
To receive diploma must pass the CXC school exam	12th - Standard High School Diploma

Grading Scale**U.S. EQUIVALENT**

10	95%	A+
8-9	90%	A
7	80%	B
6	70%	C
4-5	65%	D
3	55%	D
1-2	50%	F

Grading Remarks

--

Country Notes

To receive diploma, students must pass the Caribbean Examination Council (CXC) Secondary School Exam. If having finished 11th grade and not taken or not passed this CXC exam, they can enroll as a senior in our schools to complete their education and receive a diploma.

Ministry of Education: http://www.ab.gov.ag/gov_v2/government/shared/dep_meducation.html

Country**ARGENTINA****Diploma Awarded**

Bachillerato Mercantil (Commercial Diploma) or
Bachillerato Nacional (General Studies Diploma) or
Bachillerato Tecnico (Technical Studies Diploma) or
Certificado de Educacion Polimodal
Bachiller en....(different orientations)

School Year March - December

Compulsory Education:

Ages 6-15; Grades 1 - 10

Educational System**U.S. EQUIVALENT**

Jardin de Infantes 5 year olds	Kindergarten
1st	1st
2nd	2nd
3rd	3rd
4th	4th
5th	5th
6th	6th
7th	7th
8th	8th
9th - Certificado de Educacion Primaria/Basica	9th
10th	10th
11th	11th
12th - Tecnico or Bachiller	12th - Standard High School Diploma

Grading Scale**U.S. EQUIVALENT**

Sobresaliente	9 -10 95%	A
Distinguido	8 - 9 85%	A
Bueno	6 - 7 75%	B
Aprobado	4 - 5 65%	C
Insuficiente	0 - 3.9 55%	F
Aplazado	0 - 3.9 50%	F
Reprobado	0 - 3.9 45%	F

Grading Remarks

Passing is a grade of 4 or higher.

Country Notes

The first years of education begins with "jardin de infantes" (kindergarten), for children 3 to 5 years old, some under 3. Only the last year of kindergarten, when the child is 5 years old, is it compulsory. Therefore, when students from Argentina arrive at our schools with transcripts from kindergarten, it is NOT equivalent unless the child was 5 years old in the last year of kindergarten. Basic general education is compulsory and lasts for nine years leading to the Certificado de Educación General Básica. Secondary education consists in the last cycle of basic general education and polymodal education. It leads to the Bachillerato. In parallel to the polymodal cycle, there is a technical-professional track which leads, after a further year's study, to the title of Técnico. Some schools provide a course lasting one year longer leading to the Bachillerato especializado.

System of Education: http://www.unesco.org/iau/onlinedatabases/systems_data/ar.rtf

Country**AUSTRIA****Diploma Awarded****Reifeprüfung Certificate/TVE Diploma****School Year** SEPTEMBER - JUNE

Compulsory Education:

Ages 6 - 14; Grades 1 - 9

Educational System**U.S. EQUIVALENT**

	Kindergarten
Volksschule - 1st	1st
2nd	2nd
3rd	3rd
4th	4th
Lower Secondary or *Academic Secondary - 5th - Hauptschule	5th
6th	6th
7th	7th
8th	8th
*Upper Secondary - 9th	9th
10th	10th
11th	11th
12th - Reifeprüfung Certificate	12th - Standard High School Diploma

Grading Scale**U.S. EQUIVALENT**

Sehr Gut	Very Good	A
Gut	Good	A
Befriedigend	Satisfactory	B
Genugend	Sufficient	C
Nicht Genugend	Insufficient	F

Grading Remarks

*Academic Secondary: school providing this education; Allgemeinbildende höhere Schulen, Gymnasium (length of program; 8 years, from grades 5th - 12th; school).

*Upper Secondary: school providing this education; Oberstufenrealgymnasium, (length of program; 4 years; from grades 9th to 12th, after Lower Secondary)

Country Notes

Compulsory education lasts for nine years including primary and lower secondary education plus a year of pre-school or a year of pre-vocational school. Primary education lasts for four years. Secondary education is divided into academic secondary schools, which lasts for 8 years and lower secondary school, which lasts for four years, and upper secondary school, which lasts for four years. Vocational secondary education lasts for five years. All streams lead to the Reifeprüfung Certificate, which gives access to higher education.

System of Education: http://www.unesco.org/iau/onlinedatabases/systems_data/at.rtf

Country**BAHAMAS, THE****Diploma Awarded*****Bahamas General Certificate of Secondary Education (BGCSE) or******General Certificate of Education GCE O-Levels - Minimum 5 Subjects or GCE "A" Levels*****School Year** September - June

Compulsory Education:

Ages 5-16; Grades 1-11

Educational System**U.S. EQUIVALENT**

Pre-School; Ages 3-5	Kindergarten
Primary 1st	1st
2nd	2nd
3rd	3rd
4th	4th
5th	5th
6th Grade Level Assessment Test (GLAT)	6th
Junior High 7th	7th
8th	8th
9th Bahamas Junior Certificate (BJC)	9th
Senior High 10th	10th
11th	11th
12th - Bahamas General Certificate of Secondary Education	12th - Standard High School Diploma

Grading Scale**U.S. EQUIVALENT**

A+, 4.00; A, 4.00; A-, 3.70	80% - 100%	A
B+, 3.30; B, 3.00; B-, 2.70	65% - 79%	B
C+, 2.30; C, 2.00; C-, 1.70	50% - 64%	C
D+, 1.30; D, 1.00; D-, 0.70	35% - 49%	D
E, 0.00	21% - 34%	F
F, 0.00	below 21%	F

Grading Remarks

The Bahamas General Certificate of Secondary Education (BGCSE) is modeled on The General Certificate of Secondary Education (GCSE) exams taken in England and Wales, and are accredited by Cambridge University in England. The grading is on a scale of A to G, to demonstrate a broad range of achievement. However, most universities and colleges, including The College of The Bahamas, view 'C' or above as an acceptable result for those wishing to continue their studies.

Country Notes

Primary education lasts for six years. Secondary education usually covers five years and is divided into a three-year junior high school course and a two-year senior high school course. At the end of junior high school, pupils take the Bahamas Junior Certificate examinations. At the end of senior high school, pupils take the Bahamas General Certificate of Secondary Education examinations. Pupils can also take external (non-national) examinations such as the GCE 'A' level, the SAT, etc, designed by overseas institutions and administered by the Testing and Evaluation Section of the Ministry of Education.

System of Education: <http://www.bahamaseducation.com/Departments/Education/Index.html>

Country

BANGLADESH

School Year Jan.-Dec, up to 10th, July-June for higher grades.



Compulsory Education:

Ages 6-11, Grades 1 - 5

Diploma Awarded

Secondary School Certificate (SSC) *receive after 10th grade, not equivalent to U.S. high school diploma.

Higher Secondary Certificate (HSC) is equivalent to U.S. high school diploma.

Educational System

U.S. EQUIVALENT

Pre-Primary - 2 years; Age level from 4 to 5	Kindergarten
Primary - 1st	1st
2nd	2nd
3rd	3rd
4th	4th
5th	5th
Junior Secondary - 6th	6th
7th	7th
8th	8th
Upper Secondary or Vocational Training Institute - 9th	9th
10th - *Secondary School Certificate (SSC)	10th
Higher Secondary or Higher Technical - 11th	11th
12th - Higher Secondary Certificate (HSC)	12th- Standard High School Diploma

Grading Scale

U.S. EQUIVALENT

60 - 100	A
55 - 59	B+
50 - 54	B
43 - 49	C+
*35 - 42	C
0 - 34	F

Grading Remarks

*At selected institutions, a lower grade may be considered passing. Also; 0-100% 60-100% 1st division pass; 45%-59% 2nd division pass; 33%-44% 3rd division pass; 0%-32% fail. Students with an average of 75% or above are awarded a 'Star' and those with at least 80% in each subject are awarded a 'Letter'.

Education System: http://www.unesco.Org/iau/onlinedatabases/systems_data/bd.rtf

Country Notes

Primary education lasts for five years. No certificate is awarded at the end. Secondary education is divided into three cycles. Admission to the three-year junior secondary cycle is based on an entrance examination conducted by individual schools. On completion of class 8, pupils proceed to the secondary cycle and may follow two years of secondary education courses or technical/vocational courses offered at trade/vocational schools. In class 9 students are separated into two streams: science and humanities. On completion of class 10, they take the Secondary School Certificate examination (SSC), administered by the Boards of Intermediate and Secondary Education (BISE). Successful students go on to higher secondary schools which offer the following options: Arts, Commerce, Home Economics, Islamic Studies, Music, and Science, including pre-medical, pre-engineering and agricultural options. On completion, they sit for the Higher Secondary Certificate (HSC). Students opting for technical education in class 10 study for three years at Polytechnic Institutes where they obtain a Diploma in the following fields: Surveying or Civil, Mechanical, Electrical, Electronic, Architectural, Chemical, Printing, Ceramic or Power Technology. In parallel to the main stream of formal education, there are 5 stages of Madrasah education system (Islamic Education) with 5-year Ebtedayee, 5-year Dakhil, 2-year Alim, 2-year Fazil and 2-year Kamil courses. The Madrasahs are required to adopt national curricula as a condition of government recognition and support. Students are required to sit for the Public Examinations after completing courses of each level, except Ebtedayee.

Country**BARBADOS****Diploma Awarded****Caribbean Examinations Certificate** *Caribbean Examination Council Examination (CXC) at age 16***Caribbean Advanced Proficiency Certificate-**
*Caribbean Advanced Proficiency Certificate (CAPE) at age 18.***School Year** SEPTEMBER - JUNE

Compulsory Education:

Ages 5 - 16; Grades 1 - 11

Educational System

U.S. EQUIVALENT

Pre-school (two years; ages 3-4) - Primary School - ECE - 1st	Kindergarten
2nd Year	1st
3rd Year	2nd
4th Year	3rd
5th Year	4th
6th year - Common Entrance Examination.	5th
Secondary School - 7th Year	6th
8th Year	7th
9th Year	8th
10th Year	9th
11th Year - Caribbean Examination Council Examination (CXC) at age 16	10th
12th Year	11th
13th Year - Caribbean Advanced Proficiency Certificate (CAPE)	12th - Standard High School Diploma

Grading Scale

U.S. EQUIVALENT

A+ /A	76-100	A
B+/B	61-75	B
C+/C	45-64	C
D	35-44	D
F	0-34	F

Grading Remarks**Usual grading system in secondary school**Full Description: 1-5
Highest on scale: 1
Lowest on scale: 5**Country Notes**

Barbados is affiliated with the University of the West Indies. The supreme authority of the University is the Council, which comprises representatives of member territories, professors and appointed members. The Senate, composed of teaching members of the University, is responsible for academic decisions. Deans of faculties are elected yearly. The University is autonomous. More than 90 per cent of its resources come from contributing territories. Other higher Institutions include Barbados Community College, Erdiston Teacher's College, and the Samuel Jackman Prescod Polytechnic.

Education System: http://www.unesco.org/iau/onlinedatabases/systems_data/bb.rtf

Country**BELARUS****Diploma Awarded****Attestat o Srednem Obrazovanii** (after Grade XI)**Diplom o Srednem Spetsialnom Obrazovanii** (after 4 years of Specialized Secondary School (Technicum)).**Diploma of Vocational Education** ((duration of studies 1 to 3 years depending on previous education: if after secondary school, only 1 year)**School Year** SEPTEMBER - JUNE

Compulsory Education:

Ages 6-15; Grades 1-9

Educational System

U.S. EQUIVALENT

Pre-school (nurseries & kindergartens; ages 3-6)	Nursery;Pre-school;Pre-K;Kindergarten
Primary - preparatory years (I-III) Grade I (age 6)	1st
Grade II	2nd
Grade III	3rd
Grade IV	4th
primary general education - Grade V	5th
Grade VI	6th
Grade VII	7th
Grade VIII	8th
Grade IX - Svidetel'stvo o Bazovom Obrazovanii (Certificate of Basic Education)	9th
Gymnasium, Lyceum, College 2 yrs. or Specialized Secondary (Technicum)4 yr	10th
Grade XII - Attestat o Srednem Obrazovanii (Certificate of Secondary Education)	11th - Standard HS Diploma
-	-

Grading Scale

U.S. EQUIVALENT

5	Excellent	A
4	Good	B
3	Satisfactory	C
2	Unsatisfactory	F
Pass	Poor	D

Grading Remarks

Since 2000 some secondary schools use the following system: 5: Excellent (10-9); 4: Good (8-7-6); 3: Satisfactory (5-4-3); 2: Unsatisfactory (2); 1: Totally Unsatisfactory (1).

System of Education: http://www.unesco.org/iau/onlinedatabases/systems_da

Country Notes

School education is divided into three levels: primary (4 years), basic (9 years) and secondary (11 years). A child can be admitted to school at 6 or 7 years of age. Primary education is given in primary schools, 1-4 grades in secondary schools and 1-4 grades in gymnasiums. Basic education is compulsory for all children. It is provided in basic schools, 5-9 classes of secondary schools and 5-9 classes of gymnasiums. At the end of basic education, a Certificate of Basic Education is awarded.9th grade graduates have three possibilities: 1) Third stage of school education (10-11th grades); 2) Vocational/technical establishments; 3) Technicums. In secondary education, pupils continue to study in secondary schools 10-11th grades, grammar schools or lyceums. School-leavers are given a Certificate of Secondary Education.General secondary education is provided by general secondary schools, gymnasiums, lyceums and colleges, as well as in first courses of specialized and technical schools. Gymnasiums provide general secondary education at a higher level. Lyceums provide vocationally-oriented education that completes general secondary education.

Country**BELGIUM****Diploma Awarded****Diploma van Secundair Onderwijs** (Secondary Education Diploma)**School Year** SEPTEMBER - JULY

Compulsory Education:

Ages 5 - 14; Grades 1 - 9

Educational System**U.S. EQUIVALENT**

Nursery Education (2 1/2 - 6 years old; 3 yrs. in length)	Nursery; Pre-K; Kindergarten
Primary Education - 1st Grade	1st
2nd	2nd
3rd	3rd
4th	4th
5th	5th
6th - Getuigschrift van Lager Onderwijs (Primary Education Certificate)	6th
General Secondary Education (ASO); Artistic (KSO); Technical (TSO); Vocational (BSO) I	7th
II	8th
III	9th
IV	10th
V	11th
VI - Diploma van Secundair Onderwijs (Secondary Education Diploma)	12th - Standard HS Diploma

Grading Scale**U.S. EQUIVALENT**

18-20	90-100	A+
16-17.9	80-89	A
14-15.9	70-79	B
10-13.9	50-69	C
below 10	below 50	F

Grading Remarks

met voldoening: satisfactory; met onderscheiding: distinction (70%); met grote onderscheiding: high distinction (80%); met grootste onderscheiding: highest distinction (90%).

Country Notes

Primary education lasts for six years and leads to the Getuigschrift van Lager Onderwijs (Primary Education Certificate). Secondary education is provided for young people aged 12 to 18 in four branches: ASO (general), TSO (technical), KSO (artistic) and BSO (vocational), each divided into three 2-year periods. Pupils study as many subjects as possible during basic education. From the third and fourth year of secondary education, pupils can opt for a certain branch of study within ASO, TSO, KSO, or BSO. They may also follow a 7th year after the 6th TSO, KSO or BSO year, or study for a 5th year after the 4th BSO year. In the fifth and sixth years of secondary education pupils are offered either occupational training or higher education training. From age 15/16, pupils may also attend from 1 day/week to 15 weeks/year part-time secondary education, while having signed a part-time labor or apprenticeship contract. General, vocational and technical secondary education lead to the Diploma van Secundair Onderwijs.

System of Education (Flemish Community): http://www.unesco.org/iau/onlinedatabases/systems_data/be01.rtf

System of Education (French Community): http://www.unesco.org/iau/onlinedatabases/svstems_data/be02.rtf

Country**BELIZE****Diploma Awarded****Caribbean Examinations Council Secondary Certificate, GCE Ordinary Level Examinations**

(awarded after Standard IV; equivalent to Standard High School Diploma in the U.S.)

GCE Advanced Level Examinations; Caribbean Advanced Proficiency Examination; Associate Degree**School Year** SEPTEMBER - JUNE

Compulsory Education:

Ages 5 - 14; Grades

Educational System

U.S. EQUIVALENT

Pre-school education (3-5 years old) then Primary (Infants) School Grade I (5yrs)	Kindergarten
Grade II	1st
III	2nd
IV	3rd
V	4th
VI	5th
VII	6th
VIII - Belize Junior Achievement Test (BJAT); Primary School Examination	7th
Secondary School - Standard I	8th
Standard II	9th
Standard III	10th
Standard IV - Caribbean Examinations Council Secondary Certificate, GCE	11th - Standard HS Diploma
Sixth Form or Junior College (2 years) - GCE	Associate Degree

Grading Scale

U.S. EQUIVALENT

a	81-100	A
B	71-80	B
C	61-70	C
D	50-60	D
E	35-49	F
F	0-34	F
Passing grade of 50 (D) or higher.		

Grading Remarks**Usual grading system in secondary school**

Full Description: Grades range from A (outstanding) to F (poor). A similar point grade scale is used for the Caribbean Advanced Proficiency Examination from A (excellent) to G (unsatisfactory)

Highest on scale: 1

Lowest on scale: 6

Country Notes

Primary education lasts for eight years. Primary education is compulsory for all children between the ages of 5 and 14 years. The eight-year programme is divided into infant grades (I-II) and junior grades (III-VIII or Standards I-VI). The secondary education school system covers four offering general education and vocational or trade school offering short term courses in basic trades.

Post-secondary institutions include sixth-form establishments, offering two years of post-secondary schooling; institutions for professional training (agriculture, nursing, teaching); and the university.

Education System: http://www.unesco.org/iau/onlinedatabases/systems_data/bz.rtf

Country**BERMUDA****Diploma Awarded****GCE Exams - Bermuda Secondary School Certificate****School Year** SEPTEMBER - JUNE

Compulsory Education:

Ages 5 - 16; Grades 1 -

Educational System**U.S. EQUIVALENT**

Children must be 5 years old between January 1 and December 31 Primary I	Kindergarten
II	1st
III	2nd
IV	3rd
V	4th
Middle School - VI	5th
V	6th
VI	7th
Form I	8th
Form II	9th
Form III	10th
Form IV	11th
Form V - GCE Exams - Bermuda Secondary School Certificate	12th - Standard HS Diploma

Grading Scale**U.S. EQUIVALENT**

80-100	A
65-79	B
50-64	C
35-49	D
0-34	F

Grading Remarks

--

Country NotesEducation at Bermuda Online: <http://www.bermuda-online.org/educate.htm>

Country**BOLIVIA****Diploma Awarded*****Bachillerato Humanístico******Bachillerato Técnico*****School Year** MARCH - DECEMBER

Compulsory Education:

Ages 6-14; Grades 1 - 8

Educational System**U.S. EQUIVALENT**

Educación preprimaria (ages 4-6)	Nursery; Pre-K; Kindergarten
Primary School - 1st	1st
2nd	2nd
3rd	3rd
4th	4th
5th	5th
6th	6th
7th	7th
8th	8th
Secondary School/Technical School - 9th	9th
10th	10th
11th	11th
12th - Bachillerato Humanístico; Bachillerato Técnico	12th - Standard High School Diploma

Grading Scale**U.S. EQUIVALENT**

7	A
6	B
5	C
4	D
below 3.6	F

Grading Remarks

1-100%

A = 90-100 sobresaliente; B = 77-89 distinguido; C = 64-76 bueno; D = 51-63 suficiente; F = 0-50 reprobado

Country Notes

Primary education lasts for eight years divided in three cycles of 3, 3 and 2 years. Secondary education covers four years divided into two cycles of two years each, one devoted to technical training and the other to specialized training. The latter is divided into a general academic and a technical option. At the end of the first two years in technical fields pupils obtain a Diploma of Técnico Básico. The next two years lead to the Diploma de Bachiller Técnico which is equivalent to the title of Técnico Medio. Pupils taking the general academic option obtain the Diploma de Bachiller Humanístico in a chosen subject. Access to university is subject to an entrance examination called Pre-Grado.

Education System: http://www.unesco.org/iau/onlinedatabases/systems_data/bo.rtf

Country**BOSNIA-HERZEGOVINA****Diploma Awarded****Diploma (Secondary School Leaving Certificate)**

awarded after 13 years of schooling; age at leaving; 19.

School Year SEPTEMBER - JUNE

Compulsory Education:

Ages 6 - 15; Grades 1 - 9

Educational System**U.S. EQUIVALENT**

Pre-school	Kindergarten
Primary school (osnovna škola) ages 6 - 1st Grade	1st
2nd	2nd
3rd	3rd
4th	4th
5th	5th
6th	6th
7th	7th
8th	8th
9th	9th
Secondary School, Art School/Theology School (Gymnazija, umjetničke i vjerske škole)	10th
11th	11th
12th - 13th - Diploma (Secondary School Leaving Certificate)	12th + - Standard HS Diploma

Grading Scale**U.S. EQUIVALENT**

Odlican/Excellent	5	A
Vrlo Doba/Very Good	4	A
Dobar/Good	3	B
Dovoljan/Fair	2	C
Nedovoljan/Failure	1	F
Passing grade is 2 or higher.		

Grading Remarks

--

Country Notes

Primary education lasts for nine years. The pupils enroll in primary education when they are between 5 and 6 years old. Secondary education is provided by general, vocational and technical secondary schools. Pupils graduating from general secondary schools, art schools and theology schools obtain the Diploma o završenoj srednjoj školi and can enroll in any faculty or academy by passing the qualification examination prescribed by the institution. Vocational secondary schools offer courses lasting for three years and including a period of practical instruction. Technical secondary schools offer courses lasting for four years. Pupils graduating from technical secondary schools obtain the Diploma and can enroll in any Faculty or Academy by passing the qualification examination prescribed by the Institution.

System of Education: http://www.unesco.org/iau/onlinedatabases/systems_data/ba.rtf

Country

BRAZIL

Diploma Awarded

School Year March - December



Compulsory Education:

Ages: 7-14; Grades 1 - 8

* **Certificado de Conclusão de 2º Grau** (Certificate of Conclusion of 2nd Level) or ***Certificado de Habilitação Básico** (Certificate of Basic Training) or ***Diploma de Técnico de Nível Médio** (Diploma of Intermediate Level Technician) or ***Diploma de Técnico de 2º Grau** (Diploma of Technician of the Second Level) or ***Certificado de Auxiliar Técnico** (Certificate of Technical Assistant)

Educational System

U.S. EQUIVALENT

Day-care centres/Pre-elementary (Ages 4-6)	Kindergarten
Ensino Fundamental - (Primary/Basic) First Cycle - 1st	1st
2nd	2nd
3rd	3rd
4th	4th
Lower Secondary -Second Cycle - 5th	5th
6th	6th
7th	7th
8th - Certificado de Conclusão de Ensino Fundamental	8th
9th - *(8 to nine years is at present underway in Brazil)	9th
Segundo grau (secondary level) Form 1	10th
Form 2	11th
Form 3	12th - Standard HS Diploma

Grading Scale

U.S. EQUIVALENT

*9.0 - 10.05	superior superior (very superior)	A
7.0 - 8.94	media superior (superior)	B
5.0 - 6.93	media media (average)	C
3.0 -4.92	media inferior (below average)	F
0.0 - 2.91	inferior inferior (fail)	F
	sem rendimento (no results; fail)	F
	credito concedido (credit granted)	F

Grading Remarks

*Grading scales vary. Please refer to grading scale on transcript.

Student assessment is based on special projects and class work, as well as periodic and final examinations. A student who does not successfully complete a subject will receive a dependência (deficiency) in that particular course. The number of dependências that a student may receive without repeating the entire year varies by school, with the most common standard being a maximum of two subjects.

Country Notes

Primary education lasts for eight years, is compulsory and leads to the Certificado de Conclusão de Ensino Fundamental *(a programme to extend primary education from 8 to nine years is at present underway in Brazil). Secondary education covers from grades 9 to 11. Pupils may also take a course ranging from three to five years in a variety of technical and vocational fields leading to the qualification of Certificado de Auxiliar Técnico (Assistant Technician), Diploma de Técnico de Nível Médio (Technician) or Diploma de Técnico de Segundo Grau (second level Technician). Holders of these qualifications may take the university entrance examination. Training programmes have also been established in basic vocational training (Habilitação Básica) leading to a Certificado de Habilitação Básica.

TRANSLATIONS: **R or E or I Reprovado = Failing; M Matricula = Registration; Cancelada = Dropped; T Transferido = Transfer Credit; T, J or S Abandono Justificado = Withdrew in Good Standing; F Incompleto = Incomplete; J Canc. De Insc. Em Disc. = Cancellation of course; K Trancamento = Withdrew.**

Education System: http://www.unesco.org/iau/online/databases/systems_data/br.r

Country**BULGARIA****Diploma Awarded****Diploma or Certificate****School Year** SEPTEMBER - JUNE

Compulsory Education:

Ages 6 - 15; Grades 1 - 8

**Educational System****U.S. EQUIVALENT**

Kindergarten (age 6/7)	Kindergarten
Elementary - 1st Form	1st
2nd Form	2nd
3rd Form	3rd
4th Form - Certificate Awarded	4th
Lower Secondary - 5th Form	5th
6th Form	6th
7th Form	7th
8th Form - Certificate Awarded	8th
Secondary Academic or Vocational - 9th Form	9th
10th Form	10th
11h Form	11th
12th Form -	12th - Standard HS Diploma

Grading Scale**U.S. EQUIVALENT**

6	Otnneyet/Excellent	A
5	Mhoro Ao6bp/Very Good	A
4	Ao6bp/Good	B
3	CpeAeH/Average	C
2	Cna6/Fail	F
-	Now/Fail	F
3a4ntace/PASS		Pass

Grading Remarks

--

Country Notes

Secondary comprehensive education covers Grades IX-XII and includes: profile-oriented secondary schools with admission after Grade VIII and a four-year course of instruction (natural sciences and mathematical orientation, the humanities, sports, etc.); profile-oriented schools with intensive foreign language instruction (admission after Grade VII and a five-year course of instruction); and comprehensive secondary schools from Grades IX to XI/XII. Secondary vocational education comprises technical schools (vocational secondary) with admission after Grade VIII (four-year course); technical schools (vocational secondary) with admission after a Grade VII, with intensive foreign language studies and a five-year course of instruction; secondary vocational/technical schools with admission after Grade VIII (three-year course of instruction). After sitting the matriculation exams, successful students receive a certificate or diploma entitling them to have access to higher education. After successfully passing equalizing exams, students are permitted to switch from one school to another, or from one profile to another.

<http://www.ibe.unesco.org/en/access-by-country/europe-and-north-america/bulgaria/profile-of-education.html>

Country**CAMBODIA****Diploma Awarded*****Certificate of Completion (Baccalauréat)*****School Year** SEPTEMBER - JUNE

*Certificate of Completion (Diplôme) - awarded after 9th grade; not equivalent to high school diploma.



Compulsory Education:

Ages 7 - 15; Grades 1 - 9

Educational System**U.S. EQUIVALENT**

Pre-primary	Kindergarten
Primary School - (age 6) - Grade 1	1st
2nd	2nd
3rd	3rd
4th	4th
5th	5th
6th	6th
Lower Secondary School (First Cycle) - 7th	7th
8th	8th
9th - *Certificate of Completion (Diplôme)	9th
Upper Secondary School (Second Cycle) - 10th	10th
11th	11th
12th - Certificate of Completion (Baccalauréat)	12th - Standard High School Diploma

Grading Scale**U.S. EQUIVALENT**

17-20	Tres Bien	A
14-16	Bien	B
12-13	Assez Bien	C
10-11	Passable	D
0-9	Nul-mediocre	F

Grading Remarks**Country Notes**

Primary education lasts for six years. Secondary education is divided into two three-year cycles: lower secondary and upper secondary. Examinations at the end of each cycle lead to a Certificate of Completion. All students follow the same curriculum in all the six years.

System of Education: http://www.unesco.org/iau/online_databases/systems_data/kh.rtf

Country

CAMEROON

School Year SEPTEMBER - JUNE



Compulsory Education:

Ages 6 -12; Grades 1 - 7

Diploma Awarded

Cameroon GCE "O' Level - (awarded after Lower Secondary School (Anglophone system)

Baccalauréat (awarded after Lycée (Francophone system)

GCE' A' Level (awarded after Upper Secondary School (Anglophone)

Brevet de Technicien Supérieur, Brevet professionnel,

Baccalauréat (awarded after Lycée technique (Francophone system)

City and Guilds Part III Technical Secondary School (Anglophone system)

Educational System

U.S. EQUIVALENT

Primary School (Anglophone system) - Kindergarten	Kindergarten
Ecole primaire (Francophone system) - 1st Year	1st
2nd	2nd
3rd	3rd
4th	4th
5th	5th
6th -Certificat d'Etudes primaires élémentaires (CEPE)/First School Leaving Certificate	6th
Lower Secondary School (Anglophone system) or Collège d'Enseignement	7th
8th	8th
9th	9th
10th - Brevet d'Etudes du premier Cycle du second Degré (Francophone system)	10th
11th - Cameroon GCE "O' Level ((Anglophone system)	11th
Lycée/Technique(Francophone system);Upper Secondary School (Anglophone system)	12th + - Standard HS Diploma

Grading Scale

U.S. EQUIVALENT

A+/A	95-100;80-94	A
B	75-79	B
C+	65-74	B
C	60-64	C
D	50-59	C
E	40-49	D
F	0-48	F

Grading Remarks

Passing is a grade of E (40) or higher.

Country Notes

System of Education: http://www.unesco.org/iau/onlinedatabases/systems_data/cm.rtf

Upper SecondaryType of school providing this education: Lycée (Francophone system);Length of program in years: 3; Age level from:16to 19 Certificate/diploma awarded: Baccalauréat

Upper SecondaryType of school providing this education: Upper Secondary School (Anglophone system); Length of program in years: 2 ; Age level from:17to19 ; Certificate/diploma awarded: GCE' A' Level

TechnicalType of school providing this education:Lycée technique (Francophone system);Length of program in years:7;Age level from:12to 19 Certificate/diploma awarded: Brevet de Technicien Supérieur, Brevet professionnel, Baccalauréat

Technical Type of school providing this education: Technical Secondary School (Anglophone system)Length of program in years: 7 Age level from: 12 to: 19 Certificate/diploma awarded: City and Guilds Part III

Primary education lasts for seven years in the Anglophone system, leading to the First School Leaving Certificate, and six years in the Francophone system, leading to the Certificat d'Etudes primaires élémentaires (CEPE).

Country**CANADA** - (Continued on next page)**Diploma Awarded****Secondary School Diploma/Diplôme d'Etudes
Secondaires (DES) or****Certificate of Graduation****School Year** September - May

Compulsory Education:

Ages: 6-16; Grades 1-10

Educational System**U.S. EQUIVALENT**

Quebec Pre-Elementary - 2 Years, Ages 4-5	Kindergarten
Primary - I - 6 years old	1st
II	2nd
III	3rd
IV	4th
V	5th
VI	6th
Secondary - VII	7th
VIII	8th
IX	9th
X	10th
XI - Graduate ONLY in Quebec Province*	11th
XII - Graduate in ALL Other Provinces	12th - Standard HS Diploma

Grading Scale**U.S. EQUIVALENT**

Quebec, Brunswick, Nova Scotia	(Saskatchewan 90-100 A, 70-89 B,	
Newfoundland, Prince Edward Island	60-69 C, 50-59 D, 0-49 F)	
A	80% - 100%	A
B	70% - 79%	B
C	60% - 69%	C
C	50% - 59%	D
F	0 - 49%	F

Grading RemarksSecondary Education in Canada; A Student Transfer Guide: <http://www.cmec.ca/tguide/2004/index.en.html>

At the secondary level, credit systems and promotion by subject, rather than grade, is the usual custom. Secondary school diplomas are granted to students who pass the compulsory and optional courses of their programmes.

Country Notes

* Quebec vocational schools run from X - XII or XIII Year

Secondary school covers the final four to six years of compulsory education. In most cases, vocational and academic programmes are offered within the same secondary schools, with some shorter non-diploma programmes for students interested in specific trades.

Education System: <http://www.ibe.unesco.org/en/access-by-country/europe-and-north-america/canada/profile-of-education.html>

Country

CANADA - (Continued)

School Year September - June



Compulsory Education:

Ages: 6-14; Grades 1 - 8

Diploma Awarded

Senior High School Diploma or
Secondary School Diploma Representing 12 years of Education or
 Saskatchewan: **Record of Secondary Level Standing Grade 12** or **Secondary School Diploma**
 Yukon: **Transcript Noting Graduation Requirements Met.**

Educational System

U.S. EQUIVALENT

All Other Provinces - Pre-School Programs/Kindergarten	Kindergarten
I (age 6)	1st
II	2nd
III	3rd
IV	4th
V	5th
VI	6th
VII	7th
VIII	8th
IX	9th
X	10th
XI	11th
XII	12th - Standard HS Diploma

Grading Scale

U.S. EQUIVALENT

British Colombia		
A	86% - 100%	A
B	73% - 85%	B
C+	67% - 72%	C
C	60% - 66%	C
C-	50% - 59%	D
F	0 - 49%	F

Grading Remarks

Ontario: 75-100 A, 66-74 B, 60-65 C, 50-59 D, 0-49 F
 Alberta: 80-100 A, 65-79 B, 50-64 C, 40-49 D, 0-39 F
 Manitoba: 4 = A, 3 = B, 2 = C, 1 = D, 0 = F

Country Notes

Only Prince Edward Island - Kindergarten (5 year olds) compulsory. All others begins at 6 in first grade (I).
 Ontario, Manitoba: structure of education systems: Primary I-VIII; Secondary IX-XII .
 British Colombia: structure of education system: Primary I-VII: Secondary VIII-XII.
 Newfoundland, Prince Edward Island, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Alberta, Northwest Territories and Yukon: structure of education systems: Primary I-V; Junior High VII-IX; Senior High X-XII.
 Saskatchewan: structure of education system: Primary I-V; Secondary VI-XII.
 Education System: <http://www.ibe.unesco.org/en/access-by-country/europe-and-north-america/canada/profile-of-education.html>

Country**Central African Republic****Diploma Awarded****Baccalauréat****Certificat d'Aptitude professionnelle (CAP)****Baccalauréat de Technicien****School Year** SEPTEMBER - JUNE

Compulsory Education;

Ages 6-12; Grades 1 - 6

Educational System**U.S. EQUIVALENT**

enseignement préprimaire (ages 3 to 6)	Kindergarten
enseignement fondamental - CI	1st
CP	2nd
CE1	3rd
CE2	4th
CM1	5th
CM2 - Certificat d'Etudes fondamentales 1 (CEF)	6th
College d'Enseignement secondaire/enseignement F2 et secondaire - 6é	7th
5é	8th
4é	9th
3é Brevet d'Etudes fondamentales 2 (BEF)(formerly Brevet d'Etudes du premier Cycle)	10th
Lycée; Collège d'Enseignement technique; Lycée technique - 2nde	11th
1ère & Terminale - Baccalauréat; Certificat d'Aptitude professionnelle (CAP)	12th (& 13th) - Diploma

Grading Scale**U.S. EQUIVALENT**

16-20	Très Bien (Very Good)	A+
14-15.9	Bien (Good)	A
12-13.9	Assez Bien (Quite Good)	B
10-11.9	Passable (Satisfactory)	C
8-9.9	-	*

Grading Remarks

*May be considered passing grade if entire year is passed.

Country Notes

Basic education lasts for ten years divided into six years' basic first stage (compulsory), leading to the Certificat d'Etudes fondamentales 1 and four years' basic second stage, leading to the Brevet d'Etudes fondamentales 2. General secondary school lasts for three years and leads to the Baccalauréat which gives access to higher education. Technical education at secondary level is offered at two levels: Form 4 school leavers may study for four years in a College d'Enseignement technique and obtain the Certificat d'Aptitude professionnelle (CAP); and Form 3 school leavers may study for three years at a lycée technique and obtain the Baccalauréat de Technicien.

System of Education: http://www.unesco.org/iau/onlinedatabases/systems_data/cf.rtf

Country**CHILE****Diploma Awarded**

Licencia de Educación Media or
Técnico de Nivel Superior or
Técnico de Nivel Medio or
Bachiller

School Year MARCH - DECEMBER

Compulsory Education:

Ages 6 -18; Grades 1 - 12

Educational System

U.S. EQUIVALENT

preprimary	Kindergarten
Basic - 1st - Public, Subsidized and Private Schools	1st
2nd	2nd
3rd	3rd
4th	4th
5th	5th
6th	6th
7th	7th
8th - Licencia de Educación Básica (Primary Leaving School Cert)	8th
Academic Secondary/Technical Secondary - 9th - Liceo	9th
10th	10th
11th	11th
12th - Licencia de Educación Media (LEM); Técnico Medio	12th - Standard HS Diploma

Grading Scale

U.S. EQUIVALENT

6.1 - 7	Sobresaliente	A+
6.0 - 6.9	Muy Bueno	A
5.0 - 5.9	Bueno	B
4.0 - 4.9	Mas Que Regular	C
0 - 3.9	Insuficiente (Insufficient)	

Grading Remarks**Country Notes**

General basic education (EGB) is compulsory and lasts for eight years, divided into two cycles of four years each. From 2004, Secondary education (Educación media) is also compulsory and lasts for four years. Students choose to specialize either in humanistic-scientific education (EMHC) or technical-professional education (EMTP). The humanistic-scientific branch, offered in liceos, is a preparation for higher education. Students are awarded the Licencia de Educación Media at the end. Technical-professional education offers a two-year common course and two years of specialization divided into five branches: industrial, technical, agricultural, commercial and maritime. Students who successfully complete their secondary education obtain the Licencia de Educación Media and/or the title of Técnico de Nivel Medio.

Education System: http://www.unesco.org/iau/onlinedatabases/systems_data/cl.rtf

Country**CHINA****Diploma Awarded****Senior High School Graduation Diploma****School Year** SEPTEMBER - JULY

Compulsory Education:

Ages 7-15/16; Grades 1 - 9

Educational System**U.S. EQUIVALENT**

-	Kindergarten
Primary - 1st	1st
2nd	2nd
3rd	3rd
4th	4th
5th	5th
6th	6th
Junior Secondary - 7th	7th
8th	8th
9th	9th
Senior Secondary - 10th	10th
11th	11th
12th - Senior High School Graduation Diploma	12th - Standard HS Diploma

Grading Scale**U.S. EQUIVALENT**

Scale 1	Scale 2		
85 - 100	5	Excellent	A
75 - 84	4	Good	B
70 - 74	3	Average	C
60 - 69	2	Poor	D
0 - 59	0	Fail	F

Grading Remarks

The Senior High School Graduation Diploma is graded on a scale of A-D. The National Matriculation Test is marked on a percentage scale per subject, with a maximum mark for the examination of 750. Or
Pass or fail basis (A,B,C,P,F)

Country Notes

Compulsory education lasts for nine years, starting at 6 or 7 years of age. Primary education lasts for six years. Secondary education extends over six years, divided into junior and senior secondary education. A graduation examination is taken at the end. Access to higher education is based on the Senior High School Graduation Diploma and a very competitive National Matriculation Test. At the moment, a reform of the National Matriculation Test is underway offering more freedom to the higher education institutions and to students in determining the subjects of the test. Online enrollment is gradually being introduced.

System of Education: http://www.unesco.org/iau/onlinedatabases/systems_data/cn.rtf

Country**COLOMBIA****Diploma Awarded****Bachillerato****School Year** * "A" and "B" Calendars**Bachiller**

Compulsory Education:

Ages: 5-13; Grades 1-8

Educational System**U.S. EQUIVALENT**

Preschool Education (Educación Pre-escolar) - 5 years old	Kindergarten
Elementary Education (Educación Primaria) 1st	1st
2nd	2nd
3rd	3rd
4th	4th
5th - Certificado al Quinto Grado de Enseñanza Primaria	5th
Ciclo básico (basic cycle) or educación media básica 6th	6th
7th	7th
8th	8th
9th - Certificado de Estudios de Bachillerato Básico	9th
Secondary Education (Educación Media or Media Técnica) 10th	10th
11th - Graduate with Bachillerato Secundaria	11th
-	12th - Standard HS Diploma

Grading Scale**U.S. EQUIVALENT**

9.5-10 A+	Superior	A
8.5 - 9.4 A	Excellent - Excelente (A)	A
7.5 - 8.4 B	Good - Sobresaliente (S)	B
6.5 - 7.4 C	Acceptable (A)	C
6.0 - 6.4	Insuficient (I)	D
0 -5.9	Deficiente (D)	F
Also: 4.0-5.0 A, 3.5-3.9 B, 3.0- 3.4 C, 0-2.9 F		

Grading Remarks

* There are two academic calendars: "A" and "B". Calendar "A" is used by most of the country and is divided into two cycles or semesters. The first semester lasts 18 weeks, beginning in February and ending in June. The second semester lasts 20 weeks beginning in July and ending in November. The first semester of calendar "B" begins in September and ends in December. The second semester begins in January and ends in June. Both calendars follow a 198-day school year.

Country Notes

Compulsory education lasts for nine years. Basic primary education lasts for five years, preceded by one year of preschool education. The secondary school system covers six years divided into two cycles: the basic cycle (educación básica secundaria) covers four years and the middle secondary cycle (educación media) two years. Successful completion of studies leads to the Bachillerato. Students must pass an entrance examination, the **ICFES "Examen de Estado" (Statewide Exam)**, in order to be accepted to the university. This exam does not determine graduation from Bachillerato (upper secondary school).

EDUCATION SYSTEM: http://www.unesco.org/iau/onlinedatabases/systems_data/co.rtf

Overview of Education in Colombia: <http://www.wes.org/ewenr/08oct/practical.htm>

Country**COSTA RICA****Diploma Awarded**

Bachillerato Secundaria or
 Certificate of Conclusion of Diversified Education
 Studies (**Diploma de Conclusion de Estudios de
 Education Diversificado**) or

School Year MARCH - DECEMBER



Compulsory Education:

Ages 5 - 13; Grades K - 6

Técnico en el Nivel Medio or **Bachiller en la
 Enseñanza Media**

Educational System

U.S. EQUIVALENT

Preescolar (age 5/6)	Kindergarten
Primer Ciclo 1st (age 6/7)	First Cycle Primary 1st
2nd	2nd
3rd	3rd
Segundo Ciclo 4th	Second Cycle Primary 4th
5th	5th
6th	6th
Ciclo 3 7th	Lower Secondary 7th
8th	8th
9th	9th
Ciclo 4 or Colegio Diversificado 10th	Academic Secondary 10th
11th - Graduate with Bachiller en la Enseñanza media	11th
Ciclo 4 or Colegio Diversificado Técnico Profesional 12th	12th - Standard HS Diploma

Grading Scale

U.S. EQUIVALENT

Scale 1	Scale 2	
90 - 100	9 10	A
80 - 89	8 - 8.9	B
75 -79	7.5 - 7.9	C
60 - 74	6.0 - 7.4	D
0 - 59	0 - 5.9	F

Grading Remarks

In Ciclo 4 pass/fail is 65%

Country Notes

Primary education lasts for six years divided into two cycles of three years each. Secondary education covers five or six years divided into cycle 3, the last three years of basic education, and cycle 4 (or the diversified cycle) of two or three years' duration. On entering cycle 3, pupils choose an academic course or a technical/vocational programme. At the end of this cycle, a Certificate is awarded. In cycle 4, pupils choose a two-year academic course or a three-year technical course. Both courses follow a core curriculum including Spanish, Social Studies, Mathematics, Science and Foreign Languages in addition to the specialized subjects. Satisfactory completion of this cycle leads to the Bachillerato, which gives access to higher education but most universities impose an entrance examination. In technical education it leads to the title of Técnico en el Nivel Medio or Bachiller en la Enseñanza Media.

EDUCATION SYSTEM: http://www.unesco.org/iau/onlinedatabases/systems_data/cr.rtf

Country**CROATIA****Diploma Awarded****Svjedocanstvo o polozenom završenom ispitu OR****School Year** SEPTEMBER - JUNE**Svjedodžba o završnom ispitu and a vocational qualification.**

COMPULSORY EDUCATION:

AGES 7 - 14; GRADES 1 - 8

Educational System**U.S. EQUIVALENT**

Nursery (2-3 yrs old); Kindergarten (4-5 yrs old); Pre-school (6 years old)	Kindergarten
Osnovna skola 1st (age 7)	Primary 1st
2nd	2nd
3rd	3rd
4th	4th
5th	5th
6th	6th
7th	7th
8th	8th
Gimnazija 9th	Secondary 9th
10th	10th
11th	11th
*12th - Svjedodžba o maturi	12th - High School Diploma

Grading Scale**U.S. EQUIVALENT**

NUMBER	CROATIAN	TRANSLATION	
5	Odican	Excellent	A
4	Vrio dobar	Very Good	A
3	Dobar	Good	B
2	Dovoljan	Satisfactory	C
1	Nedovoljan	Unsatisfactory	F

Grading Remarks

*Specialized Secondary - Gimnazija - length of program: 4 years - ages 14 -18

Diploma - organizacije međunarodne mature (International Baccalaureate)

*Specialized Secondary - Umjetnička škola (Art School) - length of program 4 years, ages 14 - 18 Diploma - Svjedodžba o završnom ispitu

*Vocational - Strukovna škola (Vocational School) - length of program 4 years, ages 14 - 18

Diploma - Svjedodžba o završnom ispitu and a vocational qualification

Country Notes

The eight years of primary education are divided into two stages: classes one to four and five to eight. Secondary education comprises grammar schools, vocational schools and art schools. Grammar schools are divided into general, mathematics and IT, linguistic, classical and scientific schools. Vocational schools offer courses lasting for one, two, three or four years, including a period of practical instruction. Art schools include music, dance, visual art and design. Students must pass an entrance examination to enter university in professional fields. When the State Secondary School Leaving Examination becomes operational - in 2008/9 for grammar schools, and 2009/10 for four-year vocational schools - it is expected to replace the entrance examination in most higher education institutions.

EDUCATION SYSTEM: http://www.unesco.org/iau/onlinedatabases/systems_data/hr.rtf

Country**CUBA****Diploma Awarded****Bachillerato or
Secondary School Completion Diploma****School Year** SEPTEMBER - MID-JULY

Compulsory Education:

Ages 7 -15; Grades 1 - 9

Educational System**U.S. EQUIVALENT**

educación preescolar (0-6 years old)	Kindergarten
Escuela Primaria - Primer Ciclo - 1st (age 6/7)	Primary 1st
2nd	2nd
3rd	3rd
4th	4th
Segundo Ciclo - 5th	5th
6th	6th
Secundaria Básica 7th	Basic Secondary 7th
8th	8th
9th - Secondary School Completion Diploma	9th
Escuela Tecnológica or Ciclo medio superior or preuniversitario	10th
11th	11th
12th - Bachillerato (Secondary-School-Leaving Certificate)	12th - High School Diploma

Grading Scale**U.S. EQUIVALENT**

Scale	Description		
5 - 90-100%	Sobresaliente/Excelente	Outstanding/Excellent	A
4 - 80-89%	Notable/Aprovechado/Bien	Notable/Successful/Good	B
3 - 70-79%	Aprovado	Pass	C
	60-69%	Poor	D
0-2	Reprobado/Suspensio	Fail	F

Grading Remarks

A grade of 60% or higher is passing.

Country Notes

Primary education lasts for six years. Secondary education is divided into basic secondary education and pre-university secondary education. At the end of basic secondary education, pupils can choose between pre-university education and technical and professional education. Those who complete pre-university education are awarded the Bachillerato. Technical training leads to two levels of qualification - skilled worker and middle-level technician. Successful completion of this cycle gives access to the technological institutes.

EDUCATION SYSTEM: http://www.unesco.org/iau/onlinedatabases/systems_data/cu.rtf

Country**CYPRUS****Diploma Awarded*****Apolytirion or
General Certificate of Education Advanced Level*****School Year** SEPTEMBER - JUNE

Compulsory Education:

Ages 5 - 15; Grades K - 10

Educational System**U.S. EQUIVALENT**

Pre-Primary - Certificate of Attendance (age 5)	Kindergarten
Primary 1st	1st
2nd	2nd
3rd	3rd
4th	4th
5th	5th
6th - Leaving Certificate	6th
Lower Secondary 7th	7th
8th	8th
9th	9th
General Secondary or Technical Secondary 10th	10th
11th	11th
12th Diploma Apolytirion	12th - High School Diploma

Grading Scale**U.S. EQUIVALENT**

18.5 - 20	A
15.5 - 18.4	B
12.5 - 15.4	C
10.1 - 12.4	D
0.0 - 10	F

Grading RemarksEducation System: http://www.unesco.org/iau/onlinedatabases/systems_data/cy.rtf**Country Notes**

Primary education lasts for seven years leading to a Leaving Certificate. Public general secondary education lasts for six years. It is divided into two three-year cycles: three years' Gymnasium, followed by three years Lykeion. Most private schools have competitive entrance examinations in Greek and Mathematics. In parallel, there is also a vocational and technical stream. The syllabus in the technical stream emphasizes Science subjects, whereas in the vocational stream technological subjects, workshop practice and industrial training are emphasized. Graduates of both streams may also proceed to tertiary institutions. The restructured Eniaio Lykeio, offering a great variety and flexibility in the choice of studies, was established on a pancyprian scale to replace the Lykeion system of optional subjects which functioned before for over 20 years. The Eniaio Lykerio is characterized by its focus on general education (including technology and economics) aiming at developing a multifaceted personality. At the Eniaio Lykeio, the A Form is for observation, guidance and orientation. In the B and C Forms, pupils attend common core courses. The Technical secondary education which is separate from the Eniaio Lykeio offers upgraded curricula.

Country

CZECH REPUBLIC

Diploma Awarded

School Year SEPTEMBER - JUNE



Compulsory Education:

Ages 6 -15; Grades 1 - 9

Vysvědčení o maturitní zkoušce (Secondary School Leaving Certificate)
 Vysvědčení o maturitní zkoušce (Secondary School Leaving Certificate)
 Vysvědčení o absolutoriu (Final certificate "absolutorium") + diplom (Diploma) or Vysvědčení o maturitní zkoušce (Secondary School Leaving Certificate)
 Výuční list (Vocational Certificate)
 Vysvědčení o absolutoriu (Final certificate "absolutorium") + diplom (Diploma), the graduates are awarded the title of diplomovaný specialista (Dis.).

Educational System

U.S. EQUIVALENT

Kindergartens	Nursery School; Pre-K; Kindergarten
Basic School (2 stages: 1-5, 6-9) - 1st	1st
2nd	2nd
3rd	3rd
4th	4th
5th	5th
General School (Gymnásium) (admission after 5th year of basic school) - 6th	6th
7th	7th
General school (Gymnásium) (admission after 7th year of basic school) - 8th	8th
9th - Vysvědčení (Primary School Leaving Certificate)	9th
Gymnázium (General Secondary School) - Střední odborná škola (technical) 10th	10th
11th	11th
12th & 13th - Vysvědčení o maturitní zkoušce (Secondary School Leaving Certificate)	12th & (13th) - Standard HS Diploma

Grading Scale

U.S. EQUIVALENT

1	Vyborny (Excellent)	A
2	Vel'mi Dobre (Very Good)	B
3	Dobry (Good)	C
4	Dostalecny (Satisfactory)	D
5	Nevyhovél (fail)	F

Grading Remarks

Country Notes

Primary education lasts for nine years divided into two stages of five and four years respectively. It leads to a Vysvědčení. Secondary education comprises three main types of schools: secondary general schools (gymnasium), secondary technical schools and secondary vocational schools. Gymnasiums prepare for study at higher education institutions and for professions. The secondary technical schools and 4-year courses or three-year follow-up courses at secondary vocational schools prepare students for a wide range of professions, as well as for studies at higher education institutions. All these studies culminate in the passing of the Maturitní zkouška/Maturita. The 2-year and 3-year courses at the vocational schools prepare students for professional activities.

System of Education: <http://www.unesco.org/iau/onlinedataba>

Education System: <http://www.ibe.unesco.org/en/access-by-country/europe-and-north-america/czech-republic/profile-of-education.html>

Country

DENMARK

Diploma Awarded

School Year SEPTEMBER - JUNE



Compulsory Education;



Ages 7-16; Grades 1-11

Studentereksamen after 3 years' study (Upper Secondary School Leaving Examination) or **Højere Forberedelseksamen-HF** (Higher Preparatory Examination) after two years' study.
Højere Handelseksamen - HHX (Higher Commercial examination) or **Højere Teknisk Eksamen - HTX** (Higher Technical examination)
Uddannelsesbevis or Svendebrev (equivalent to Associates Degree)

Educational System

U.S. EQUIVALENT

Pre-school class (age 6)	Kindergarten
Folkeskole, Private grundskoler and Friskoler Efterskoler - 1st (age 7)	1st
2nd	2nd
3rd	3rd
4th	4th
5th	5th
6th	6th
7th	7th
8th	8th
9th - Folkeskolens Afgangsprøve (Leaving Examination after Class 9 or 10)	9th
Gymnasium - 10th - Folkeskolens 10 -klasse prøve (Class 10 exam)	10th
11h	11th
12th - Studentereksamen; Højere Forberedelseksamen-HF	12th -Standard HS Diploma

Grading Scale

U.S. EQUIVALENT

Effective August 2007		
12		A
10		B+
7		B
4		C+
02		C
00		F

Grading Remarks

Grading Scale - Prior to August 2007
 10-13 = A; 7-9 = B; 6 = C; 5 = * ; Below 5 = F

Country Notes

Basic education comprises primary and lower secondary education and lasts for nine or ten years (the 10th year is optional). Upon completion of Class 9 or 10 of the Folkeskole pupils may go on to upper secondary school. The 3-year Gymnasium programme is the traditional general upper secondary programme. General upper secondary school and the more vocationally-oriented programmes "Højere Handelseksamen" (HHX) or "Højere Teknisk Eksamen" (HTX) qualify students for higher education. HHX and HTX also prepare for employment in trade and industry - usually in training positions. Vocational programmes are mainly Erhvervsuddannelse (Vocational Education and Training, VET) and prepare directly for specific jobs. In addition, most VET programmes qualify students for direct admission to one or more short-cycle professional higher education programmes. Approximately 30-50% of the time is spent at school and 50-70% is spent as a trainee or apprentice in a business enterprise. Other vocational programmes are basic social and health education programmes (SOSU) and agricultural, forestry, home economics and maritime programmes. Education is largely the responsibility of the Ministry of Education. It shares control of the Gymnasium and Højere Forberedelseksamen (HF) with the country councils and school or course boards. It is responsible for setting up the framework for curricula at primary and secondary education level.
 Education System: http://www.unesco.org/iau/onlinedatabases/systems_data/dk.rtf

Country**ECUADOR****Diploma Awarded****Bachillerato****School Year** May-Feb. coast/Sept.-June mts

Compulsory Education:

Ages 6-14; Grades 1 - 9

Educational System**U.S. EQUIVALENT**

Pre-Primary (ages 2 -5 years old)	Kindergarten
Primary School - 1st	1st
2nd	2nd
3rd	3rd
4th	4th
5th	5th
6th - Certificado de Suficiencia en los Estudios Primarias	6th
Colegio de ciclo básico - 7th	7th
8th	8th
9th - Diploma	9th
Diversified Secondary - 10th	10th
11th	11th
12th - Bachillerato	12th - Standard HS Diploma

Grading Scale**U.S. EQUIVALENT**

Excelente/Excellent	20	A+
Muy Bueno/Very Good	18-19	A
Bastante Bueno/Good	16-17	B
Bueno/Good	13-15	C
Regular/Passing	10-12	D
Malo	0-9	F

Grading Remarks

Final Exams including Bachillerato grading scale:

Excelente - 10 = A; Muy Bueno - 9 = A; Bastante Bueno - 7-8 = B; Bueno - 5-6 = C; Regular - 3-4 = D;
Malo Below - 3 = F**Country Notes**

Basic education lasts for ten years. It is followed by two years' secondary education is divided into three cycles. The first, of three years, is a compulsory basic cycle where students study general education. The second is called diversified and students can either study for one or two years (carreras cortas) after the basic cycle or for three years leading to the Bachillerato. The Bachillerato has options in humanities, sciences or technology. The third cycle of secondary education is one of specialization and takes place in two or three years in institutos técnicos or tecnológicos.

Education System: http://www.unesco.org/iau/onlinedatabases/systems_data/ec.rtf

Country**EGYPT****Diploma Awarded****Thanaweya a' Amma (General Secondary Education Certificate (GSEC))****School Year** SEPTEMBER - JUNE

Compulsory Education:



Ages 6-15; Grades 1 - 9

Technical Education Diploma (awarded after Technical Secondary School for technicians; 3 years)**Advanced Technical Diploma** (awarded after Technical Secondary School for high level Technicians; 5 years; equivalent to Associates Degree)**Educational System****U.S. EQUIVALENT**

Kindergartens	Kindergarten
Primary School (age 6) - 1st	1st
2nd	2nd
3rd	3rd
4th	4th
5th	5th
6th - Primary School Certificate	6th
Preparatory School - 7th	7th
8th	8th
9th - Basic Education Completion Certificate	9th
General Secondary School/Technical Secondary School (for technicians) - 10th	10th
11th	11th
12th - Thanaweya a' Amma (General Secondary Education Certificate (GSEC))	12th - Diploma

Grading Scale**U.S. EQUIVALENT**

80-100%	Excellent	A
70-79%	Good	B
60-69%	Fair	C
50-59%	Poor	D
0-49%	Fail	F

Grading Remarks**Country Notes**

Compulsory education lasts for nine grades and is known as "basic education", split into two stages, primary school (Grades 1-6) and preparatory school (Grades 7-9). It leads to the award of the Basic Education Completion Certificate. Following the nine-year basic education, pupils have the choice of entering a general secondary school (academic option) or a technical option including three- and five-year technical schools as well as experimental schools teaching languages, education and physical education. Only general secondary school graduates (academic option) may be admitted to university after obtaining their General Secondary Education Certificate (GSEC) or an Advanced Technical Diploma with scores above 75%. However, since 1991, some graduates from technical schools have been allowed to enter higher education.

System of Education: http://www.unesco.org/iau/onlinedatabases/systems_data/eg.rtf

Country**EL SALVADOR****Diploma Awarded*****Bachillerato General******Bachillerato Técnico Vocacional*****School Year** January - October

Compulsory Education:

Ages 7 - 15; Grades 1 - 9

Educational System**U.S. EQUIVALENT**

Early Primary	Kindergarten
Educación Basica - 1st (7 years old)	1st
2nd	2nd
3rd	3rd
4th	4th
5th	5th
6th	6th
7th	7th
8th	8th
9th - Certificate	9th
Educación Media - 10th	10th
11th	11th
12th - Bachillerato Media/Técnico Vocacional	12th - Standard HS Diploma

Grading Scale**U.S. EQUIVALENT**

Excelente/Excellent	10	A+
Muy Bueno/Very Good	9	A
Bastante Bueno/Good	8	B
Bueno/Good	6-7	C
Regular	5	D
Malo/Failure	1-4	F

Grading Remarks**Country Notes**

Basic education lasts for nine years leading to a Certificate. Secondary education lasts for three years for the Bachillerato General and three years for the Bachillerato Vocacional. In the Bachillerato General, students take basic courses as prerequisites to entry to college. In the third year of the Bachillerato Técnico Vocacional, students take very specialized courses which help them enter the labor market.

Education System: http://www.unesco.org/iau/onlinedatabases/systems_data/sv.rtf

Country**ETHIOPIA****Diploma Awarded****Ethiopian Higher Education Entrance Examination (EHEEE)****School Year** SEPTEMBER - JULY

Compulsory Education:

Ages 6-14; 1 - 8

Educational System**U.S. EQUIVALENT**

Primary School - 1st	1st
2nd	2nd
3rd	3rd
4th	4th
5th	5th
6th	6th
7th	7th
8th	8th
General Secondary School - 9th	9th
10th - Ethiopian General School Leaving Certificate Examination (EGSLCE)	10th
Preparatory Secondary School;*Technical or Vocational School and Junior College 11th	11th
12th - Ethiopian Higher Education Entrance Examination (EHEEE)	12th - Standard HS Diploma

Grading Scale**U.S. EQUIVALENT**

90-100	Excellent	A
80-89	Good	B
70-79	Average	C
60-69	Pass	D
0-59	Failure	F

Grading Remarks

**Technical:* Type of school providing this education: Technical School and Junior College; Age level from: 16 to: 19 and Vocational
 Type of school providing this education: Vocational School and Junior College
 Length of program in years: 3
 Age level from: 16 to: 19

Country Notes

According to the new structure of the education system, primary education lasts for eight years (age group 6-14) and is divided into two cycles: basic education (Grades I-IV) and general education (Grades V-VIII). Junior secondary schools no longer exist, as Grades VII and VIII have become the two upper classes of the second cycle of primary education. Secondary education is divided into two cycles: the first (Grades IX and X) or general secondary education, and the second cycle (Grades XI and XII) or preparatory secondary education. Since the education reform, completion of Grade X leads to the Ethiopian School Leaving Certificate Examination (ESLCE). It used to be at the end of Grade XII. The second cycle prepares students to continue their studies at the higher education level or select their profession. It offers a science option and a social science option. At the end of this cycle, students take the Ethiopian Higher Education Entrance examination to enter higher education institutions *Technical and vocational education and training is institutionally separate from the regular education system and runs in parallel with it.

System of Education: http://www.unesco.org/iau/onlinedatabases/systems_data/et.rtf

Country**FRANCE****Diploma Awarded*****Baccalauréat général, Baccalauréat technologique, or Baccalauréat professionnel.*****School Year** September - June

Compulsory Education:

Ages 6-16; Grades 1-10

****Certificat d'Aptitude professionnelle (CAP) or *Brevet d'Etudes professionnelles (BEP) (diplomas from Vocational school)*****Educational System****U.S. EQUIVALENT**

Nursery School (2 to 6 years of age) école maternelle	Kindergarten
Elementary école élémentaire (age 6) - 1st	1st
2nd	2nd
3rd	3rd
4th	4th
5th	5th
lower secondary/collèges - 6th	6th
7th	7th
8th	8th
9th - Brevet des Collèges	9th
Upper secondary level (lycée)/Vocational lycée professionnel 10th	10th
11th - CAP* or BEP*	11th
12th - Baccalauréat général, Baccalauréat technologique, or professionnel.	12th - Standard HS Diploma

Grading Scale**U.S. EQUIVALENT**

très bien (very good)	16-20	A+
bien (good)	14-15.9	A
assez bien (quite good)	12-13.9	B
passable (satisfactory)	10-11.9	C
-	8-9.9	*
-	0-7.9	F

Grading Remarks

*May be considered passing grade if entire year is passed
Please note: seconde is 10th grade; première is 11th grade; terminale is 12th

Country Notes

Primary education lasts for five years. After lower secondary education (lasting four years), pupils may opt either for general/technological or professional education in lycées preparing for the Baccalauréat, the Baccalauréat technologique or the Baccalauréat professionnel in three years; or for technical/vocational education in lycées professionnels preparing first for the Certificat d'Aptitude professionnelle (CAP) or the Brevet d'Etudes professionnelles (BEP) in two years and then, for those who want to continue, for the Baccalauréat professionnel in two more years.

System of Education: http://www.unesco.org/iau/onlinedatabases/systems_data/fr.rtf

Country

GERMANY

School Year April - March (summer July-Aug)



Compulsory Education:

Ages 6 - 10; Grades 1 - 10

Diploma Awarded

-Allgemeine Hochschulreife/Fachgebundene Hochschulreife
 -Mittlerer Schulabschluss (Realschulabschluss)
 /Hauptschulabschluss/Übergangsberechtigung in die Gymnasiale Oberstufe
 -Hauptschulabschluss, Mittlerer Schulabschluss, Vocational school-leaving certificate and professional certificate
 -Facharbeiterbrief/Kaufmannsgehilfenbrief/Gesellenbrief depending on professional sector)
 -Fachhochschulreife and vocational leaving certificate

Educational System

U.S. EQUIVALENT

Pre-school; ages 3-6	Pre-school; Kindergarten
Grundschule (4 years, 6 years in 2 Länder) Erste	1st
Zweite	2nd
Dritten	3rd
Viertes	4th
Hauptschule (5 or 6 years in most Länder) Sekundarstufe I - Fünftens	5th
Sechs	6th
Sieben	7th
Acht	8th
Sekundarstufe II, secondary level II - Neun	9th
Zehntes	10th
Elftes	11th
*Zwölf - Varied Diplomas	12th - Standard HS Diploma

Grading Scale

U.S. EQUIVALENT

(In the gymnasiale Oberstufe, marks equal = points: 1 = 13-15 points; 2 = 10-12 points; 3 = 7-9 points; 4 = 4-6 points; 5 = 1-3 points; 6 = 0 points. Highest on scale: 1)	1: sehr gut 13-15 2: gut 10-12 3: befriedigend 7-9 4: ausreichend 4-6 5: mangelhaft 1-3 6: ungenügend 0	A B B-/C+ C D F
Pass/Fail: 4/5 Lowest on scale: 6)	Passing is a C/65% with 4 or better	

Grading Remarks

* Due to the many types and names of schools please refer to http://www.unesco.org/iau/onlinedatabases/systems_data/de.rtf and www.eurydice.org for further explanation of different systems. Students are required to do oral and written work, practical work and receive course certificates (Scheine) needed to take the examination; this is the main performance assessment during the course.

Country Notes

Primary education (Grundschule) lasts for four years in most Länder except Berlin and Brandenburg where it lasts for six years. The secondary school system (grades 5/7 to 12/13) in the Länder is divided in educational paths (depending on the Land) with the respective leaving certificates and qualifications for which different school types and/or school careers are responsible. All types of vocational schools (grade 10/11 onwards) offer the opportunity to acquire general education certificates. There are general secondary education schools, special schools for the physically or mentally handicapped within the system of general and vocational education, and full- or part-time vocational schools (10th/11th grade on). Four main types of general secondary schools covering compulsory schooling exist: Hauptschule, Realschule, Gymnasium and Gesamtschule. Types and names of schools offering several courses of education at lower secondary level differ according to Länder. Secondary education is compulsory and tuition is free. Textbooks and other school material are either free or lent out. From grade 10, pupils may obtain grants if no other financial sources exist. System of Education: http://www.unesco.org/iau/onlinedatabases/systems_data/de.rtf

Country**GREECE****Diploma Awarded*****Apolytirio Lykeiou*****School Year** SEPTEMBER - JUNE***Level 3 Certificate*** (awarded after Vocational Secondary)

Compulsory Education:

AGES 6 -14; GRADES 1- 9

Educational System**U.S. EQUIVALENT**

Pre-schools (nipiagogeia) (ages 4-5)	Kindergarten
Primary - Dimotiko (age; 6 by Dec. 31st) - 1st	1st
2nd	2nd
3rd	3rd
4th	4th
5th	5th
6th	6th
Gymnasio Lower Secondary - 7th	7th
8th	8th
9th - Apolytirio Gymnasiou	9th
Lykeio Upper Secondary; Technika Epangelmatika Ekpedeftiria (TEE) Voc. Sec.-- 10th	10th
11th	11th
12th - Apolytirio Lykeiou; Level 3 Certificate	12th - Standard HS Diploma

Grading Scale**U.S. EQUIVALENT**

18-20	Excellent	A
14-17	Good	B
12-13	Fair	C
10-11	Poor	C-/D
0-9	Failure	F

Grading Remarks

--

Country Notes

Primary education lasts for six years. Pupils who have completed the six years of primary school enter the lower secondary school (gymnasium), which lasts three years and completes the nine-year compulsory education programme. At the upper secondary level, the lyceum offers both day-time programmes, lasting three years, and evening courses, which last four years. Until 1997, there were several types of lyceum: general, comprehensive, technical-vocational, classical, ecclesiastical (four-year course), music lyceums or lyceum sports department. After the 1997 reform, upper secondary education comprises: the unified lyceum, offering a three-year programme with three main streams (theoretical, science and technology) starting from the second year; and technical-vocational education schools (TEE), lasting two or three years. Secondary education is provided in both public and private schools and is divided into a compulsory first cycle (Gymnasio), from age 12 to 15, and an optional second cycle (Lykeio) from age 15 to 18. No entrance examinations are required in either case.

System of Education: http://www.unesco.org/iau/onlinedatabases/systems_data/gr.rtf

Country**GRENADA****Diploma Awarded**

Caribbean Examinations Council (CXC) examinations or the Cambridge General Certificate in Education, Ordinary Level examinations (GCE O-level)

School Year SEPTEMBER - AUGUST

Compulsory Education:

Ages 5 - 15; Attendance not enforced.

Educational System

U.S. EQUIVALENT

Pre-School (ages 3-5)/ Kindergarten (age 5)	Kindergarten
Grade I	1st
Grade II	2nd
Grade III	3rd
Grade IV	4th
Grade V	5th
Grade VI - Common Entrance Examination (CEE) to gain access to secondary school.	6th
Lower Secondary - Form I	7th
Form II	8th
Form III	9th
Upper Secondary - Form IV	10th
Form V - sit the Caribbean Examinations Council (CXC) examinations or the Cambridge General Certificate in Education, Ordinary Level examinations (GCE O-level).	11th - Standard HS Diploma
	-

Grading Scale

U.S. EQUIVALENT

70-100	A	A
50-69	B	B
40-49	C	C
30-39	D	D
20-29	E	F
0-19	F	F

Grading Remarks

Passing grade is 30 (D) or higher.

Country Notes

Secondary education consists of two cycles: the three-year lower cycle, or the second cycle of basic education, covering Forms I-III; and the two-year upper cycle (Forms IV and V). At the end of secondary education (general and technical), most students sit the Caribbean Examinations Council (CXC) examinations or the Cambridge General Certificate in Education, Ordinary Level examinations (GCE O-level). The School Leaving Certificate Examination (SLCE) is administered to students aged 14+ unsuccessful at the CEE, in order to give them an opportunity to access technical and vocational education training centres (two-year programmes) or to provide them with a certification for a profession. General Education Overview: <http://countrystudies.us/caribbean-islands/76.htm>

Country**GUATEMALA****Diploma Awarded****Bachillerato de Ciencias y Letras****School Year** JANUARY - NOVEMBER**Perito Comercial, Industrial, Agrícola, Técnico**

Compulsory Education:

Ages

Educational System**U.S. EQUIVALENT**

1st Level Inicial (ages 0-3); 2nd Level - Preprimaria (ages 4-6)	Pre-school; Kindergarten
3rd Level - Primaria - Ciclo de educación fundamental - 1st	1st
2nd	2nd
3rd	3rd
Ciclo de educación complementaria - 4th	4th
5th	5th
6th	6th
Básico - Primer Año	7th
2nd Año	8th
3rd Año - Diploma de Estudios	9th
Ciclo Diversificado; Technical Secondary School - 1st Año	10th
2nd Año	11th
3rd Año: Bachillerato de Ciencias y Letras	12th - Standard HS Diploma

Grading Scale**U.S. EQUIVALENT**

81-100	Sobresaliente	A
71-80	Muy Bueno	B
61-70	Bueno	C
51-60	Suficiente	D
0-50	Aplazado	F

Grading Remarks

Passing is 51 (D) or higher.

Country Notes

Primary education is compulsory and lasts for six years, divided in two cycles of three years each. A Certificate of Completion is awarded at the end. Secondary education also includes two cycles: the first or basic cycle lasts for three years and leads to diploma; the second, or ciclo diversificado, may last for two or three years according to the specialization. At the end pupils take the examinations for the Bachillerato de Ciencias y Letras (after two years). A three-year course at upper secondary level in technical education leads to the title of Perito comercial, industrial, agrícola or técnico or a teacher training qualification. The Bachillerato is a prerequisite for access to university education. Most universities

Education System: http://www.unesco.org/iau/onlinedatabases/systems_data/gt.rtf

Country**GUYANA****Diploma Awarded****Caribbean Advanced Proficiency Examination (CAPE); General Certificate of Education Advanced Level****School Year** SEPTEMBER - JULY

Compulsory Education:

Ages 5 - 15

Educational System**U.S. EQUIVALENT**

Level 1 & Level 2 Nursery (Pre-school) ages 3 years 6 mths- 5years 6 mths)	Pre-K; Kindergarten
Primary - 1st	1st
2nd	2nd
3rd	3rd
4th	4th
5th	5th
6th	6th
Community High School;General Secondary School/Community High School	7th
8th	8th
9th	9th
10th - Secondary School Proficiency Examination (SSPE) Part II	10th
11th - Caribbean Examinations Council Certificate (CXC)	11th - Standard HS Diploma
Senior Secondary School (2yrs) -(CAPE); General Certificate of Ed. Advanced Level	Preparatory

Grading Scale**U.S. EQUIVALENT**

A	Distinction	A
B	Good	B
C	Satisfactory	C
D	Minimal Pass	D
F	Fail	F

Grading Remarks

--

Country Notes

Primary education lasts for six years. Entry to secondary schools depends on the grades obtained in the Secondary School Entrance Examination, taken at the end of grade 6. Community High Schools prepare students for the Secondary School Proficiency Examination (SSPE) in four years. General and senior secondary schools prepare for the Caribbean Examinations Council Certificate (CXC) in five years. Senior secondary schools provide courses for a further two years leading to the Caribbean Advanced Proficiency Examination (CAPE) or the General Certificate of Education Advanced Level. Vocational education is available in the Industrial Arts, Home Economics and Agricultural Sciences. The Guyana Technical Education Examination is awarded.

Education System: http://www.unesco.org/iau/onlinedatabases/systems_data/gy.rtf

Country

HAITI (after Reform)

School Year **OCTOBER - MID-JULY**



Compulsory Education:

Ages 5 - 16; Grades K - 9

Diploma Awarded

Baccalauréat 2e partie ou Diplôme d'Enseignement secondaire.

Technical

Certificat de Fin d'Etudes Secondaires Classiques Première Partie (Grade 12); and 2EME PARTIE (Grade 13)

Certificat de Fin d'Etudes Secondaires Clasiques Deuxième Partie

Educational System

U.S. EQUIVALENT

Education Pre-scolaire/Pré-scol - ages 3-5	Kindergarten
1e AF Première Année Fondamentale	1st
2e AF Seconde Année Fondamentale	2nd
3e AF Troisième Année Fondamentale	3rd
4e AF Quatrième Année Fondamentale	4th
5e AF Cinquième Année Fondamentale	5th
6e AF Sixième AF - Certificat d'Etudes Primaires/CEP	6th
7e AF Septième AF - General or Technical Track	7th
8e AF Huitième Année Fondamentale	8th
9e AF Neuvième AF - diplôme de fin d'études fondamentales	9th
*1 ^é Année Seconde Classique (Academic track) or Seconde Technique (Technical)	10th
*2 ^é Année Rhetorique (Academic Track) / Première (Technical Track)	11th
*3 ^é Année Philosophie (Academic Track) / Terminale (Technical Track)	12th - Standard HS Diploma

Grading Scale

U.S. EQUIVALENT

Ten Point	20 Point	100 Point Scale		
8.75-10.00	19-20	90-100	Tres Bien/Excellent	A
7.50-8.74	17-18	80-89	Bien/Very Good	B
6.25-7.49	14-16	65-79	Assaz Bien/Good	C
5.00-6.24	11-12	50-64	Passable/Pass	D
0.00-4.99	0-10	0-49	Nul/Mal/Poor	F*
"admise en" = promoted to			"retenu" = retained (very very rare)	

Grading Remarks

*Failing grades underlined on report cards. **Formula** for figuring grade when NOT on a 10, 20 or 100 point scale: figure subject grade average for the year, then DIVIDE the average by the **SUR** or **MAXIMUM** (sometimes it is 30, 50, 200, 300 etc.). This will give you the grade equivalent using the HUNDRED point scale. **MOYENNE** = GPA (10 Point Grade Scale)

Country Notes

In the traditional system, primary education lasts for six years, in the reform system, it is replaced by fundamental education which lasts for nine years. Fundamental education is composed of three cycles of three years each. The first two cycles constitute primary (basic) education, and the third one corresponds to the first cycle of the traditional secondary level. At present, the educational reform has not yet been generalized and the traditional system still prevails. Based on the French system, secondary education lasts for seven years and is divided into two cycles (three and four years). The Baccalauréat 1e partie is a certificate awarded after succeeding in the state examination at the end of the third year of the second cycle. The Baccalauréat 2e partie, taken at the end of the fourth year, is a state diploma that marks the end of the secondary level. The new secondary system that should follow the nine years of fundamental education has not yet been introduced.

Education System: http://www.unesco.org/iau/onlinedatabases/systems_data/gy.rtf

Country

HAITI (Traditional)

School Year **OCTOBER - MID-JULY**



Compulsory Education:

Ages 6 - 16; Grades 1 - 9

Diploma Awarded

Baccalauréat 2e partie ou Diplôme d'Enseignement secondaire.

Technical

Certificat de Fin d'Etudes Secondaires Classiques Première Partie (Grade 12); and 2EME PARTIE (Grade 13)

Certificat de Fin d'Etudes Secondaires Clasiques Deuxième Partie

Educational System

U.S. EQUIVALENT

Education Pre-scolaire/Pré-scol - ages 3-5	Kindergarten
Douzième (12e) 6/7 yrs old Preparatoire I	1st
Onzième (11e) Preparatoire II	2nd
Dixième (10e) Elémentaire I	3rd
Nuevième (9e) Elémentaire II	4th
Huitième (8e) Moyen I	5th
Septième (7e) - Moyen II Certificat d'Etudes Primaires/CEP	6th
Sixième (6e) Secondaire	7th
Cinquième (5e) Secondaire	8th
Quatrième (4e) Secondaire	9th
Troisième (3e) Secondaire	10th
Seconde (2e) Secondaire	11th
Première (1e) Rhetorique and Philosophie Terminale	12th & 13th - Standard HS Diploma

Grading Scale

U.S. EQUIVALENT

Ten Point	20 Point	100 Point Scale		
8.75-10.00	19-20	90-100	Tres Bien/Excellent	A
7.50-8.74	17-18	80-89	Bien/Very Good	B
6.25-7.49	14-16	65-79	Assaz Bien/Good	C
5.00-6.24	11-12	50-64	Passable/Pass	D
0.00-4.99	0-10	0-49	Nul/Mal/Poor	F
"admise en" = promoted to			"retenu" = retained (very very rare)	

Grading Remarks

*Failing grades underlined on report cards. **Formula** for figuring grade when NOT on a 10, 20 or 100 point scale: figure subject grade average for the year, then DIVIDE the average by the **SUR** or **MAXIMUM** (sometimes it is 30, 50, 200, 300 etc). This will give you the grade equivalent using the HUNDRED point scale. **MOYENNE** = GPA (10 Point Grade Scale)

Country Notes

In the traditional system, primary education lasts for six years, in the reform system, it is replaced by fundamental education which lasts for nine years. Fundamental education is composed of three cycles of three years each. The first two cycles constitute primary (basic) education, and the third one corresponds to the first cycle of the traditional secondary level. At present, the educational reform has not yet been generalized and the traditional system still prevails. Based on the French system, secondary education lasts for seven years and is divided into two cycles (three and four years). The Baccalauréat 1e partie is a certificate awarded after succeeding in the state examination at the end of the third year of the second cycle. The Baccalauréat 2e partie, taken at the end of the fourth year, is a state diploma that marks the end of the secondary level. The new secondary system that should follow the nine years of fundamental education has not yet been introduced.

Education System: http://www.unesco.org/iau/onlinedatabases/systems_data/gy.rtf

Country**HONDURAS****Diploma Awarded*****Bachillerato en Ciencias y Letras, Administración de Empresas, Ciencias y Técnica etc...*****School Year** FEBRUARY - NOVEMBER

Compulsory Education:

Ages 6-12; Grades 1-6

Perito/Contador público/Bachiller Industrial/Bachiller Técnico**Educational System****U.S. EQUIVALENT**

Pre-escolar/Pre-school	Kindergarten
Primero - age of entry: 6	1st
Segundo	2nd
Tercero	3rd
Cuarto	4th
Quinta	5th
Sexto	6th
Ciclo Común de Cultura general - Séptimo	7th
Octavo	8th
Noveno	9th
Décimo - *Ciclo Diversificado (2 yrs) or *Technical Secondary School (3 yrs)	10th
Undécimo - Ciclo Diversificado Bachillerato	11th
Duodécimo - Technical Secondary Perito/Bachiller Industrial/ Técnico	12th - Standard HS Diploma

Grading Scale**U.S. EQUIVALENT**

91-100%	1	Sobresaliente/Outstanding	A
80-90%	2	Muy Bueno/Very Good	B
60-79%	3	Bueno/Good	C
40-59%	4	Aplazado/Fail	F
1-39%	5	Insuficiente/Insufficient	F
Passing is a grade of 60% or higher.			

Grading Remarks**Country Notes**

Primary education lasts for six years and is free and compulsory. Secondary education covers five years divided into a ciclo común/lower cycle or a ciclo común pre-vocacional and an *upper cycle of two years called ciclo diversificado. In the upper cycle, pupils may specialize in literary or scientific streams. On completion, they sit for the Bachillerato. *Technical secondary education at upper cycle level lasts for three years. Various specializations are available. Courses lead to the titles of Perito/Bachillerato in the various streams. There is also a distance education system.

Education System: http://www.unesco.org/iau/onlinedatabases/systems_data/hn.rtf

Country**HONG KONG** (Special Administrative Region)**Diploma Awarded****Hong Kong Certificate of Education Examination (HKCEE)** (at the end of fifth form)**School Year** September - July

Compulsory Education:

Ages 6-15; Grades 1 - 9

Hong Kong Advanced Level Examination (HKALE)

- requirement for entrance to post-secondary studies (taken at the end of 2 years of sixth form)

Educational System

U.S. EQUIVALENT

Pre-Elementary (ages 3-5)	Kindergarten
Elementary - 1st (enter at 6 yrs old)	1st
2nd	2nd
3rd	3rd
4th	4th
5th	5th
6th	6th
Lower Secondary - Form 1	7th
Form 2	8th
Form 3	9th
Form 4	10th
Form 5 - HKCEE	11th
Form 6 (2 years) - HKALE	12th & 13th - Standard HS Diploma

Grading Scale

U.S. EQUIVALENT

System 1	System 2	System 3	
Pass w/ Distinction	A	75-100%	A
Pass with Credit	B,C	65-74%	B
Pass	D,E	50-64%	C
Fail	F,G,H	*40-49%	F
System 4		System 5	
A=A; B=B; C=C; D=D; *E; F=F		1=A; 2=B; 3=C; 4=D; *5; 6=F	
			*Pass/Fail, depends on school

Grading Remarks

Students are continuously assessed through coursework (assignments and projects), as well as both written and oral examinations. At the end of the fifth form at the secondary cycle, students must take the Hong Kong Certificate of Education Examination (HKCEE), which will give the student access to those students wishing to pursue higher education, they will continue into Sixth form. Upon completion, a second national exam, the Hong Kong Advanced Level Examination (HKALE) is then written.

Country Notes

Some schools still use the British system of six years of primary school, five years of secondary Form IV. After the high school diploma is awarded, students may opt for Form VI in preparation for the university entrance examination. One other grading scale:

First Class Honours = A

Second Class Honours, Upper Division = A

Second Class Honours, Lower Division = B+

Third Class Honours = B

Pass = C

Education System: <http://www.iiehongkong.org/hked/hkeducation.htm>

Country**HUNGARY****Diploma Awarded****Érettségi Bizonyítvány/Secondary School Leaving Certificate****School Year** September - June**Lower Level Vocational Qualification**

Compulsory Education:

Ages 6-18; Grades 1- 12

Educational System**U.S. EQUIVALENT**

Pre-school	Kindergarten
Általános iskola (Elementary School - age 6) - egy	1st
kettő	2nd
három	3rd
négyes	4th
öt	5th
hat	6th
hét	7th
nyolc	8th
Gimnázium Programme 1 (Four-Year (Regular) - kilenc	9th
tíz	10th
tizenegy	11th
tizenkettőÉ - rettségi Bizonyítvány/Secondary School Leaving Certificate	12th - Standard HS Diploma

Grading Scale**U.S. EQUIVALENT**

5	Jeles (Excellent)	A
4	Jó (Good)	B
3	Közepes (Average)	C
2	Elégséges (Pass)	C
1	Elégtelen (Fail)	F

Grading Remarks

Academic Secondary - Gimnázium Programme 2 (bilingual education)
Academic Secondary - Gimnázium Programme 3
Academic Secondary - Gimnázium Programme 4
Vocational Secondary - Szakközépiskola (Vocational Secondary School)
Vocational - Szakiskola (Vocational School)

Country Notes

Basic education lasts for eight years divided into two stages of four years each. Secondary education is provided in academic secondary schools (gimnázium) or vocational secondary schools (szakközépiskola). Schools often offer more than one programme (e.g. academic and vocational, academic four- or six-year courses). The typical institutions offering general education and a Secondary School Leaving Certificate are known as academic secondary schools (gimnázium) and may be attended for four, five (e.g. bilingual secondary schools), six or eight years. Secondary vocational schools (szakközépiskola) and vocational schools (szakiskola) train in the fields of humanities, technical, agricultural sciences and services. Secondary vocational schools (szakközépiskola) provide general education in the first four years and award the Secondary School Leaving Certificates. Vocational education generally begins after the fourth year, although some introductory vocational subjects may also be taught during the first four years. The length of vocational courses may vary from one to three years up to vocational programmes. Vocational schools (szakiskola) do not award secondary school leaving certificates and the level of the vocational qualification is lower than that in the vocational secondary schools (szakközépiskola).

System of Education: http://www.unesco.org/iau/onlinedatabases/systems_data/hu.rtf

Country

INDIA

School Year July - April



Compulsory Education:

Ages 6 - 14; Grades 1 - 8

Diploma Awarded

At the conclusion of the lower-secondary cycle (Standard X), students take an external examination which results in the award of the **Secondary School Certificate (SSC)**, the All-India Secondary School Certificate or the Indian Certificate of Secondary Education.

Higher Secondary Certificate (HSC), needed for entrance to college/university.

Educational System

U.S. EQUIVALENT

Pre-school	Kindergarten
Lower Secondary (age 6) - Standard I	1st
Standard II	2nd
Standard III	3rd
Standard IV	4th
Standard V	5th
Higher Elementary - Standard VI	6th
Standard VII	7th
Standard VIII	8th
Secondary Education - Standard IX	9th
Standard X - Secondary School Certificate (not college bound)	10th
for Higher Studies - Standard XI	11th
Standard XII - Higher Secondary Certificate	12th - Standard HS Diploma

Grading Scale

U.S. EQUIVALENT

A	75 - 100	A
B	60 - 74	A
C	53 - 59	B+
D	45 - 52	B
E	33 - 44	C
F	15 - 32	F
G	0 - 14	F

Grading Remarks

60 - 100 I (First Division or Class) = A/A+; 45 - 59 II (Second Division or Class) = B/B+;
30 - 44 III (Third or Pass Division or Class) = C/C+; 0 - 29 - = F

Examinations are set by the school or by Municipal Boards and are usually held at the end of each term and each school year.

Country Notes

The common education structure at the school level follows the pattern of '10 + 2'; ten years of basic education, followed by two years of upper secondary school. Classes and grade levels have different names depending on the state in which instruction takes place. Terminology for school leaving examinations can be confusing as it also varies.

The basic structure for schooling is comprised of eight years of elementary education; five years of lower elementary (Standards I to V), three years of higher elementary (Standards VI to VIII). This is followed by two years of secondary education (Standards IX and X). At the end of ten years of schooling a Secondary School Certificate is awarded upon passing the examinations set by the relevant State or Central Board of Secondary Education. Students who wish to continue for higher studies must complete a two-year higher secondary programme (Standards XI and XII), choosing science, humanities or vocational streams, which culminates in the Higher Secondary Certificate or Standard XII examination certificate. This certificate is the minimum requirement for admission to degree programs at Indian universities. It should be noted that a variety of names exist for the final examinations of this level of education.

System of Education: http://www.unesco.org/iau/onlinedatabases/systems_data/in.rtf

Country**INDONESIA****Diploma Awarded**

Surat Tanda Tamat Belajar Sekolah Menengah Unum (Certificate of completion of upper secondary school)

School Year JULY - JUNE

Compulsory Education:

Ages 7 - 15; Grades 1 - 9

Educational System**U.S. EQUIVALENT**

-	Kindergarten
1st (age 7)	1st
2nd	2nd
3rd	3rd
4th	4th
5th	5th
6th	6th
Junior Secondary School - 7th	7th
8th	8th
9th	9th
General Or Vocational Senior Secondary School - 10th	10th
11th	11th
12th - <i>Surat Tanda Tamat Belajar Sekolah Menengah Unum</i>	12th - Standard HS Diploma

Grading Scale**U.S. EQUIVALENT**

10	Excellent	A+
9	Very Good	A
8	Good	B+
7	Above Average	B
6	Average	C
5	Below Average	D
4 -1	Fail	F

Grading Remarks

--

Country Notes

Basic education in Indonesia consists of 9 years of compulsory education. Primary education lasts for six years. Secondary education is divided into junior (Sekolah Menengah Tingkat Pertama -SMTP), senior (Sekolah Menengah Tingkat Atas -SMTA) and vocational/technical education. Junior secondary school covers three years and is part of the basic general education programme also covering the six years of primary education. Senior secondary school also covers three years. There are several types of secondary schools: general, islamic and vocational. Sekolah Menengah Atas is divided into three sessions. In the third year of senior secondary school, students choose between Natural Sciences, Social Sciences and Languages (Bahasa). Graduates of the senior secondary schools obtain the Sekolah Menengah Atas which is a prerequisite for access to higher education (together with an entrance exam).

System of Education: http://www.unesco.org/iau/onlinedatabases/systems_data/id.rtf

Country

IRAN

Diploma Awarded

High School Diploma (**Diplom-Metevaseteh**)

Post-Diploma Degree (Technician)

Pre-University Certificate

School Year SEPTEMBER - JUNE



Compulsory Education:

Ages 6 - 14; Grades 1 - 8

Educational System

U.S. EQUIVALENT

non-compulsory pre-elementary (age 5)	Kindergarten
Dabestan - 1st	1st
2nd	2nd
3rd	3rd
4th	4th
5th - Certificate of Completed Primary Education	5th
dawra'i-rahnama'ii tahsili (guidance cycle) - 6th	6th
7th	7th
8th*	8th
Intermediate Cycle (dabirestan) - 9th	9th
10th	10th
11th - Diplom-Metevaseth (Secondary School Leaving Certificate)	11th - Standard HS Diploma
Pre-University (yr) - National University Entrance Examination.	Preparatory School

Grading Scale

U.S. EQUIVALENT

16 - 20	A	A
14 - 15	B	B
12 - 13	C	C
10 - 11	D	D
0 - 9	F**	F
	**May be considered passing in individual subject.	

Grading Remarks

*Upon completion of the guidance cycle a regional examination is given by provincial education authorities to determine if the student can be promoted to the next level of education. Students who successfully pass the examination are awarded a Certificate of General Education. Eligibility for admission to academic or vocational/technical upper secondary education is determined by the grades received in relevant subjects on the examination. Grading is based on a 0 to 20 scale with 7 as the lowest passing grade in individual subjects except Farsi, in which a 10 is required. An average grade of 10 is required for the year in order to be promoted. Students who fail must repeat the year.

Country Notes

Primary education lasts for five years leading to the Certificate of Completed Primary Education. Secondary education (Reform system) covers three years of lower secondary and upper secondary and a one-year pre-university programme. Secondary education comprises three branches: theoretical, technical-vocational and skill-knowledge (kar-Danesh). Each are divided into different fields. The required total number of credits leading to the High School Diploma is 96. The courses offered in the first year are common and after successfully completing the first year, based on aptitude, interest and the grades obtained in guidance school, students can continue their studies. The one-year pre-university programme prepares students to enter university and higher education institutions. To enter this course, students should pass the appropriate exam. After successfully passing the one-year period, they are granted the Pre-University Certificate and can sit for the National Entrance Exam of universities and higher education institutions (Concour). Qualified students entering the technical-vocational branch can continue studies leading to the Post-Diploma degree (technician) or sit for the Pre-University Examination. Those who wish to acquire skills before completing secondary education can enter the skill-knowledge branch and obtain first or second class Skill Certificate or sit for the Pre-University Examination as well. System of Education: http://www.unesco.org/iau/onlinedatabases/systems_data/ir.

Country**IRAQ****Diploma Awarded****Sixth Form Baccalaureat (Adadiyah) or Certificate of Preparatory Studies****School Year** SEPTEMBER - JUNE**Vocational Baccalaureat (awarded after Vocational Secondary)**

Compulsory Education:

Ages 5 - 11; Grades 1-5

Educational System**U.S. EQUIVALENT**

Pre-School - 2 years (ages 4-5)	Pre-School/Kindergarten
I	1st
II	2nd
III	3rd
IV	4th
V	5th
VI - : Primary Baccalauréat or Certificate of Primary Studies	6th
Intermediate Secondary School - Form I	7th
Form II	8th
Form III - Intermediate or Vocational Secondary School	9th
Preparatory Secondary School - Form IV	10th
Form V	11th
Form VI/ Vocational Baccalaureat (Adadiyah)Certificate of Preparatory Studies	12th - Standard HS Diploma

Grading Scale**U.S. EQUIVALENT**

90 - 100%	Excellent	A
80 - 89	Very Good	B
70 - 79	Good	C
50 - 59	Average	D
0 - 49	Fail	F

Grading Remarks

Note: the final intermediate stage examination is graded on a percentage scale. The student is required to obtain at least 50 percent to pass in a subject.

50 - 100 Passing = Pass
0 -49 Failing = Fail

Country Notes

Pre-school education in Iraq is of two-years duration and is open to children 4 years old. Primary education is six years in duration and is compulsory through age 11. Secondary education is six years in duration and completed in two stages: Intermediate and Preparatory. Intermediate education lasts three years for students aged 12 to 14 years. Preparatory education also lasts for three years and is designed to prepare students for the labour market or university study. It is divided into two branches (scientific and literary) beginning with the second year of preparatory education, during which students pursue academic studies in the sciences or humanities. In addition, there is also a six or three-year (depending on the point of entry) vocational preparatory stream of education, which covers industrial, agricultural and commercial branches. Vocational preparatory education is designed to prepare students for work in the professions or for university study.

System of Education: http://www.unesco.org/iau/onlinedatabases/systems_data/iq.rtf

Country**IRELAND****Diploma Awarded****Leaving Certificate Vocational Programme (LCVP)****Leaving Certificate (Ardeistiméireacht)****Leaving Certificate Applied (awarded after Vocational Secondary School)****School Year** SEPTEMBER - JUNE

Compulsory Education:

Ages 4 - 16; Grades Pre-K - 11

Educational System

U.S. EQUIVALENT

Pre-K & Kindergarten - Compulsory, lasts 2 years (ages 4-5)	Pre-K & Kindergarten
3rd	1st
4th	2nd
5th	3rd
6th	4th
7th	5th
8th	6th
Junior Secondary School (3-4 yrs.) - 1st Year	7th
2nd Year	8th
3rd Year- (Possible *4th year) Junior Certificate (Teastas Sóisearach)	9th
Senior/Vocational Secondary School - 1st Year	10th
2nd Year - Leaving Certificate Vocational Programme (LCVP)	11th
*(If in 4-year junior secondary cycle will graduate here)	12th - Standard HS Diploma

Grading Scale

U.S. EQUIVALENT

85 - 100%	A1-A2	A
70 - 84%	B1-B3	B
55 - 69%	C1-C3	C
40 - 54%	D1-D3	D
25 - 39%	E	D
10 - 24%	F	F
0 - 9%	No grade	F

Grading Remarks**Country Notes**

Primary education lasts for eight years. Secondary school lasts for five to six years. It is divided into a three- to *four-year junior secondary cycle, followed by a two-year senior secondary school cycle leading to the award of the Leaving Certificate. Vocational secondary schools offer two-year courses leading to the Leaving Certificate Vocational Programme and the Leaving Certificate Applied.

System of Education: http://www.unesco.org/iau/onlinedatabases/systems_data/ie.rtf

Country**ISRAEL****Diploma Awarded****Bagrut****Teudat Bagrut****School Year** SEPTEMBER - JUNE

Compulsory Education:

Ages 5 - 18; Grades

Educational System**U.S. EQUIVALENT**

Kindergarten (age 5)	Kindergarten
Primary - 1st	1st
2nd	2nd
3rd	3rd
4th	4th
5th	5th
6th	6th
Lower Secondary - 7th	7th
8th	8th
9th	9th
Upper Secondary - 10th	10th
11th	11th
12th - Bagrut	12th - Standard HS Diploma

Grading Scale**U.S. EQUIVALENT**

10	90-100%	A+
9	85-94%	B+/A
8	75-84%	B
7	65-74%	C+
6	55-64%	C
5	45-54%	D
0-4	0-44%	F

Grading Remarks

Hebrew Language/Numbers; <http://www.101languages.net/hebrew/numbers.html>
 : 10-0 or 100-0; student in Bagrut may be examined at different levels: 1, 2, 3 is lower level; 4-5 advanced level.
 Highest on scale: 10 or 100
 Pass/fail level: 5 or 50
 Lowest on scale: 0

Country Notes

Primary education lasts for six years. Secondary education covers six years divided into lower secondary (three years) and upper secondary (three years). Schools are classified according to one of three tracks: general (academic, theoretical), technological/vocational and agricultural. Students attend classes for 32-36 hours a week and may study up to 15 subjects at a time. One instructional unit is defined as approximately 90 fifty-minute instruction hours over a three-year period. On completion of Grade 12, students may sit for Bagrut exams. Requirements for the current Bagrut Certificate are 20 units in a range of 20-25 units and a minimum of 15 in compulsory subjects: Bible (2); Civics (1); English Language (3); Hebrew Grammar (1); Hebrew Composition (1); Hebrew Literature (2); and Maths (3). Additional subject (1). At least one subject exam must be taken for 5 units. A grade of at least 6 must be achieved in all major subjects. For access to universities, students must also pass the Psychometric Entrance Test (PET).

System of Education: http://www.unesco.org/iau/onlinedatabases/systems_data/il.rtf

Country

ITALY

School Year **SEPTEMBER - JUNE**



Compulsory Education:

Ages 6 - 15; Grades 1 - 9

Diploma Awarded

-Maturità Tecnica / Diploma di Esame di Stato conclusivo del Corso di/per
 -Diploma di Maturità / Diploma di Esame di Stato conclusivo del Corso di
 Liceo Classico/Liceo Scientifico
 -Diploma magistrale ad indirizzo "scienze sociali" or "socio-psico-pedagogico"
 / Diploma di Esame di Stato conclusivo del Corso di/per... (name of the option
 within the Istituto Secondario concerned) -
 -Maturità Artistica / Diploma di Esame di Stato conclusivo del Corso di/per..
 -Diploma di Qualifica (name of the option within the Istituto Professionale)
 -Diploma di Maturità Professionale di/per... / Diploma di Esame di Stato
 conclusivo dei Corsi di Istruzione Professionale di/per...

Educational System

U.S. EQUIVALENT

Pre-school (ages 3-5)	Kindergarten
Scuola Elementare - Uno	1st
Due	2nd
Tre	3rd
Quattro	4th
Cinque - Diploma di Licenza della Scuola	5th
ElementareScuola Media Inferiore - Sei	6th
Sette	7th
Otto - : Diploma di Licenza della Scuola Media Inferiore	8th
*Istituto/Liceo/Magistrale Nove	9th
Dieci	10th
Undici - Diploma di Qualifica (vocational school ONLY)	11th - HS Diploma or
Dodici -Maturità Artistica / Diploma (age 18)orTredici (13th)- Diplomas awarded (age 19)	12th + HS Diploma (depends on option)

Grading Scale

U.S. EQUIVALENT

10	95%	A+
9	90%	A
8	85%	B
7	80%	C
6	75%	D
0-5	50-55%	F
0	0-49%	F

Grading Remarks

Please note: extremely unique UNIVERSITY Grading Scale
 Scale U.S. Grade Equiv.
 29-30 = A; 25-28 =B; 21-24 =C; 18-20 = D

Country Notes

Elementary education lasts for five years and leads to the Diploma di Licenza della Scuola Elementare. *Secondary education covers eight years, divided into three years' lower secondary, followed by five years' upper secondary education. The upper secondary courses consist of classical, scientific, artistic, technical, vocational and teacher training options. Classical secondary school/Liceo Classico lasts for five years, with emphasis on the Humanities, but with scientific subjects in the second cycle. Scientific secondary school/Liceo Scientifico also lasts for five years, but provides more specialized preparation in scientific subjects. The Liceo Linguistico focuses on the study of foreign languages together with the corresponding literature and civilization. The technical upper secondary programmes are offered by the Istituti Tecnici and last for five years. Vocational secondary education is provided by the Istituto Professionale, Liceo Artistico, and Istituto di Arte. All these programmes used to lead to different types of Diploma di Maturità (Maturità Classica, Scientifica, Linguistica, Artistica, Magistrale, Tecnica, etc). A Maturità was the minimum admission requirement to university studies, as well as to most programmes at non-university institutions of higher education. Since 1998-1999 the school leaving qualification is the Diploma di Esame di Stato conclusivo del corso di.....The options are the same as those listed for the Maturità. System of Education: http://www.unesco.org/iau/onlinedatabases/systems_data/it.rtf

Country**IVORY COAST****Diploma Awarded****Baccalaureate Degree****School Year** SEPTEMBER - JUNE

Compulsory Education:

Ages 7 - 12; Grades 1 - 6

Educational System**U.S. EQUIVALENT**

Pre-School	Kindergarten
Primary/Elementary - 1st	1st
2nd	2nd
3rd	3rd
4th	4th
5th	5th
6th - CEPE exam	6th
Intermediate/Secondary - 7th	7th
8th	8th
9th	9th
10th - BEPC EXAM to determine further study in the Lycee or "college" (2-3 yrs)	10th
11th	11th
12th - Baccalalaureate	12th - Standard HS Diploma

Grading Scale**U.S. EQUIVALENT**

*17 - 20	*14 - 20	A
14 - 16	12 - 13	B
12 - 13	10 - 11	C
10 - 11	9	D
9	0 - 8	F

Grading Remarks

*Check the legends; in some schools 9 is passing while in others it is failing.

Country Notes

Country

JAMAICA

School Year SEPTEMBER - AUGUST



Compulsory Education:

Ages 3yrs8mos - 16

Diploma Awarded

- on completing XI - Caribbean Secondary Education Certificate (**CSEC**), Secondary School Certificate (**SSC**), **GCE '0' Level**, National Vocational Qualification of Jamaica (**NVQJ**)

- **GCE 'A' Level**, Caribbean Advanced Proficiency Examination (**CAPE**) Certificate

Educational System

U.S. EQUIVALENT

Preprimary (age 3yrs8m-5y;length 2 years)	Pre-K; Kindergarten
Primary School, All Age, Primary & Junior High, Independent Preparatory - I	1st
II	2nd
III	3rd
IV	4th
V	5th
VI - Grade Six Achievement Test (GSAT)	6th
(First Cycle) Grade 7-9 of All Age, Primary & Junior High, Secondary High VII	7th
VIII	8th
IX	9th
(Second Cycle Secondary) Secondary High, Technical and Vocational High X	10th
XI - Caribbean Secondary Education Certificate (CSEC), Secondary School	11th
(College bound continue for 2 years) - * Sixth Form - GCE 'A' Level, (CAPE)	12th & 13th - Standard HS Diploma

Grading Scale

U.S. EQUIVALENT

			10	A+
1	80-100	A	8.0 - 9.9	A
2	70-79	B	6.9 - 7.9	B
3	60-69	C	5.0 - 5.9	C
4	50-59	D	4.0 - 4.9	D
5/6	0-49	E/F	1 - 3.9	F
<i>Many different grading scales are used;</i>			<i>always check the report card legend</i>	<i>or contact school.</i>

Grading Remarks

The Jamaican education system consists of four levels (Early Childhood, Primary, Secondary and Tertiary) that each student must pass through before accessing higher education. The transition from early Childhood to Primary Education is automatic. Primary education covers six years from age 6 and is offered in Primary, and grades 1-6 of All-Age and Primary and Junior High Schools and also in grades 1-6 of private preparatory schools. In the 1998/99 school year, the National Assessment Programme (NAP) was introduced. NAP is a programme which monitors the progress of students from Grade 1 through Grade 6 culminating with all Grade 6 students sitting the Grade Six Achievement Test (GSAT). The GSAT is used to place students in Secondary level schools.

Country Notes

The secondary school system consists of two cycles. The first cycle is provided in grades 7-9 at All-Age, Primary and Junior High, Technical High and Independent High Schools. The second cycle is provided in grades 10 and 11 of these schools (with the exception of All-Age and Junior High Schools) and in the Agricultural, Technical and Vocational Schools. Secondary education covers five years (grades 7-11) with an additional two years *(grades 12-13) for those wishing to proceed to higher education. . At grade 9 in the Primary and Junior High schools, students sit the Junior High School Certificate of Education (JHSCE) (the GNAT in All Age schools) in order to access the Secondary and Technical High schools. Secondary high schools provide a maximum of seven years of education with access to them being through the GSAT, GNAT and the JHSCE. After five years or at grade 11, students sit the CSET exams as well as the GCE "O" level. Those students attending Technical and Vocational High schools have the choice of sitting the National Vocational Qualification of Jamaica (NVQJ). Secondary education ends at grade 11 in some of these schools while others continue to grade 13 where students sit the GCE "A" level and CAPE in order to matriculate in university and other tertiary institutions

Education System: http://www.unesco.org/iau/onlinedatabases/systems_data/jm.rtf

Country**JAPAN****Diploma Awarded****Kotogakko Sotsugyo Shomeisho** (Upper Secondary School Leaving Certificate)**School Year** APRIL - MARCH

Compulsory Education:

Ages 6-15; Grades 1 - 9

Educational System**U.S. EQUIVALENT**

Pre-elementary (ages 3-6)	Pre-school, Kindergarten
I	1st
II	2nd
III	3rd
IV	4th
V	5th
VI - *Shoggako Sotsugyo Shosho (Elementary School Leaving Certificate)	6th
: Lower Secondary Schools - I	7th
II	8th
III Chugakko Sotsugyo Shomeisho(Lower Secondary School Leaving Cert)*	9th
Upper/Vocational Secondary (3-4 years depending on institution) - I	10th
II	11th
III - Kotogakko Sotsugyo Shomeisho (Upper Secondary School Leaving Cert)	12th - Standard HS Diploma

Grading Scale**U.S. EQUIVALENT**

80 - 100	5	A
70 - 79	4	B
60 - 69	3	C
-	2	D
0 - 59	1	F

Grading Remarks

*the requirement for entrance to the lower secondary level.

*Students wishing to proceed to the upper secondary level generally take a secondary school entrance examination, as admission to the upper secondary level is not guaranteed and is quite competitive.

Country Notes

Primary education lasts for six years and leads to a Leaving Certificate which gives access to lower secondary education. Secondary education (national and private) includes: Lower secondary education, three years, and upper secondary education, three years. Entrance to public lower secondary schools is by allocation of the local education board, but entrance to private or national schools is by examination. A number of private schools offer six years of continuous education, covering the lower secondary and higher secondary cycles. This six-year "all through" secondary education is to become the standard. In the second and third year of lower secondary schools, attendance at JUKU (private examination preparation schools) is common. There are three types of upper secondary school courses: full-time, part-time and correspondence all leading to the Kotogakko Sotsugyo Shomeisho (Upper Secondary School Leaving Certificate). They offer general, academic and vocational streams and, since 1988, a "credit-system" type of upper secondary schools. Entrance to upper secondary schools is by examination or selection. Vocational secondary schools offer courses in Engineering, Agriculture and Commerce also leading to the Upper Secondary School Leaving Certificate. System of Education: http://www.unesco.org/iau/onlinedatabases/systems_data/ip.rtf

Country**KENYA****Diploma Awarded****Kenya Certificate of Secondary Education (KCSE)****School Year** SEPTEMBER - JUNE

Compulsory Education:

Ages 6-14 ; Grades 1 - 8

Educational System**U.S. EQUIVALENT**

ECCD (0-3); Pre-Primary (4-6)	Nursery; Pre-K; Kindergarten
Standard I	1st
Standard II	2nd
Standard III	3rd
Standard IV	4th
Standard V	5th
Standard VI	6th
Standard VII	7th
VIII - Kenya Certificate of Primary Education (KCPE)	8th
Standard IX	9th
Standard X	10th
Standard XI	11th
Standard XII - Kenya Certificate of Secondary Education (KCSE)	12th - Standard HS Diploma

Grading Scale**U.S. EQUIVALENT**

A, A-	distinction/very good	A
B+, B, B-	credit/good	B
C+, C, C-	average	C
D+, D, D-	fair	D
E	poor	F

Grading Remarks**Country Notes**

A new system of education, known as the 8-4-4 system, was introduced in 1985. Under this system, eight years of primary schooling (leading to the Kenya Certificate of Primary Education) are followed by four years of secondary schooling (leading to the Kenya Certificate of Secondary Education (KCSE)) and four years of first degree studies at university. This scheme replaces one which was based on the English pattern culminating in A levels and a three-year first degree course. The introduction of the 8-4-4 education system has led to tremendous changes in the secondary school curriculum. This is in line with the need for a broad-based curriculum that prepares students for self-reliance, vocational training and further education. In 1990, the first KCSE students entered university to begin four years of study for a general degree. The KCSE is administered by the Kenya National Examinations Council.

System of Education: http://www.unesco.org/iau/onlinedatabases/systems_data/ke.rtf

Country

KOREA (REPUBLIC OF)

School Year MARCH - FEBRUARY



Compulsory Education:

Ages 6 - 15; Grades

Diploma Awarded

Students who successfully complete the general senior programme are awarded the **Immumgye Kodung Hakkyo Choeupchang** (Academic High School Certificate). Those who wish to apply for university admission must sit for the Academic Aptitude Test.

Students who successfully complete vocational secondary school are awarded the **Silopgye Kodung Hakkyo Choeupchung** (Vocational Senior High School Certificate).

Educational System

U.S. EQUIVALENT

-	Kindergarten
1st	1st
2nd	2nd
3rd	3rd
4th	4th
5th	5th
6th	6th
Lower Secondary/Middle School - 7th	7th
8th	8th
9th - Chung Hakkyo Chorupchung (Lower Secondary School Diploma).	9th
Academic (General) High School/: Special Purpose/Vocational - 10th	10th
11th	11th
12th - Immumgye Kodung Hakkyo Choeupchang (Academic High School Certificate)	12th - Standard HS Diploma

Grading Scale

U.S. EQUIVALENT

90-100	9-10	A
80-89	7-8	B
70-79	5-6	C
60-69	3.5-4	D
0-59	0-3	F

Grading Remarks

Elementary education is free and compulsory. Once children enter elementary school, they automatically advance to the next year grade each year. The elementary school curriculum is set nationally, but has been subjected to frequent changes.

Country Notes

Korea has a 6-3-3 system. Primary education lasts for six years. Middle school lasts for three years. On successful completion of the course students receive a Diploma. Schooling years for High school is three years. It is not compulsory and is provided in three different types of high schools: academic (general); vocational; and special purpose high schools. In academic high schools, during the final two years, students may choose to specialize in Humanities or Sciences. Studies are organized according to the credit system (204-216 units for graduation). Vocational high schools are divided into several categories, offering students at least 82 units (around 40 per cent is required for graduation) of specialized subjects, as well as general academic subjects, which should occupy another 40 per cent of the whole curriculum.

System of Education: http://www.unesco.org/iau/onlinedatabases/systems_data/kr.rtf

Country**KUWAIT****Diploma Awarded****Shahadat Al-Thanawiya-Al-A'ama****School Year** SEPTEMBER - MAY**Secondary School Certificate**

Compulsory Education:

Ages 6 - 14; Grades 1 - 8

Educational System**U.S. EQUIVALENT**

-	Kindergarten
1st (age 6)	1st
2nd	2nd
3rd	3rd
4th	4th
Intermediate School - 5th	5th
6th	6th
7th	7th
8th - : Intermediate School Certificate	8th
General Secondary - 9th	9th
10th	10th
11th	11th
12th - : Shahadat Al-Thanawiya-Al-A'ama	12th - Standard HS Diploma

Grading Scale**U.S. EQUIVALENT**

90 - 100%	Excellent	A
80 - 89%	Very Good	B
70 - 79%	Good	C
60 - 69%	Pass	D
0 - 59%	Fail	F

Grading Remarks

Highest on scale: A=90-100%=Excellent
 Pass/fail level: D=60-69%=Pass
 Lowest on scale: F=0-59%=Fail

Country Notes

Primary education lasts for four years. Secondary education is not compulsory. It consists in a four-year cycle comprising grades nine through twelve. For grades nine and ten, students follow a common curriculum. For grades eleven and twelve, they may choose Science or Arts specialization. Religious and Special Education secondary specialization are also offered. The Ministry of Education supervises all aspects of secondary education, both public and private, for general and Islamic education.

System of Education: http://www.unesco.org/iau/onlinedatabases/systems_data/kw.rtf

Country**KYRGYSTAN****Diploma Awarded****Attestat o Srednem Obrazovanii****School Year** SEPTEMBER - JULY

Compulsory Education:

Ages 6 - 15; Grades 1 - 9

Educational System**U.S. EQUIVALENT**

Pre-school	Kindergarten
Primary School - 1st	1st
2nd	2nd
3rd	3rd
4th	4th
Basic Secondary - 5th	5th
6th	6th
7th	7th
8th	9th
9th	9th
Complete Secondary (2 yrs)/Vocational (3 yrs) - 10th	10th
11th - Attestat o Srednem Obrazovanii	11th
3rd (last) year of vocational school	12th - Standard HS Diploma

Grading Scale**U.S. EQUIVALENT**

5	Excellent	A
4	Good	B
3	Satisfactory	C
2	Unsatisfactory	D
1	Fail	F

Grading Remarks

--

Country Notes

Primary education lasts for three or four years and is compulsory. Secondary education is divided into five years of basic secondary (Grades V-IX) and two years of complete secondary (Grades X-XI) which lead to the award of the Attestat o Srednem Obrazovanii giving access to higher education. At the end of basic secondary education, students sit the State examinations in five subjects. There is an entrance examination to enter universities. Professional schools (technical and boarding schools) admit students with the certificate of basic secondary and complete general secondary education. Training of qualified workers is offered in more than 210 trades. The duration of courses is three years for basic secondary school graduates and one year and a half for students with complete secondary education. Vocational secondary training is for students who want to obtain a specific specialization. The system includes teacher training establishments, medical colleges and technikums and its main task is the preparation of mid-level specialists.

System of Education: http://www.unesco.org/iau/onlinedatabases/systems_data/kg.rtf

Country**LAOS** (PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC)**Diploma Awarded****Upper Secondary School Diploma****School Year** SEPTEMBER - JULY**Baccalauréat**

Compulsory Education:

Ages 6 - 11; Grades 1 - 5

Educational System**U.S. EQUIVALENT**

Pre-school	Kindergarten
1st	1st
2nd	2nd
3rd	3rd
4th	4th
5th - Primary School Certificate	5th
Lower Secondary School - 6th	6th
7th	7th
8th - Lower Secondary School Diploma	8th
Upper Secondary - 9th	9th
10th	10th
11th - Upper Secondary School Diploma	11th - Standard HS Diploma
Technical/Higher Technical (length 3 yrs; ages 17-20) - Diploma	Associates Degree

Grading Scale**U.S. EQUIVALENT**

10	A
9	B
8	B
7	C
6	D
below 5	F

Grading Remarks

--

Country Notes

Primary education lasts for five years. Secondary education is divided into three-year lower secondary school and three-year upper secondary school. At the end of lower secondary school, pupils sit for the Lower Secondary School Diploma and at the end of upper secondary school they sit for the Upper Secondary School Diploma. There is an entrance examination for the non-quota system.

System of Education: http://www.unesco.org/iau/onlinedatabases/systems_data/la.rtf

Country**LATVIA****Diploma Awarded***Apliecība par profesionālo pamatizglītību* (Certificate of basic vocational education)*Atestāts par Vispārējo Vidējo Izglītību* (Certificate of General Secondary Education)*Diploms par profesionālo vidējo izglītību* (Diploma of Secondary Vocational Education)*Atestāts par Arodizglītību* (Certificate of Vocational Education)**School Year** SEPTEMBER - JUNE

Compulsory Education:

Ages 5 - 18; Grades K - 12

Educational System**U.S. EQUIVALENT**

Pre-school (5-6 yrs old)	Kindergarten
Pamatskola (Basic School) - 1st	1st
2nd	2nd
3rd	3rd
4th	4th
5th	5th
6th	6th
7th	7th
8th	8th
9th	9th
*Arodpamatskola, **Vidusskola, ***Arodvidusskola, Arodskola - 10th	10th
11th - *Apliecība par profesionālo pamatizglītību	11th
12th - Vidusskola /Atestāts par Arodizglītību	12th - Standard HS Diploma

Grading Scale**U.S. EQUIVALENT**

10	izcili (with distinction)	A
9	teicami (excellent)	A
8	ļoti labi (very good)	B
7	labi (good)	B
6	gandrīz labi (almost good)	C
5	viduvēji (satisfactory)	C
4	gandrīz viduvēji (almost satisfactory)	D

Grading Remarks

3-1: neapmierināši (unsatisfactory) = F

After nine years of basic education, secondary education is provided in general secondary schools (3 years), vocational schools (2 to 3 years), and ***vocational secondary schools (4 years). General secondary schools award the Certificate of General Secondary Education (Atestāts par Vispārējo Vidējo Izglītību). Vocational schools (2-3 years) award Certificates of Vocational Education. Vocational secondary schools award a Diploma of Vocational Secondary Education which is also valid for university entrance.

Country Notes

*Arodpamatskola (Vocational basic school-2 yrs) - Certificate/diploma awarded: Apliecība par profesionālo pamatizglītību (Certificate of basic vocational education)

**Vidusskola (General Secondary School), Gimnazija (Gymnasium) - Diploma awarded: Atestāts par Vispārējo Vidējo Izglītību. (Certificate of General Secondary Education)

***Arodvidusskola (Vocational Secondary School)/Arodgimnazija (Vocational Gymnasium-4 yrs) - Diploma awarded: Diploms par profesionālo vidējo izglītību (Diploma of Secondary Vocational Education)

****Arodskola (Vocational School) - Certificate/diploma awarded: Atestāts par Arodizglītību (Certificate of Vocational Education)

System of Education: http://www.unesco.org/iau/onlinedatabases/systems_data/lv.rtf

Country**LEBANON****Diploma Awarded*****Baccalauréat libanais******Baccalauréat technique*****School Year** OCTOBER - JUNE

Compulsory Education:

Ages 6 - 11; Grades 1 - 5

Educational System**U.S. EQUIVALENT**

Pre-school	Kindergarten
Primary School - (2 cycles of years each) - 1	1st
2	2nd
3	3rd
Second Cycle - 1	4th
2	5th
3	6th
Intermediate School - 1st Year	7th
2nd Year	8th
3rd year - Brevet, Brevet Professionnel (BP)	9th
Secondary or Technical Secondary School - 1st year	10th
2nd year	11th
12th Year - : Baccalauréat libanais or Baccalauréat technique	12th - Standard HS Diploma

Grading Scale**U.S. EQUIVALENT**

18 - 20	Excellent	A
15 - 17	Very Good	B
12 - 14	Good	C
10 - 11	Pass	D
0 - 9	Fail	F

Grading Remarks**Country Notes**

Secondary education lasts for three years and is divided into general education (humanities, economics, life sciences, science) or technical education (in approximately 55 different fields of study) following six years of primary and three years of intermediate education. Selection of the track is decided by school principals on the basis of students' aptitude as shown by the Brevet examination results. Upon completion of the three-year cycle, students sit for the official Lebanese Baccalaureate exams in their respective tracks (four in all). Successful students obtain the Lebanese Baccalaureate Certificate of Secondary Education (Shahaadat Al-Bakaalouriya al Lubnaaniya l'il-ta 'liim al-Thaanawi) or the Technical Baccalaureate (Al-Bakaalouriya al-Fanniya).

System of Education: http://www.unesco.org/iau/onlinedatabases/systems_data/lb.rtf

Country**LIBERIA****Diploma Awarded****West African Examination Council (WAEC)
Certificate****School Year** MARCH - DECEMBER

Compulsory Education:

Ages 6 - 16; Grades 1 - 10

Educational System**U.S. EQUIVALENT**

Pre-school	Kindergarten
Elementary School - 1st	1st
2nd	2nd
3rd	3rd
4th	4th
5th	5th
6th - School Leaving Certificate Examination (planned)	6th
Junior Secondary - 7th	7th
8th	8th
9th - Examination by the West African Examination Council (WAEC)	9th
Senior Secondary - 10th	10th
11th	11th
12th - West African Examination Council (WAEC) Certificate	12th - Standard HS Diploma

Grading Scale**U.S. EQUIVALENT**

90-100%	9-10	Excellent	A
80-89%	7-8	Good	B
73-79%	5-6	Fair	C
70-72%	3.5-4	Sufficient	D
0-69%	0-3	Poor	F

Grading Remarks

--

Country Notes

Elementary education lasts for six years. Secondary education consists of two three-year cycles: three years of Junior secondary (Grades VII-IX) and three years of Senior secondary education (Grades X-XII). At the end of Grade IX, students sit for an examination administered by the West African Examination Council (WAEC). Successful students are eligible to enter Senior High School. Upper secondary education culminates in the WAEC Certificate Examination, which is the basis for access to higher education institutions. An entrance examination is required for access to higher education.

System of Education: http://www.unesco.org/iau/onlinedatabases/systems_data/lr.rtf

Country**LITHUANIA****Diploma Awarded****Brandos atestatas/ Maturity Certificate****School Year** SEPTEMBER - JUNE

Compulsory Education:

Ages 6 - 16; Grades 1 - 9

*After Form 10 - Pagrindinės mokyklos baigimo pažymėjimas (PMP) (Certificate of Lower Secondary Education) must continue to Senior Secondary/Vocational School.

Educational System

U.S. EQUIVALENT

Pre-school (ages 3-6)	
Pradinė mokykla (Primary School) - Form 1	1st
Form 2	2nd
Form 3	3rd
Form 4	4th
Pagrindinė mokykla (Lower Secondary School) - Form 5	5th
Form 6	6th
Form 7	7th
Form 8	8th
Form 9	9th
Form 10 - *Pagrindinės mokyklos baigimo pažymėjimas (PMP)	10th
Vidurinė mokykla, Gimnazija, Licėjus, Tarptautinio bakalaureato mokykla Form 11	11th
12th - Brandos atestatas/ Maturity Certificate	12th - Standard HS Diploma

Grading Scale

U.S. EQUIVALENT

10	(puikiai): excellent	A
9	(labai gerai): very good	A
8	8 (gerai): good	B
7	(pakankamai): highly satisfactory	B
6	(patenkinamai): satisfactory	C
5	(silpnai): sufficient	D
4-1	insufficient	F

Grading Remarks

Since 1986-1987, general education lasts for 12 years and is acquired in three stages: primary (pradinis) - 4 years (forms 1-4); lower secondary (pagrindinis) - 6 years (forms 5-10); and secondary (vidurinis) - 2 years (forms 11-12). Each stage can be followed in a separate independent institution or in one general institution. There are also other types of establishments providing general secondary education: gymnasiums (gymnazijos) and international baccalaureate (IB) schools. Gymnasiums admit all applicants who have completed eight grades in a general education school. Gymnasiums have a four-year curriculum.

Country Notes

The IB schools have a 2-year curriculum and English as their language of instruction. General secondary education can also be acquired at youth and vocational schools of appropriate level. Youth schools provide lower secondary education to 12- to 16-year-old pupils who have trouble in adapting to society, learning problems or those who have interrupted their studies. Adults can acquire general secondary education at adult general education schools (mokymo centras) and in special classes at general education schools (klasė). The school year starts on September 1st. In certain districts, where national minorities dominate, the general secondary studies can be organized in the local language but basics of the state language are still mandatory. The Lithuanian education system is still undergoing its reform which is planned to end in 2010. Its main aim is to network the different types of educational establishment and to give the opportunity to change direction of studies or re-start studying at any moment. For more detailed information on the school system, please consult the Ministry's website at: <http://www.smm.lt>

System of Education: http://www.unesco.org/iau/onlinedatabases/systems_data/lt.rtf

Country

Macedonia (Former Yugoslav Republic of)

School Year **SEPTEMBER - JUNE**



Compulsory Education:

Ages 7 - 15; Grades 1 - 8

Diploma Awarded

-Secondary School Leaving Certificate/**Svidetelstvo za zavreno sredno obrazovanie**; International Baccalaureate Josip Broz Tito Gymnasium, Skopje), 2 yrs after 2nd year of secondary education

-Secondary School Leaving Certificate/**Svidetelstvo za zavreno sredno tehniko obrazovanie**

-Secondary School Leaving Certificate/**Svidetelstvo za zavreno sredno umetni-ko/muzi-ko/baletsko obrazovanie**

-Secondary Vocational School Leaving Certificate/**Svidetelstvo za zavreno sredno obrazovanie za zanimaweto**

Educational System

U.S. EQUIVALENT

Pre-Primary (ages 5-6)	Kindergarten
Elementary School - 1st	1st
2nd	2nd
3rd	3rd
4th	4th
5th	5th
6th	6th
7th	7th
8th Certificate for Completed Elementary Svidetelstvo za zavreno osnovnoobrazovanie	8th
Gimnazija/Specialized/Vocational/Učilište Za Zanimanja/TechnicalTehnicki Učilište 9th	9th
10th	10th
11th	11th
12th - Secondary School Leaving Certificate	12th - Standard HS Diploma

Grading Scale

U.S. EQUIVALENT

5	OtnNyho/Excellent	A
4	MhoroAobpe/Very Good	B
3	Aobpe/Good	C
2	3aAoBonNtenHo/Fair	D
1	be3ycnewHo/Insufficient	F

Grading Remarks

Country Notes

Elementary education lasts for eight years leading to the Certificate for Completed Elementary Education. Secondary school education is provided by high schools, technical and other vocational schools, and art secondary schools. In the second half of the fourth year, pupils must write a project (Matorska Tema) and defend it and pass a written examination in their mother tongue and literature and an oral examination in a given subject of the curriculum. The technical and other vocational schools train for technical and other professions. The final examination in vocational education (four-year and three-year courses) consists in the elaboration of a theme or practical examination and a written examination in the mother tongue and literature. The Certificates of the technical schools give access to the entrance examinations at the relevant faculties and colleges. The certificate of vocational schools gives access to the entrance examinations at the relevant faculties and colleges after passing the different examinations. The Schools of Arts/Music/Ballet offer a four-year course. Students enter these schools by taking an entrance examination. At the end of their studies, they take a final examination and can enrol in universities. The International Baccalaureate gives access to the entrance examinations to all faculties and colleges.

System of Education: http://www.unesco.org/iau/onlinedatabases/systems_data/mk.rtf

Country**MEXICO****Diploma Awarded*****Certificado de Bachillerato general, Bachillerato tecnológico, Educación profesional técnica*****School Year** SEPTEMBER - JUNE***Certificado de Secundaria***

Compulsory Education:

Certificado or Diploma

Ages 6 - 15; Grades 1 - 9

Educational System**U.S. EQUIVALENT**

Pre-escolar/Preparatorio (3-5)	Kindergarten
Escuela Primaria - Primer Grado	1st
Segundo	2nd
Tercero	3rd
Quarto	4th
Quinta	5th
Sexto - Certificado de Primaria	6th
Secundaria, General, Telesecundaria, Secundaria técnica - Primer Año	7th
Segundo Año	8th
Tercer Año - Certificado de Secundaria General	9th
Educación media superior, Secundaria Para Trabajadores - Primer Año	10th
Segundo Año	11th
Tercer Año - Certificado de Bachillerato general, Bachillerato tecnológico	12th - Standard HS Diploma

Grading Scale**U.S. EQUIVALENT**

9-10	90-100	muy bien (MB) (very good)	A
8	80-89	bien (B) (good)	B
6-7	60-79	suficiente (S) (average sufficient)	C
0-5	0-59	reprobado (R) (fail)	F

Grading Remarks

Six Point Scale also used:

10 = A+, 9-9.9 = A, 8-8.9 = B, 7-7.9 = C, 6-6.9 = D, 0-5.9 = F

Country Notes

Education is compulsory from 6 to 15 years of age. The third year of pre-school education (age 5) is planned to become compulsory. Primary education lasts for six years leading to the Certificado de Primaria. Secondary education is divided into: general secondary, secondary education for workers, tele-secondary education, technical secondary and open education. Secondary education lasts for three years from ages 13 to 15 and is offered to pupils who have completed primary education. Secondary education for workers is offered to pupils of 15 and more who have completed primary education. Secondary education lasts for three years and leads to the Bachillerato general or the Bachillerato tecnológico.

Education System: http://www.unesco.org/iau/onlinedatabases/systems_data/mx.rtf

Country**MYANMAR** (FORMERLY BURMA)**Diploma Awarded****Basic Education Standard Examination
(Matriculation)****School Year** SEPTEMBER - AUGUST

Compulsory Education:

Ages 5 - 9; Grades 1 - 5

Educational System

U.S. EQUIVALENT

-		Kindergarten
Primary School (Grades 1 - 5)	1st	1st
	2nd	2nd
	3rd	3rd
	4th	4th
5th - Examination		5th
Middle School	6th	6th
	7th	7th
	8th	8th
	9th	9th
High or *Technical High School (both 2 yrs)	10th	10th
11th (age 15) - Basic Education Standard Examination (Matriculation)		11th - Standard HS Diploma
-		-

Grading Scale

U.S. EQUIVALENT

Scale 1	Scale 2	
65-100	5 Excellent/Very Good	A
50-64	4 Good	B
40-49	3 Average	C
30-39	2 Pass	D
0-29	-	F

Grading Remarks**Country Notes**

Primary education, the first stage of basic education is, in principle, compulsory. It lasts for five years. Secondary education is divided into middle schools and high schools. *Technical secondary education is provided by the State Technical High School which prepares students for admission to the government technical institutes, for employment in industry and admission to study Engineering at higher education level. Several trade schools provide two-year training for middle school leavers. Agricultural schools provide training at middle or high school level.

System of Education: http://www.unesco.org/iau/onlinedatabases/systems_data/mm.rtf

Country**NEPAL****Diploma Awarded****Craftsman Certificate*****Higher Secondary Certificate; Proficiency Certificate** (in universities)****Technical School Leaving Certificate; Technician Certificate** (after 3 years)**School Year** YEAR ROUND

Compulsory Education:

Ages 6 - 11; Grades 1 - 5

Educational System**U.S. EQUIVALENT**

-	Kindergarten
Primary School 1st	1st
2nd	2nd
3rd	3rd
4th	4th
5th	5th
Technical or Lower Secondary School (Grades 6-7) 6th	6th
7th	7th
Technical or Upper Secondary General or Sanskrit Secondary School 8th	8th
9th - (from Technical School Training Level Certificate awarded) 9th	9th
10th - School Leaving Certificate; Uttar Madhyama Certificate Examination	10th - Diploma
Higher Secondary or Higher technical Secondary - 11th	11th
12th - Craftsman Certificate; *Higher Secondary Certificate; **Technical	12th

Grading Scale**U.S. EQUIVALENT**

Division I	85-100	A
Division II	75-84	B
Division III	60-74	C
Failing	46-59	D
-	Below 45	F

Grading Remarks

Primary education lasts for five years (Grades 1-5). Secondary education comprises three cycles: three years' lower secondary (Grades 6-8), two years' upper secondary (Grades 9-10) and two years of higher secondary education (Grades 11-12). On completion of upper secondary school, students sit for the School Leaving Certificate (SLC). Sanskrit secondary level students sit for the Uttar Madhyama Certificate Examination. Higher secondary level education has four streams: Humanities, Science, Commerce, and Education. At the end of these studies, students sit for the Higher Secondary Certificate. The same level of education is also being provided by Tribhuvan University (all four streams), Kathmandu University (Science stream) and Mahendra Sanskrit University (a separate Sanskrit stream).

Country Notes

Students enrolled in Tribhuvan University sit for the Proficiency Certificate, those enrolled in Kathmandu University sit for the intermediate examinations and those enrolled in Mahendra Sanskrit University sit for the Uttar Madhyama examinations. Technical education may start after Grade 5 when pupils can study at Basic Technical Schools for three years to obtain a Training Level Certificate. Then they can follow a four-year course at Middle-Level Technical Schools at the end of which they obtain the Craftsman Certificate. Technical education is also available after Grade 10. Pupils holding the School Leaving Certificate can enter higher technical schools where two years' training leads to the Technical School Leaving Certificate and three years' training in electricity, mechanics and plumbing to the Technician Certificate. Higher secondary education has recently been introduced as an upward extension of secondary education and will be implemented in a phased manner. This will lead to the phasing out of the Proficiency Certificate level courses at university level, shifting the responsibility to the Higher Secondary Education Board. Tribhuvan University has already initiated the process of phasing out this level to higher secondary education.

System of Education: http://www.unesco.org/iau/onlinedatabases/systems_data/np.rtf

Country**NETHERLANDS (THE)****Diploma Awarded****HAVO Diploma****VMBO Diploma, BL, KL or GL****MBO Diploma****School Year** SEPTEMBER - JUNE

Compulsory Education:

Ages 5 - 16; Grades K - 11

Educational System**U.S. EQUIVALENT**

Basisonderwijs (Primary School) begins at 4yrs old. At compulsory age of 5 = K	K
3rd year	1st
4th year	2nd
5th Year	3rd
6th year	4th
7th Year	5th
8th Year	6th
Vorbereidend Middelbaar Beroepsonderwijs (VMBO) Theoretische Leerweg(TL) 9th Year	or Senior Secondary (HAVO 5yrs),(VMO 6yrs) 7th
10th Year	8th
11th Year	9th
12th Year - VMBO Diploma - Theoretische Leerweg (TL); BL, KL or GL	10th
13th Year - HAVO Diploma	11th
University Preparatory Education (VWO) 14th Year- VMO Diploma	12th - Standard HS Diploma

Grading Scale**U.S. EQUIVALENT**

10	uitmuntend (excellent)	A+
9	zeer goed (very good)	A
8	goed (good)	B
7	ruim voldoende (very satisfactory)	C
6	voldoende (pass)	C
5	bijna voldoende (fail)	F
4	onvoldoende (unsatisfactory)	F

Grading Remarks

3-zeer onvoldoende (very unsatisfactory)=F; 2-slecht (poor)=F; 1-zeer slecht (very poor)=F. The grades 9 and 10 are rarely given.

Profile of the education system (made available through the database World Data on Education (WDE).: <http://www.ibe.unesco.org/en/access-by-country/europe-and-north-america/netherlands/profile-of-education.html>
System of Education: http://www.unesco.org/iau/onlinedatabases/systems_data/nl.rtf

Country Notes

Primary education lasts for eight years. Secondary education consists of VMBO (preparatory secondary vocational education), HAVO (senior general education) and VWO (pre-university education). Those with a VMBO Diploma can then go on to the MBO. Depending on interest and capability, pupils in VMBO can choose from one of four learning tracks or routes: 1) the theoretical route granting admission to long MBO or HAVO; 2) the vocationally-oriented route granting admission to long training in secondary vocational education (MBO) or to short training programmes; 3) a mixed educational route with a combination of general subjects and vocationally-oriented subjects; and 4) a vocational route, oriented towards the labour market and aimed at a specific group for which VMBO is the last educational stage. HAVO prepares for higher professional education (HBO), but students can go on to the VWO or choose senior secondary vocational training instead of higher professional education. VWO prepares for university studies, but many pupils continue in HBO. There are 3 kinds of VWO Certificates: Atheneum, Gymnasium and Unified VWO Certificate. In the last two years of VMBO, the last two years of HAVO and the last three years of VWO, pupils have to complete the curriculum requirements for one of four subject clusters. VMBO pupils can choose between Technology, Health and Personal Care and Welfare, Economics and Agriculture. HAVO and VWO pupils can choose between Science and Technology, Science and Health, Economics and Society and Culture and Society.

Country**NEW ZEALAND****Diploma Awarded****National Certificate of Educational Achievement****School Year** FEBRUARY - NOVEMBER

Compulsory Education;

Ages

Educational System**U.S. EQUIVALENT**

preschool - Year 1	Kindergarten
Primary School Year 2	1st
Year 3	2nd
Year 4	3rd
Year 5	4th
Year 6	5th
Year 7	6th
Year 8	7th
Secondary School - Year 9	8th
Year 10	9th
Year 11	10th
Year 12	11th
Year 13 National Certificate of Educational Achievement	12th - Standard HS Diploma

Grading Scale**U.S. EQUIVALENT**

Achievement Standards		
E	Achieved with Excellence	A
M	Achieved with Merit	B
A	Achieved	C
NA	Not Achieved	F
Unit Standards have just NA or A.		

Grading Remarks*The concept of pass/fail does not exist.***Country Notes**

Primary education lasts for eight years. Children are permitted to enter school at 5 but must be enrolled by 6. Secondary education lasts for five years (from years 9 to 13). Entrance to secondary schools is non-selective. The basis of the school programme is the New Zealand Curriculum in the essential learning areas of Languages, Mathematics, Science, Technology, Social Sciences, the Arts, Health and Physical Wellbeing. The curriculum emphasizes the development of Communication, Numeracy, Information, Problem Solving, Self-Management and Competitive, Social and Co-operative, Physical, and Work and Study Skills. Diagnostic and formative assessment assists students to achieve the objectives set out in the national curriculum statements and published syllabuses. All national school qualifications are administered by the New Zealand Qualifications Authority. Secondary schools also offer Unit Standard Credits between Levels 1-4 of the National Qualifications Framework (National Certificate Level).

System of Education: http://www.unesco.org/iau/onlinedatabases/systems_data/nz.rtf

Country**NICARAGUA****Diploma Awarded****Bachillerato en Humanidades or Ciencias**

(after 2 years of Educación media, Ciclo Diversificado at 17 years old)

School Year FEBRUARY - NOVEMBER**Tecnico Medio** (after 3 years of Technical Secondary School at 18 years old)

Compulsory Education:

Ages 6 - 12; Grades 1 - 6

Educational System**U.S. EQUIVALENT**

Pre-Escolar (3- 6 yrs old)	Kindergarten
Primer Año	1st
Segundo Año	2nd
Tercer Año	3rd
Cuarto Año	4th
Quinto Año	5th
Sexto Año - Diploma de Educación Primaria	6th
: Educación media, Ciclo Básico I	7th
II	8th
III - Diploma de Curso Básico	9th
Educación media,Ciclo Diversificado (2yrs);Technical SecondarySchool(3yrs)IV	10th
V - Bachillerato en Humanidades or Ciencias	11th
VI - Tecnico Medio	12th - Standard HS Diploma

Grading Scale**U.S. EQUIVALENT**

9.51-10	SOBRESALIENTE	A
8.51-9.50	MUY BUENO	B
7.51-8.50	BUENO	C
6.01-7.50	REGULAR	D
Below 6.0	DEFICIENTE	F

Grading Remarks**Country Notes**

Primary education lasts for six years divided into two cycles: basic and second cycle. It is compulsory and free. Secondary education lasts for five years, divided into three years of ciclo básico and two years of ciclo diversificado. It leads to the Bachillerato in Humanities or Science which is one of the prerequisites for access to higher education. In technical secondary education students are awarded the title of Técnico medio after three years of ciclo diversificado.

Education System: http://www.unesco.org/iau/onlinedatabases/systems_data/ni.rtf

Country**NIGERIA****Diploma Awarded****Senior School Certificate****West African GCE "O" Level****West African GCE "A" Level****School Year** OCTOBER - JULY

Compulsory Education:

Ages 6-15; Grades 1 - 9

Educational System**U.S. EQUIVALENT**

Pre-Primary	Kindergarten
Primary School - 1st	1st
2nd	2nd
3rd	3rd
4th	4th
5th	5th
6th	6th
Junior Secondary - 7th	7th
8th	8th
9th - Junior School Certificate (JSSC)	9th
Senior Secondary or Technical Secondary - 10th	10th
11th	11th
12th - Senior School Certificate (SSSC)	12th - Standard HS Diploma

Grading Scale**U.S. EQUIVALENT**

1	95%	A
2	90%	A
3	85%	B
4-6	75%	C
7-8 (Failure for GCE)	65%	D
9	55%	F

Grading Remarks

For the West African Senior School Certificate: 1-9

Highest on scale: A 1

Pass/fail level: P 8

Lowest on scale: F 9

Country Notes

Primary education lasts for six years. Entrance to secondary education is based on an examination. Secondary education is divided into junior and senior secondary, and technical and vocational education. The Junior School Certificate is awarded after three years of junior school. The Senior School Certificate is awarded after three years of senior secondary education. It replaced the West African GCE "O" level in 1989. Pupils who complete junior secondary school are streamed into senior secondary school, technical college, out of school vocation training center or an apprenticeship. Technical secondary education is offered in secondary commercial schools which offer six-year courses including academic subjects and specialization. At the end of the course, students may take the examinations for the Senior School Certificate. Vocational education produces low level manpower and is offered in technical colleges or business and engineering skills training centres. Technical colleges are the only alternative to senior secondary schools as a route to further formal education and training after junior secondary education. To enter university, students have to pass the University Matriculation examination (UME).

System of Education: http://www.unesco.org/iau/onlinedatabases/systems_data/ng.rtf

Country**NORWAY****Diploma Awarded****Vitnemål Fra Videregående Skole****Craft/Journeyman Certificate****Trade Certificate; Journeyman's Certificate****School Year** SEPTEMBER - JUNE

Compulsory Education:

Ages 6-16; Grades 1 - 10

Educational System**U.S. EQUIVALENT**

Kindergarten (ages 3-5)	Kindergarten
Grunnskole, Barnetrinnet; Primary School 1st	1st
2nd	2nd
3rd	3rd
4th	4th
5th	5th
6th	6th
7th	7th
Grunnskole, Ungdomstrinnet; Lower Secondary School 8th	8th
9th	9th
10th	10th
Videregående Skole; Upper Secondary School; Apprenticeship; Vocational 11th	11th
12th & 13th - Vitnemål Fra Videregående Skole; Craft/Journeyman Certificate	12th + - Standard HS Diploma

Grading Scale**U.S. EQUIVALENT**

6	SG (Excellent)	A
5	MG (Very Good)	B
4	G (Good)	C
3	NG (Pass)	D
2	LG (Just Pass)	D-
1	IG (Fail)	F

Grading Remarks

Also: (Norway)A = (U.S.)A; B = B; C = B-; D = C+; E = C; F = F.

In addition to the regular educational system, there exists Folk High Schools to provide students with personal growth and development rather than academic. These are associated with the Scandinavian tradition of public enlightenment.

Country Notes

As from 1997, Norwegian children start school during the calendar year in which they reach the age of 6. Compulsory education covers 10 years and consists of three stages: primary stage grades 1-4 (age 6-10); intermediate stage grades 5-7 (ages 10-13) and lower secondary stage grades 8-10 (age 13-16). Upper secondary education lasts for three years. It consists of either general or vocational studies. General studies comprise the Foundation Course (first year), Advanced Course I (second year) and Advanced Course II (third year) leading to the Certificate of Upper Secondary Education. Vocational studies comprise the Foundation Course (first year), Advanced Course I (second year) and either Advanced Course II (third year) or Practical training/Apprenticeship (1-2 years) or a Trade skill test leading to a Certificate. The final examination (trade or journeyman's examination) is the same, regardless of whether training took place at school or in the workplace. Pupils in vocational courses are to be given the opportunity to obtain the additional qualifications required for higher studies by studying for one extra year.

System of Education: http://www.unesco.org/iau/onlinedatabases/systems_data/no.rtf

Country**PAKISTAN****Diploma Awarded****Intermediate Certificate or Higher Secondary School Certificate****School Year** SEPTEMBER - JUNE**Secondary School Certificate (in Technical Subjects)**

Education in Pakistan is NOT compulsory (pending new law).

Educational System**U.S. EQUIVALENT**

-	Kindergarten
Primary School - 1st	1st
2nd	2nd
3rd	3rd
4th	4th
5th	5th
Middle School - 6th	6th
7th	7th
8th	8th
Secondary School or Technical - 9th	9th
10th - Secondary School Certificate	10th
*Technical Secondary (3 yrs) or Intermediate Colleges (Higher Secondary) 11th	11th
12th - Intermediate Certificate or Higher Secondary School Certificate	12th - Standard HS Diploma

Grading Scale**U.S. EQUIVALENT**

Division	Percentile	
First	60 - 100	A
Second	40 - 59	B
Third	33 - 39	C
Fail	0 - 32	F
A grade of 33 is passing.		

Grading Remarks

Excellent 79-100 = A+; Very Good 60-79 = A; Good 50-59 = B; Average 40-49 = C; Pass 33-39 = C-; Fail 0-32 = F

Country Notes

Primary education lasts for five years. Secondary education is divided into three cycles: three years' middle school, two years' secondary and two years' higher secondary. On completion of the second cycle, pupils take the Secondary School Certificate. Pupils may then study for a further two years or *three years in the case of technical education, specializing in Science, Arts or in technical and vocational studies. At the end of this period, pupils take the examinations for the Intermediate Certificate/Higher Secondary School Certificate/Diploma of Associate Engineering. Vocational secondary courses lead to the Higher Secondary School Certificate or a Diploma in technical/vocational subjects.

System of Education: http://www.unesco.org/iau/onlinedatabases/systems_data/pk.rtf

Country**PANAMA****Diploma Awarded***Diploma de Bachiller***School Year** APRIL - DECEMBER*Perito (Vocational)*

Compulsory Education:

Ages 4-15; Grades Pre-K-9

Educational System

U.S. EQUIVALENT

Pre-Primary (ages 4-5)	Kindergarten
Primario - Primer Grado	1st
Segundo grado	2nd
Tercer Grado	3rd
Cuarto Grado	4th
Quinto Grado	5th
Sexto Grado	6th
Lower Secondary - Primer Ciclo - I Año	7th
II Año	8th
III Año	9th
Upper Secondary - Segundo Ciclo - IV Año	10th
V Año	11th
VI Año Diploma de Bachiller	12th - Standard HS Diploma

Grading Scale

U.S. EQUIVALENT

5	10	Sobresaliente	A
4	8-9	Bueno	B
3	6-7	Regular	C
1-2	0-5	Fracasado	F

Grading Remarks**Country Notes**

Compulsory education lasts for eleven years and includes the pre-primary, primary and pre-secondary cycles. Primary education lasts for six years. Secondary education is divided into two cycles. The first cycle covers three years of general education. The second consists of three years of more specialized study and leads to the Diploma de Bachiller.

Education System: http://www.unesco.org/iau/onlinedatabases/systems_data/pa.rtf

Country**PARAGUAY****Diploma Awarded****Bachillerato** (bachillerato humanístico-científico, comercial y técnico-industrial.)**School Year** MARCH - DECEMBER

Compulsory Education;

Ages 6-14; Grades 1-9

Educational System**U.S. EQUIVALENT**

Jardín de infantes (3-4 yrs); Pre-Escolar (5 yrs)	Kindergarten
Escolar Básica - 1st Ciclo (EEB) - 1st Year	1st
2nd Year	2nd
3rd Year	3rd
2nd Ciclo - 4th Year	4th
5th Year	5th
6th Year	6th
ciclo básico de educación media 3rd Ciclo - 7th Year	7th
8th Year	8th
9th Year	9th
ciclo básico de enseñanza secundaria (ciclo diversificado) 10th	10th
11th year	11th
12th - Bachillerato	12th - Standard HS Diploma

Grading Scale**U.S. EQUIVALENT**

New	Old	
5	10 sobresaliente	A
4	9,8 muy bueno	B
3	7,6 bueno	C
2	5,4 suficiente, regular	D
1	3,2,1 no aprobado	F
0	insuficiente	only in cases of cheating

Grading Remarks**Country Notes**

Basic education (Educación Escolar Básica) is free and compulsory and lasts for nine years, divided into three cycles of three years each. Secondary education lasts for three years and is divided into general and professional studies. In addition to the secondary leaving diploma, an entrance examination is necessary to enter universities.

Education System: http://www.unesco.org/iau/onlinedatabases/systems_data/py.rtf

Country**PERU****Diploma Awarded****Certificado de Educación Secundaria Común Completa****School Year** MARCH - JANUARY**Diploma de Aptitud Profesional**

Compulsory Education;

Ages 5-16; Grades 1-11

Educational System**U.S. EQUIVALENT**

Educación inicial (AGES 5-6)	Kindergarten
Educación Primaria 1st	1st
2nd Year	2nd
3rd Year	3rd
4th Year	4th
5th Year	5th
6th Year	6th
Ciclo General - I	7th
II	8th
Academic Secondary or Technical Secondary - III	9th
IV	10th
V Certificado de Ed Secundaria Común Completa;Diploma de Aptitud Prof.	11th
	12th - Standard HS Diploma

Grading Scale**U.S. EQUIVALENT**

16 - 20	A
14 - 15	B
13 - 13.9	C
11 - 12	D
0 - 10	F

Grading Remarks**Country Notes**

Primary education lasts for six years and is compulsory. A year of pre-primary education is also compulsory. Secondary education covers five years divided into two cycles and, according to the constitution, is also compulsory. The first cycle covers two years of general studies and the second three years of specialization. In the second cycle, pupils choose between academic and technical branches. In the academic branch, pupils choose between Arts and Science. On successful completion of the second cycle, pupils obtain a certificado with the specialization they have followed. In the technical branch, the qualification received is the Diploma de Aptitud Profesional. Although pupils may take the university entrance examinations directly after secondary school, most follow a one-year course of study (curso preparatorio). The system of secondary education is currently being revised.

Education System: http://www.unesco.org/iau/onlinedatabases/systems_data/pe.rtf

Country**PHILLIPINES****Diploma Awarded****High School Diploma**

National Secondary Aptitude Test (taken for graduation)

School Year JUNE - MARCH

Compulsory Education:

Ages 6-12; Grades 1-6

Educational System**U.S. EQUIVALENT**

Pre-school (ages 3-5)	Kindergarten
Primary - 1st	1st
2nd	2nd
3rd	3rd
4th	4th
Intermediate School - 5th	5th
6th	6th
Secondary School - 7th	7th
8th	8th
9th	9th
10th - High School Diploma	10th - Standard HS Diploma

Grading Scale**U.S. EQUIVALENT**

1.0 - 1.5	91-100%	A
1.75 - 2.25	82-90	B
2.5 - 3.0	75-81	C
3.25 - 5.0	Below 75%	F

Grading Remarks

1 is the highest grade, 3.0 is passing.

Country Notes

Primary education lasts for four years and intermediate education generally lasts for two years. They constitute six years of elementary education (Grades 1 to 6). Pre-school education (nursery, kindergarten, preparatory and others) and 7th grade are optional. Secondary education usually lasts for four years. Compulsory subjects include English, Filipino, Science, Social Studies, Mathematics, Practical Arts, Youth Development Training and Citizens Army training. The cycle culminates in the examinations for the High School Diploma. The National Secondary Aptitude Test is taken at this time.

System of Education: http://www.unesco.org/iau/onlinebases/systems_data/ph.rtf

Country

POLAND

Diploma Awarded

School Year **SEPTEMBER - JUNE**

Compulsory Education:

Ages 6-18; Grades 1 - 12

Świadectwo ukończenia szkoły zasadniczej (Certificate of Completion of Education in the Basic Vocational School)
 Świadectwo dojrzałości technikum (Maturity Certificate of the Technical Secondary School) or świadectwo ukończenia technikum (Certificate of Completion of Education in the Technical Secondary School)
 Świadectwo dojrzałości liceum ogólnokształcącego (Maturity Certificate of the General Lyceum) or świadectwo ukończenia liceum ogólnokształcącego (Certificate of Completion of Education in the General Lyceum)
 Świadectwo dojrzałości liceum profilowanego (Maturity Certificate of the Specialized Lyceum) or świadectwo ukończenia liceum profilowanego (Certificate of Completion of Education in the Specialized Lyceum)

Educational System

U.S. EQUIVALENT

Pre-school	Kindergarten
Nursery School (Przedszkole) or Nursery Division at Primary Schools - 1st	1st
Primary School (Szkoła Podstawowa) - 2nd	2nd
3rd	3rd
4th	4th
5th	5th
6th - *Świadectwo ukończenia szkoły podstawowej	6th
Gymnasium (Gimnazjum) - 7th	7th
8th	8th
9th - **Świadectwo ukończenia gimnazjum	9th
(Zasadnicza Szkoła Zawodowa; or (Technikum; or Liceum 10th	10th
11th - Basic Vocational Diploma for Vocational track (2 yrs)	11th
12th - (Maturity Certificate of the General Lyceum)	12th - Standard HS Diploma

Grading Scale

U.S. EQUIVALENT

6	excellent (celujący)	A
5	very good (bardzo dobry)	B
4	good (dobry)	C
3	satisfactory (dostateczny)	C
2	acceptable (dopuszczający)	D
1	unsatisfactory (niedostateczny)	F
the marks "+" and "-" are often added	to the principal grade.	

Grading Remarks

After the 1999 reform, 6-year primary schools and 3-year gymnasia were introduced. Secondary education is provided in 3-year general lyceums (liceum ogólnokształcące) or in vocational secondary schools such as the 3-year liceum profilowane (specialized lyceum) and 4-year technikum (secondary technical school). In addition, there are 2-3-year basic vocational schools (zasadnicza szkoła zawodowa) whose graduates obtain the świadectwo ukończenia zasadniczej szkoły zawodowej (Certificate of Completion of Education in the Basic Vocational School).

Country Notes

The secondary school credentials of the former system will be issued until 2005. In the transition period, both the former and the new types of secondary school will co-exist. The credential that gives right to access higher education before and after the reform is the świadectwo dojrzałości issued after completion of education in a secondary school and passing the Maturity examination (egzamin dojrzałości/matura). The only type of post-primary school that does not give access to higher education is the basic vocational school, both in the old and new system. The graduates of these schools may continue their education in different types of complementary secondary schools: liceum uzupełniające (complementary lyceum) or technikum uzupełniające (complementary technical secondary school). Following completion of education in these schools they can pass the maturity examination and obtain a Maturity Certificate and thus become eligible for entrance to higher education

System of Education: http://www.unesco.org/iau/onlinedatabases/systems_data/pl.rtf

Country**PORTUGAL****Diploma Awarded****Diploma de Ensino Secundário**

Certificado de Qualificação Profissional de Nível III

Diploma de Especialização Tecnológica

Diploma de Formação Profissional de Nível III and Diploma de

Estudios Profissionais

Bacharel (old system)

School Year SEPTEMBER - JUNE



Compulsory Education:

Ages 6-15; Grades 1-10

Educational System**U.S. EQUIVALENT**

Educação Pré-Escolar (3-5 yrs old)	Kindergarten
Ensino Básico - 1 Ciclo - 1st	1st
2nd	2nd
3rd	3rd
4th	4th
Ensino Básico - 2 Ciclo - 5th	5th
6th	6th
Ensino Básico - 3 Ciclo - 7th	7th
8th	8th
9th - Certificado/Diploma	9th
Escola Secundária;Escolas profissionais;Specialized Tech./Voc - 10th	10th
11th	11th
12th - Diploma de Ensino Secundário;	12th - Standard HS Diploma

Grading Scale**U.S. EQUIVALENT**

18-20	5	muito bom	A
14-17	4	bom	B
10-13	3	suficiente	C
0-9	2,1	mal	F

Grading Remarks

--

Country Notes

Basic education lasts for nine years divided into three stages of four, two and three years respectively. A Diploma/Certificate is awarded at the end of the third stage. Secondary education - public, private and cooperative - is optional and consists of a three-year cycle after having completed the third cycle of basic education. Access is through the Certificate of Basic Education. There are two types of courses: general courses and technical/vocational courses, providing instruction in technical, technological, professional fields and in the Portuguese language and culture. Permeability between the courses is guaranteed. The teaching and practice of technical, technological or artistic courses are provided by vocational schools and special schools for education in Arts. Courses are sanctioned by the Certificado de Habilitações do Ensino Secundário/Diploma de Ensino Secundário, which is one of the conditions for access to higher education. In order to develop personal and professional competencies, legislation has been passed to approve the stimulation of post-secondary-level technological specialized courses (CET). These courses qualify for the exercise of a profession (Nível IV) and enable people to pursue studies at higher education level.

System of Education: http://www.unesco.org/iau/online/databases/systems_data/pt.rtf

Country**PUERTO RICO****Diploma Awarded**

DIPLOMA DE ESCUELA SUPERIOR

High School Diploma**Vocational School Diploma****School Year** AUGUST - MAY

Compulsory Education:

Ages 6-16; Grades 1-10

Educational System**U.S. EQUIVALENT**

Pre-Escolar (3-5 yrs old)	Kindergarten
Primaria - 1st	1st
2nd	2nd
3rd	3rd
4th	4th
5th	5th
6th	6th
Middle School/Lower Secondary - 7th	7th
8th	8th
9th - Certificate/Diploma	9th
Higher Secondary or Vocational Secondary - 10th	10th
11th	11th
12th - High School Diploma or Vocational School Diploma	12th - Standard HS Diploma

Grading Scale**U.S. EQUIVALENT**

A	A
B	B
C	C
D	D
F	F

Grading Remarks

--

Country Notes

Basic education lasts for nine years divided into three stages of four, two and three years respectively. A Diploma/Certificate is awarded at the end of the third stage. Secondary education - public, private and cooperative - is optional and consists of a three-year cycle after having completed the third cycle of basic education. Access is through the Certificate of Basic Education. There are two types of courses: general courses and technical/vocational courses, providing instruction in technical, technological, professional fields and in the Portuguese language and culture. Permeability between the courses is guaranteed. The teaching and practice of technical, technological or artistic courses are provided by vocational schools and special schools for education in Arts. Courses are sanctioned by the Certificado de Habilitações do Ensino Secundário/Diploma de Ensino Secundário, which is one of the conditions for access to higher education. In order to develop personal and professional competencies, legislation has been passed to approve the stimulation of post-secondary-level technological specialized courses (CET). These courses qualify for the exercise of a profession (Nível IV) and enable people to pursue studies at higher education level.

System of Education: http://www.unesco.org/iau/onlinedatabases/systems_data/pt.rtf

Country**ROMANIA****Diploma Awarded****Diploma de Bacalaureat****Certificat de Absolvire a Scolii Complimentare sau de Ucenici (from Apprentice School)****Diploma de Bacalaureat + (Atestat) de (Vocational Certificate) (after 4 years (15-19) of Liceu de Specialitate)**

School Year OCTOBER - JULY



Compulsory Education:

Ages 6 - 15; Grades 1 - 10

Educational System**U.S. EQUIVALENT**

Kindergarten (ages 3 -5, non-compulsory) școala Primară - I	Kindergarten 1st
II	2nd
III	3rd
IV	4th
Gimnaziu+ Lower cycle of high school or Gimnaziu+ "arts and trade - V	5th
VI	6th
VII	7th
IIIX-Certificat/Diplomá de Absolvire a Gimnaziulu*	8th
Liceu; Upper Secondary School; Vocational; Apprenticeship - IX	9th
X	10th
XI	11th
XII - Diploma de Bacalaureat	12th - Standard HS Diploma

Grading Scale**U.S. EQUIVALENT**

9-10	zece, nouá/excellent	A
7-8	opt, sapte/ good	B
5-6	sase, cincii/suficient	C
below 5	patru, trei, doi, unu/failing	F

Grading Remarks

* Successful students receive a **Certificat/Diplomá de Absolvire a Gimnaziulu*** (Certificate/Diplomá of Graduation) or a **Certificat de Absolvire a Invatamintului de 8 Ani** (Certificate of Graduation from 8 Year Education). Students are then entitled to apply for entrance into upper secondary school or vocational school.

Country Notes

Primary education lasts for four years. Secondary education consists in: 1) lower secondary school education organized in Gimnaziu for grades 5 to 8 and Ciclul inferior al liceului (lower cycle of highschool) or Arts and trades schools (vocational) for grades 9 and 10. 2) upper secondary school education organized in Ciclul superior al liceului for grades 11, 12 and 13 followed, if necessary, by an additional high school year for those who want to move from vocational training (grade 10) to upper secondary school education. High school education (lower cycle of high school and upper secondary school education) offers three different orientations (academic, technological, specialization).

(Equivalent to Associates Degree - Specialized Tech./Voc.Type of school providing this education: școala Post-Liceală

Length of program in years: 3

Age level from: 19 to: 22 Certificate/diploma awarded: Diploma de Absolvire a școlii Post-Liceale de Specialitate

System of Education: http://www.unesco.org/iau/onlinedatabases/systems_data/ro.rt

Country**RUSSIAN FEDERATION****School Year** SEPTEMBER - JUNE

Compulsory Education:

Ages 6 - 16; 1 - 9

Diploma Awarded

Attestat o Srednem (Polnom) Obshchem Obrazovanii (Certificate of Secondary Complete General Education, School Leaving Certificate) - after Secondary (Complete) General School, Upper-Secondary School

Diplom - after Technikum, Kolledz, Uchilishe (Non-university level higher education)

Educational System

U.S. EQUIVALENT

Kindergarten (non-compulsory; ages 3-5/6)	Kindergarten
Primary General School - Grade I (age 7)	1st
II	2nd
III	3rd
Basic General Secondary School - IV	4th
V	5th
VI	6th
VII	7th
VIII	8th
IX - Certificate of Basic General Education (or Certificate of Incomplete Secondary Ed)	9th
Secondary (Complete) General School; Technikum, Kolledz, Uchilishe - X	10th
XI - (Certificate of Secondary Complete General Education, School Leaving	11th - Standard HS Diploma

Grading Scale

U.S. EQUIVALENT

5	excellent/OtnNuho	A
4	good/Xopowo	B
3	satisfactory/YaoBnetBopntenbHo	C
2	below 2/3auet/3auteHo	F
1	fail/nnoxo/heyaoBnetBopNtenHo	F
zachet*	pass, credited	Pass

Grading Remarks

* a grade of "Pass" is awarded in cases where no final examination is offered for a course, or when a course covering two or more semesters of study is undertaken; upon completion of the course sequence an examination is taken and a final grade is awarded. Upon completion of the last cycle (X.XI), students must successfully complete the secondary education examinations for the award of the attestat o (polnom) srednem obrazovanii (Certificate of Completed Secondary Education). The attestat is awarded directly by the school.

Country Notes

General secondary education lasts for nine years. Graduates of this level may continue their education at secondary (Complete) General School for two years. They may also enter a vocational school or non-university level higher education institutions. Graduates from a Secondary (complete) General School may apply for entrance to a higher education institution. Complete secondary education leads to the award of the Attestat o Srednem (Polnom) Obshchem Obrasovanii (School Leaving Certificate).

System of Education: http://www.unesco.org/iau/onlinedatabases/systems_data/ru.rtf

Country

SAINT KITTS AND NEVIS

School Year **SEPTEMBER - JULY**



Compulsory Education:

Ages 5-16; grades K-9

Diploma Awarded

Secondary

Type of school providing this education: High School/ Secondary School

Length of program in years: 5

Age level from: 12

Certificate/diploma awarded: **CSEC; GCE 'O' Level; NCEC**

Senior Secondary

Type of school providing this education: Senior High School

Length of program in years: 2

Age level from: 17

Certificate/diploma awarded: ***CAPE; GCE 'A' Level**

Educational System

U.S. EQUIVALENT

Daycare Center; Nursery; Pre-school (ages 2-5)	Pre-Kindergarten
Primary School - Kindergarten	Kindergarten
1st	1st
2nd	2nd
3rd	3rd
4th	4th
5th	5th
6th	6th
High School/Secondary School - Form I	7th
Form II	8th
Form III	9th
Form IV	10th
Form V - CSEC; GCE 'O' Level; NCEC -then Senior High School (2 yrs more)	11th - Standard HS Diploma

Grading Scale

U.S. EQUIVALENT

A		A
B		B
C		C
D		D
E		F

Grading Remarks

Primary education covers seven years from age five to twelve years (11+), Kindergarten to Grade Six. At the end of this stage, the student progresses to a selected high school in accordance with a comprehensive system of education. Primary schools are zoned and serve as feeder schools to a particular secondary school. Placement in First Form is based on a performance in primary school and performance on a Test of Standards.

Country Notes

The secondary education school system covers seven years in two stages for periods of five and two years respectively. There is now only one school of this type - the Charlestown Secondary School in Nevis - in which there is the traditional Sixth Form. In St. Kitts, students who complete secondary school go on to the Clarence Fitzroy Bryant College entering either the Division of Arts, Science and General Studies, or the Division of Technical and Vocational Education. School leavers can also enter the Division of Health Sciences (to pursue a course in Nursing) or the Division of Teacher Education, for pre-service training. Students who do not have the qualifications to enter the CFBC can opt to attend the Advanced Vocational Education Centre (AVEC). On conclusion of the first phase, students may take the CSEC examinations. At the end of year 4, students are assessed for the National Certificate of Educational Competencies (NCEC) which is a competency-based system. After two years of Senior High School, they may take *CAPE or GCE 'A' Level examinations. CXC now offers combinations/clusters of CAPE courses as Associate Degrees. The first students registering for such Associate Degrees will be assessed in June 2006.

Education System: http://www.unesco.org/iau/onlinedatabases/systems_data/kn.rtf

Country**SAUDI ARABIA****Diploma Awarded****Tawjihyah** (General Secondary Education Certificate)**Secondary Vocational School Diploma, Secondary Commercial School Diploma, Secondary Agricultural School Diploma** (after Junior College equivalent to U.S.(Vocational) High School)**School Year** SEPTEMBER - JUNE

Compulsory Education:

Ages 6 - 12; Grades 1 - 6

Educational System**U.S. EQUIVALENT**

Kindergarten (ages 3-5)	Kindergarten
Primary School - 1st	1st
2nd	2nd
3rd	3rd
4th	4th
5th	5th
6th - General Elementary Education Certificate	6th
Intermediate School - 1st Year	7th
2nd Year	8th
3rd Year	9th
High School or Junior College - 1st year	10th
2nd year	11th
3rd Year - Tawjihyah (General Secondary Education Certificate)	12th - Standard HS Diploma

Grading Scale**U.S. EQUIVALENT**

90-100%	excellent	A
75-89%	very good	B
60-74%	good	C
50-59%	pass	D
0-49%	fail	F

Grading Remarks

Elementary education lasts for six years and leads to the General Elementary Education Certificate. Secondary school education lasts for three years following upon three years of intermediate education. Pupils can choose between general secondary and technical schools. In the first year of general secondary school, pupils share a common curriculum. At the end of this year, they are divided into the scientific and literary tracks for the final two years.

Country Notes

Students obtaining a score of 60% in all the first year subjects may choose between the literary and scientific track. Students obtaining a score less than 60% must opt for the literary track. The course culminates in the Tawjihyah. Technical education includes industrial, commercial and agricultural schools. An Intermediate School Certificate is required for admission. Courses lead to the Secondary Industrial School Diploma, the Secondary Commercial School Diploma and the Secondary Agricultural School Diploma. There are also Technical Assistant Institutes which offer two-year vocational courses in Architectural Drawing, Construction Supervision, Health Supervision, Road Supervision, Surveying and Water Supervision leading to the Certificate of the Technical Assistant Institute. Health Institutes and Nursing Schools offer three-year courses leading to the Health Institute Diploma or the Certificate of Technical Nursing. Male and female education is completely segregated.

System of Education: http://www.unesco.org/iau/onlinedatabases/systems_data/sa.rtf

Country

SOUTH AFRICA

School Year JANUARY - DECEMBER



Compulsory Education:

Ages 5 - 15; Grades K-9

Diploma Awarded

Senior Certificate 1-3 years (depending on N programmes followed) (after Technical Level Secondary School)

Senior Certificate

Educational System

U.S. EQUIVALENT

General Education & Training (GET) Foundation- Lev 1 Grade R (5-6 years old)	Kindergarten
Grade I (age 7)	1st
Grade II	2nd
Grade III	3rd
Intermediate Senior Primary - Grade IV	4th
Grade V	5th
Grade VI	6th
Lower Secondary - Grade VII	7th
Grade VIII	8th
Grade IX - General Education & Training Certificate	9th
Further Education and Training (FET) - Senior Secondary - X	10th
Grade XI	11th
XII - Senior Certificate	12th - Standard HS Diploma

Grading Scale

U.S. EQUIVALENT

80-100%	A
70-79%	B
60-69%	C
50-59%	D
40-49% (E)	D
33-39%	F

Grading Remarks

Marking is alphabetical or expressed as a percentage. The usual pass mark in all higher grade subjects is 40% (with 2 exceptions). The pass mark in all standard grade subjects is 33%

.Primary education lasts for six years, divided into junior primary and senior primary. Until now, secondary school lasted for five years, the first year of the junior secondary phase being followed in primary school. At the end of junior secondary (three years), pupils are awarded the General Education and Training Certificate. At the end of the senior secondary phase (lasting for three years), pupils sit for the Senior Certificate Examinations.

Country Notes

The 1996 Constitution confirms the right to basic education and that the Government must progressively make further education (i.e. the senior secondary phase preceding higher education) available and accessible through reasonable measures. Compulsory education lasts for nine years (until age 15), followed by non-compulsory further education. In the senior cycle, students may study subjects either at Higher Grade, Standard Grade, or Lower Grade. N-courses are also offered to some technical school and college candidates. A Senior Certificate is awarded by the SA Certification Council following externally moderated examinations on completion of senior secondary school. Technical secondary education is provided by technical centres and secondary and vocational schools. Matriculation endorsements are also offered by this Council to students who have satisfied the ministerially approved overlay on the Senior Certificate. Provision is also made for further education colleges through the Further Education and Training Act. Technical high schools may, inter alia, offer courses leading to Senior Certificates with matriculation endorsements, which statutorily constitute the minimum general admission requirement for access to universities. Universities of Technology (former Technikons) require Senior Certificates but not necessarily with matriculation endorsements.

System of Education: http://www.unesco.org/iau/onlinedatabases/systems_data/za.rtf

Country**SLOVENIA****Diploma Awarded**

Maturitetno spričevalo (Secondary School Leaving Certificate) after 4 years, 13th year.
Spričevalo o poklicni maturi (Secondary-School-Leaving Certificate) after 4 years, 13th grade.
Spričevalo o zaključnem izpitu (Secondary-School-Leaving Certificate) after 3 years, 12th grade.
Spričevalo o zaključnem izpitu (final examination) (Secondary-School-Leaving Certificate) after 2 1/2 yrs.5

School Year OCTOBER - JUNE



Compulsory Education:

Ages 6-15; Grades 1-9

Educational System

U.S. EQUIVALENT

Pre-School (age 6)	Kindergarten
Primary and Lower Secondary School (gradual implementation to 2009) 1st	1st
2nd	2nd
3rd	3rd
4th	4th
5th	5th
6th	6th
7th	7th
8th	8th
9th	9th
Gimnazija; Technical 4-year secondary school; Vocational Upper Secondary (2 1/2 yr)	10th
11th	11th
12th - <i>Spričevalo o zaključnem izpitu</i>	12th - Standard HS Diploma

Grading Scale

U.S. EQUIVALENT

5	Odiicno/Zelo uspesno	A
4	Pravdobro/upesno	A
3	Dobro/upesno	B
2	Zadostno/manjuspesno	C
1	Nezadostno	F

Grading Remarks**Country Notes**

In Slovenia, primary and lower secondary education are unified and last for 8 years. A new system is being gradually implemented whereby this level will last for 9 years (3 three-year cycles). There are three types of secondary schools with: a) vocational education programmes (lasting for two-and-a-half or three years, the latter offering the possibility to continue in a two-year upgrade programme or lead directly to the labour market); b) technical education programmes (four-year programmes in different areas); and c) general education programmes (classical gimnazija, technical gimnazija, economic gimnazija, art gimnazija and programmes leading to the International Baccalaureate). In the two bilingual regions, primary and secondary education for the Italian and Hungarian ethnic minorities are offered in Italian, Hungarian and Slovenian.

System of Education: http://www.unesco.org/iau/onlinedatabases/systems_data/si.rtf

Country**SPAIN****Diploma Awarded*****Título de Bachillerato or Título de Técnico*****School Year** OCTOBER - JULY

Compulsory Education:

Ages 6-16; 1-10

Educational System**U.S. EQUIVALENT**

Educación Infantil - 1o2o ciclo (ages 1-5)	Kindergarten
Educación Primaria - 1st Cycle - Primero	1st
Segundo	2nd
2nd Cycle - Tercero	3rd
Cuarto	4th
3rd Cycle - Quinto	5th
Sexto	6th
Institutos de Educación Secundaria, Colegios Privados; Colegios Concertados 1st	7th
Segundo	8th
Tercero	9th
Cuarto: Graduado en Educación Secundaria Obligatoria	10th
Institutos de Educación Secundaria, Colegios Privados y Colegios Concertados 1st	11th
Segundo Año - Título de Bachillerato or Título de Técnico	12th - Standard HS Diploma

Grading Scale**U.S. EQUIVALENT**

10	sobresaliente (matricula de honor)	A
8.5-9	sobresaliente	A
7-8.4	notable	B
6-6.9	bien	C
5-6	suficiente	D
below 5	insuficiente	F

Grading Remarks**Country Notes**

Primary education lasts for six years. Following the 1990 reform, compulsory secondary education (ESO) lasts for four years (from 12 to 16) divided into two two-year cycles (from 12 to 14 and from 14 to 16). It leads to the Graduado en Educación Secundaria Obligatoria Certificate. This certificate is required for a) Bachillerato studies (16 to 18) and b) intermediate vocational training (Ciclos Formativos de Grado Medio). Bachillerato students who have completed all subjects successfully are awarded the Título de Bachillerato (before the 1990 reform, students also had to complete the Curso de Orientación Universitaria). To enter university, students must sit for an entrance examination (Prueba de Acceso a la Universidad). In intermediate vocational training (Ciclos Formativos de Grado medio) students who successfully complete their training are awarded the Certificado de Técnico in the relevant field. This certificate enables them to work in areas related to their training, to pursue further training, or to study for a Bachillerato

System of Education: http://www.unesco.org/iau/onlinedatabases/systems_data/es.rtf

Country**SRI LANKA****Diploma Awarded****Sri Lankan GCE A-Levels** - Pre-University**Sri Lankan GCE O-Levels** - not college bound**School Year** OCTOBER - JULY

Compulsory Education:

Ages 5 - 14; Grades

Educational System**U.S. EQUIVALENT**

Pre-Primary (ages 3-5) not compulsory	Pre-School
Grade I (age 5+)	Kindergarten
Grade II	1st
III	2nd
IV	3rd
V	4th
Junior Secondary - VI	5th
VII	6th
VIII	7th
Senior Secondary - IX	8th
X	9th
XI - Sri Lankan GCE O-Levels	10th
: Collegiate Course - 75-100% XII & XIII - Sri Lankan GCE A-Levels	11th & 12th - Standard HS Diploma

Grading Scale**U.S. EQUIVALENT**

75-100%	(A) distinction	A
65-74%	(B) very good pass	B
55-64%	(C) credit	C
40-54%	(S) ordinary pass	D
0-39%	(F) fail	F

Grading Remarks**Country Notes**

Primary education lasts for five years. Secondary education comprises junior secondary, senior secondary and collegiate (pre-university) education. Junior secondary education lasts for three years and is compulsory up to the school-leaving age of 14. Senior secondary education lasts for three years. At the end of year XI pupils sit for the Sri Lankan GCE O-levels. They must pass in six subjects including mathematics and mother tongue Sinhalese or Tamil. The collegiate course lasts for two years. At the end of year XIII pupils sit for the Sri Lankan GCE A-level examination. As from the year 2000, students can present three subjects for the GCE A level. The minimum admission requirement is a pass in all three approved subjects with an aggregate not less than 135 points and a mark of not less than 30% for the Common General Paper. However, there are no special admission criteria for enrolment in courses conducted by the Open University of Sri Lanka.

System of Education: http://www.unesco.org/iau/onlinedatabases/systems_data/lk.rtf

Country**St. Vincent & the Grenadines****Diploma Awarded****Caribbean Examinations Council Education Certificate (CXC)****or****General Certificate of Education (GCE) or General Certificate of Secondary Education (GCSE) O-Levels****Minimum 5 Subjects****School Year** SEPTEMBER - JULY

Compulsory Education:

Ages 5-12; Grades

Educational System**U.S. EQUIVALENT**

Kindergarten - first year	Kindergarten
1st	1st
2nd	2nd
3rd	3rd
4th	4th
5th - Primary-School Learning Certificate Exam	5th
Intermediate - 6th	6th
7th	7th
8th	8th
Secondary High School - 9th	9th
10th	10th
Stage II - 11th	11th
12th	12th - Standard HS Diploma

Grading Scale**U.S. EQUIVALENT**

A+	9.5-10	A
A	7.5-9.4	A
B	6-7.4	B
C	5-5.9	C
D	4-4.9	D
E/F	0-3.9	F

Grading Remarks

Primary-School Learning Certificate Exam - must pass before moving to the next level of schooling.

Country NotesGeneral Information on the Education System: <http://www.cp-pc.ca/english/stvincent/learning.html>

Country**SUDAN****Diploma Awarded****Sudan Secondary School Certificate****School Year** SEPTEMBER - JUNE

Compulsory Education:

Ages 6-14; Grades 1 - 8

Educational System**U.S. EQUIVALENT**

Khalwa/Koranic schools/Kindergarten (ages 4-5)	Kindergarten
Basic School - 1st	1st
2nd	2nd
3rd	3rd
4th	4th
5th	5th
6th	6th
7th	7th
8th - Basic Education Certificate	8th
Secondary School or Technical and Vocational School - 9th	9th
10th	10th
11th - Sudan Secondary School Certificate	11th - Standard HS Diploma
-	-

Grading Scale**U.S. EQUIVALENT**

A	80-100%	A
B	70-79%	B
C	60-69%	C
D	50-59%	D
F	0-49%	F

Grading Remarks

--

Country Notes

Basic education lasts for eight years and is compulsory. It leads to the Basic Education Certificate. Academic secondary education lasts for three years leading to the Sudan Secondary School Certificate. In the first two years, students follow the same curriculum. In the final year, they choose between arts and science streams. The technical secondary schools include Industrial, Commercial, Agricultural and Women Studies. They offer three-year courses leading to the Sudan Secondary School Certificate. Admission to higher education is based on the passing of this Certificate. Vocational Training Centres offer two-year vocational courses. Admission is based on completion of basic education.

System of Education: http://www.unesco.org/iau/onlinedatabases/systems_data/sd.rtf

Country**SERBIA & MONTENEGRO*****Diploma Awarded**

*(The Federal Republic of Yugoslavia)

School Year SEPTEMBER - JUNE**Svjedocanstvo o polozenom završenom ispitu**
(Certificate of Completed Examinations)

Compulsory Education:

Ages 7 -15; Grades 1 - 10

Educational System**U.S. EQUIVALENT**

Pre-School	Kindergarten
1st - (age 7)	1st
2nd	2nd
3rd	3rd
4th	4th
5th	5th
6th	6th
7th	7th
8th	8th
Gymnazija (grammar schools) - Level I	9th
Level II	10th
Level III	11th
Level IV - Svjedocanstvo o polozenom završenom ispitu	12th - Standard HS Diploma

Grading Scale**U.S. EQUIVALENT**

5	Odlican/Excellent	A
4	Vrio dobar/Very Good	A
3	Dobar/Good	B
2	Dovoljan/Satisfactory	C
1	Nedovoljan/Unsatisfactory	F

Grading Remarks*Svjedocanstvo o završenom razredu* - annual report cards.

In Serbia : Primary (compulsory) education lasts for eight years, starting at 7 years old, and is divided into two cycles, each one lasting four years. Prior to these cycles, a preparatory educational period of one year is mandatory. Secondary education is provided in high schools. The certificate awarded at the end is the Diploma o Završenoj Srednjoj Školi.

Country Notes

Secondary vocational schools offer both general and vocational (practical and theoretical) education for direct entry in the world of work and further education. The vocational qualification is acquired at the level of first form and second form, then third and fourth form and specialization after secondary education lasting for one year. In Montenegro: Primary (compulsory) education is extended to nine years. It is extended downwards, children starting primary school one year earlier. More exactly, the children who by the end of the calendar year turn six shall enrol at primary schools. In the future nine-year primary education will be divided into three cycle, each one lasting three years. Secondary education: Instead of the existing High School courses (natural-science; social-language; study of philology and mathematics), a general High School is proposed, where one part of the curriculum would be devoted to a general-educational core and another to elective subjects. Schooling in High Schools lasts for four years, from the age of 15 to 18. The curricula in Serbia and Montenegro are adopted by the Ministers of Education with the prior consent of the Education Councils of both Republics.

System of Education: http://www.unesco.org/iau/onlinedatabases/systems_data/yu.rtf

Country

SWEDEN

School Year **AUGUST - JUNE**



Compulsory Education:

Ages 7-16; Grades 1 - 9

Diploma Awarded

Slutbetyg Från Gymnasieskola (awarded after 9th grade, end of compulsory education)

Intyg om allmän behörighet (certificate concerning general eligibility for higher education) or **"Intyg om särskild behörighet"** (certificate concerning specific eligibility)

Slutbetyg Från Komvux (Diploma awarded from Municipal adult school (Komvux))

Educational System

U.S. EQUIVALENT

Pre-school class (ages 1-6)	Nursery, Pre-school, Pre-K, Kindergarten
Grundskola - 1st	1st
2nd	2nd
3rd	3rd
4th	4th
5th	5th
6th	6th
7th	7th
8th	8th
9th - Slutbetyg Från Grundskola	9th
Gymnasium - 10th	10th
11th	11th
12th-Slutbetyg Från Gymnasieskola;Intyg om allmän behörighet;Slutbetyg Från Komvux	12th - Standard HS Diploma

Grading Scale

U.S. EQUIVALENT

MVG	Mycket Väl Godkänd (pass with high distinction)	A+
VG	Väl Godkänd (pass with distinction)	B+
G	Godkänd (pass)	C
IG	Icke Godkänd (fail)	F

Grading Remarks

The Swedish state school system comprises compulsory school and various types of voluntary schooling. Compulsory school includes nine years of compulsory basic school, school for the Saami people of Northern Sweden, special school and compulsory school for the mentally handicapped.

Country Notes

Post-compulsory education is offered through 17 National Programmes providing qualifications that allow students to go on to higher education. Some of these programmes also include industrial work placements. The National Programmes of upper secondary education are offered at Gymnasia and lead to the award of the Slutbetyg Från Gymnasieskola. Tuition is free. Outside the upper secondary school system there are folk high schools (Folkhögskolan) which provide state-supported adult education lasting between one and three years of studies. There are no formal examinations. Post-secondary studies include advanced vocational training (Kvalificerad yrkesutbildning) which is intended to meet the labour market's needs for the skills required for modern production of goods and services. About one-third of the course period takes place at the workplace. As from January 2002, this form of training is a permanent part of the Swedish educational system but does not belong to the higher education sector. Admission is based on three-year upper secondary education or corresponding proficiency. The training is normally intended to correspond to two years of study and leads to a Certificate of Advanced Vocational Training (Kvalificerad yrkesexamen).

System of Education: http://www.unesco.org/iau/onlinedatabases/systems_data/se.rtf

Country

SWITZERLAND

Diploma Awarded

School Year **SEPTEMBER - JUNE**

1. *Maturitaetszeugnis/Certificat de Maturité/Baccalauréat/Attestato di Maturità/Matura*
 2. *Professional Baccalaureate*
 3. After 2 years of Vocational Secondary: *Eidgenössisches Berufsattest/Attestation fédérale de formation professionnelle/Certificato federale di formazione pratica*. After 3-4 years: *Fähigkeitszeugnis/Certificat de Capacité/ Attesto di Capacità/Federal Certificate of Competence*



Compulsory Education:

Ages 6 (by the 30 of June) -

Educational System

U.S. EQUIVALENT

préprimaire; ecole enfantine (ages 18 mos-6)	Pre-school; Kindergarten
Ecole Primaire (Primarschule) - ISCED 1 - 1st	1st
2nd	2nd
3rd	3rd
4th	4th
5th	5th
6th	6th
ISCED 2A - 7th	7th
8th	8th
9th: In some cantons "lower secondary school leaving certificate"	9th
Maturitätsschule;/Berufsmaturitätsschule; ISCED 3 A-C - 1st Year	10th
2nd Year	11th
3rd Year	12th - Standard HS Diploma

Grading Scale

U.S. EQUIVALENT

Scale 1	Scale 2	Scale 3	
7-10	5.5-6	1.5-1	A
6	4.5-5.4	2.5-1.6	B
5	3.0-4.4	3.0-4.4	C
0-4	0.0-2.9	Above 3	F

Grading Remarks

Usual grading system in secondary school

Full Description: In most cantons, the 6-point scale is used: 6 = ausgezeichnet/très bien (outstanding) = A;

5 gut/bien= B; 4 = genügend/suffisant (pass) = C; 3-2-1 = ungenügend/insuffisant (fail)

Highest on scale: 6=ausgezeichnet/très bien (outstanding);

Pass/fail level: 4=genügend/suffisant (pass) Lowest on scale: 1=schlecht/mauvais (fail).

Country Notes

Compulsory education lasts for nine years and consists of primary and lower secondary education (secondary I). Primary education lasts from four to six years depending on the Canton. Lower secondary education lasts from three to five years depending on the Canton. Upper secondary education (secondary II) is not compulsory and varies in length from three to four years. There are two main types of upper secondary schools: academic schools (Maturitätsschulen) and vocational schools (Berufsfachschulen). Academic upper secondary schools prepare students for entry to Universities and Teacher Training Schools; vocational secondary schools prepare students for a wide range of occupations and Higher Vocational Schools (Höhere Fachschulen) as well as Universities of Applied Sciences (if combined with the Professional Baccalaureate) .

System of Education: http://www.unesco.org/iau/onlinedatabases/systems_data/ch.rtf

Country**SYRIAN ARAB REPUBLIC****School Year** SEPTEMBER - JUNE

Compulsory Education:

Ages 6 - 11; Grades 1-9

Diploma Awarded***Al-Shahâda Al-Thânawiyya-Al'Amma*** (Secondary School Leaving Certificate)***Al-Shahâda Al Thânawiyya Al-Fanniyya*** (Technical Baccalaureate)**Educational System**

U.S. EQUIVALENT

Pre-primary (ages 3-5)	Kindergarten
Primary Stage/Basic Education I School - 1st	1st
2nd	2nd
3rd	3rd
4th	4th
5th	5th
Basic Education II School - 6th	6th
7th	7th
8th	8th
9th - Basic Education Leaving Certificate	9th
General or Technical Secondary - 10th	10th
11th	11th
12th	12th - Standard HS Diploma

Grading Scale

U.S. EQUIVALENT

Grading Remarks

In the literary branch of the baccalaureate maximum of 240. Minimum pass mark is 102. In the scientific branch maximum of 260. Minimum pass mark is 104. In the Technical/Scientific Branch: 0-260 with 104 passing.

Country Notes

Basic education stage I lasts for five years. It is followed by four years of Basic Education stage II. At the end of grade 9, pupils sit for the national Basic Education Leaving Certificate examination. Secondary education lasts for three years. Students may either enter the general or the technical branches, although entry is selective and is based on the Basic Education Leaving Certificate examination. In the general branch, the first year is introductory. After this, pupils enter either the literary or the scientific track. At the end of the three-year course, pupils sit for the Al-Shahâda-Al Thânawiyya/Secondary School Leaving Certificate. Technical secondary education is divided into technical industrial and commercial tracks. Vocational education comprises industrial and vocational education for girls. At the end of the course, pupils sit for the Al-Shahâda Al-Thânawiyya Al-Fanniyya (Technical Baccalaureate) which offers entry to the various Vocational Training Institutes.

System of Education: http://www.unesco.org/iau/onlinedatabases/systems_data/sy.rtf

Country**TAIWAN****Diploma Awarded****Senior High School Leaving Certificate****Senior Vocational School Leaving Certificate****School Year** SEPTEMBER - JULY

Compulsory Education:

Ages 6-14; Grades 1 - 9

Educational System**U.S. EQUIVALENT**

-	Kindergarten
Primary School (age 6) - 1st	1st
2nd	2nd
3rd	3rd
4th	4th
5th	5th
6th - Certificate	6th
Junior High School/Lower/Intermediate - 7th	7th
8th	8th
9th - Certificate	9th
Academic or Vocational Senior High School - First Year	10th
Second Year	11th
Third Year - Senior High School or Vocational School Leaving Certificate	12th - Standard HS Diploma

Grading Scale**U.S. EQUIVALENT**

80-100%	A
70-79%	B
60-69%	C
50-59%	F
below 50%	F

Grading Remarks

Passing is a grade of 60% (C) or higher. Some private schools differ; always check secondary school transcript legend.

Country Notes

Ministry of Education of Taiwan: <http://www.moe.gov.tw>

Country**THAILAND****Diploma Awarded*****Upper Secondary School Certificate******Certificate (Vocational Education)******Diploma (Vocational Education)*****School Year** JUNE - MARCH

Compulsory Education:

Ages 6-14; Grades 1-9

Educational System

U.S. EQUIVALENT

Two-year Kindergarten/Pre-school (ages 3-6)	Kindergarten
Primary - 1st	1st
2nd	2nd
3rd	3rd
4th	4th
5th	5th
6th - Primary School Certificate	6th
Lower Secondary - 7th	7th
8th	8th
9th - Lower Secondary School Certificate	9th
10th	10th
11th	11th
12th - Higher Secondary School Certificate (Mathayom Suksa 6)	12th - Standard HS Diploma

Grading Scale

U.S. EQUIVALENT

4	Excellent	A
3,5	Very Good	B+
3	Good	B
2,5	Fairly Good	C+
2	Fair	C
1,5	Poor	D+
1	Very Poor	D; (0, Fail=F)

Grading Remarks

--

Country Notes

The school system follows a 6-3-3 structure where six-year primary and three-year lower secondary education are compulsory. At the upper secondary level, schools are divided into 2 major tracks : general (academic), and vocational. Students in the general or academic track follow the comprehensive curriculum that includes 30 units of compulsory subjects, and at least 45 units of elective subjects plus extra-curricula activities. One instructional unit is defined as approximately two 50-minute classes per week of the 20 week semester system. At the end of upper secondary school pupils sit for the Higher Secondary School Certificate (Mathayom Suksa 6).

System of Education: http://www.unesco.org/iau/onlinedatabases/systems_data/th.rtf

Country**TRINIDAD & TOBAGO****Diploma Awarded****Caribbean Examinations Council Secondary Education Certificate****School Year**

Compulsory Education:

Ages 5-12; Grades K-Standard 5

General Certificate of Education Advanced 'A' Level**Educational System****U.S. EQUIVALENT**

Nurseries (0-3 yrs)/Kindergarten, pre-school, ECCE centers (ages 3-5 years)	Kindergarten
Primary Education Infants - Level I (age 5/6) & Level II (age 6/7)	1st
Standard 1	2nd
Standard 2	3rd
Standard 3	4th
Standard 4	5th
Standard 5 - Common Entrance Examination (to enter secondary)	6th
Junior Secondary School (new system) - First Year	7th
Second Year	8th
Third Year	9th
Upper Secondary School (new system) - 1st year	10th
2nd Year	11th
Sixth Form (traditional system and new system) 2 years- GCE or CAPE	12th + - Standard HS Diploma

Grading Scale**U.S. EQUIVALENT**

1	90-100	A
2	80-89	B
3		B
4		C+
5	65-79	C
6	(50-64 = D)	F
7	0-49	F

Grading Remarks

For the CXC Secondary Education Certificate, there is no pass/fail mark. Six grades are awarded, on a scale of 1 (maximum) - 6.

Highest on scale: 1

Lowest on scale: 6

Note: In some schools a grade of 40% or lower is failing

Country Notes

Primary education is compulsory and lasts for six years leading to the Common Entrance Examination. There are two types of secondary education: the traditional academic sector providing five or seven years of schooling (Five years of secondary school followed by two years of Sixth Form) and the new system providing three-year junior secondary and two years of senior secondary schooling and two years of Sixth Form. New-type schools offer a more diversified curriculum than the traditional schools. After five years of secondary school, courses lead to the examinations for the Caribbean Examinations Council Secondary Education Certificate or GCE O Levels, and after a further two years to GCE A level examinations or to the new Caribbean Advanced Proficiency Examination (CAPE). Technical and vocational courses are also offered in Business Studies; Engineering; Surveying; Home Economics; and Graphics and Applied Arts.

Education System: http://www.unesco.org/iau/onlinedatabases/systems_data/tt.rtf

Country

TURKEY

Diploma Awarded

Lise Diploması

School Year **OCTOBER - JUNE**



Compulsory Education:

Ages - 13; Grades 1-7

Educational System

U.S. EQUIVALENT

-	Kindergarten
Basic Education School - 1st (age 6 or 7)	1st
2nd	2nd
3rd	3rd
4th	4th
5th	5th
6th	6th
7th	7th
8th - : İlköğretim Diploması (Basic Education Diploma)	8th
Genel Lise, Meslek Lisesi, Teknik Lise (General, Vocational and Technical High Schools)	9th
10th	10th
11th - <i>Lise Diploması</i>	11th - Standard HS Diploma
-	-

Grading Scale

U.S. EQUIVALENT

5	excellent	A
4	good	B
3	satisfactory	C
2	passing	D
1	failing	F
0	failing and not included in general calculation.	-

Grading Remarks

The age of entry to school is six or seven. Since 1997, secondary education follows eight years of basic education and covers general, vocational and technical high schools that provide three or four years of education. General high schools do not prepare students for a specific profession but rather for higher education. The following institutions are considered to fall within general secondary education: high schools; high schools with intensive foreign language teaching; Anatolian high schools where a foreign language - English, French or German - is taught during the preparatory year and the teaching of certain subjects is provided in that language in upper grades.

Country Notes

In general high schools, the average number of weekly periods of teaching in each grade varies from a minimum of 33 to a maximum of 41. In their second year, students in high schools where the general programme is applied may choose to attend branches which specialize in the natural sciences, literature and mathematics, the social sciences, foreign languages, art or physical education. Vocational high schools provide three-year secondary education, train qualified people for various professions and also prepare students for higher education. Technical high schools offer a four-year programme. Subjects offered in the first year are the same as in the vocational high schools. Secondary education students obtain the Lise Diploması which is the prerequisite for entry to higher education. Admission to university is centralized and based on the Student Selection Examination (ÖSS). As of June 2003, candidates have to obtain a minimum of 160,000 points (previously 105,000 points) to be eligible to enrol in two-year vocational higher education and open/distance education programmes and a minimum of 185,000 points (previously 120,000 points) for all four-year undergraduate programmes in the Student Selection Examination (ÖSS). 185,000 and 160,000 points respectively correspond to 120 and 105 of the previous ÖSS score types. The maximum ÖSS score will be 300 as from 2003. System of Education: http://www.unesco.org/iau/onlinedatabases/systems_data/tr.rtf

Country**TURKS & CAICOS ISLANDS****Diploma Awarded****GCE** - General Certificate of Education**CXC** - Caribbean Examination Council**School Year** SEPTEMBER - JUNE

Compulsory Education:

Ages 5-15; Grades 1-

Educational System**U.S. EQUIVALENT**

Pre-Primary (K1-K2)	Kindergarten
Primary - Grade 1 (age 6)	1st
Grade 2	2nd
Grade 3	3rd
Grade 4	4th
Grade 5	5th
Grade Six - Achievement Test	6th
Secondary - Form I	7th
Form II	8th
Form III	9th
Form IV	10th
Form V - CXC Exam	11th - Standard HS Diploma
-	

Grading Scale**U.S. EQUIVALENT**

80-100	A
65-79	B
50-64	C
35-49	D
0-34	F

Grading Remarks**Country Notes**
<http://www.tci-educationdepartment.tc/>

Country**(ALL) CARIBBEAN ISLANDS****Diploma Awarded**

Caribbean Examination Council **(CXC/CSEC)**
 Caribbean Advanced Proficiency Examinations **(CAPE)**
 General Certificate of Secondary Education **(GCE/GCSE)**
 Bahamas General Certificate of Secondary Education **(BGCSE)**

School Year Additional information on

all Caribbean Islands and

their testing.

Educational System

U.S. EQUIVALENT

CARIBBEAN TESTS	U.S. EQUIVALENT
Caribbean Secondary Education Certificate (CXC/CSEC)	Standard High School Diploma
Caribbean Advanced Proficiency Examinations (CAPE)	Standard High School Diploma
Bahamas General Certificate of Secondary Education (BGCSE)	Standard High School Diploma
General Certificate of Secondary Education (GCE/GCSE)	Standard High School Diploma
Dominica Junior Secondary Program (JSP)	Achievement Test
Guyana National Third Form Examination (NTFE)	Achievement Test
Jamaica Grade Nine Achievement Test (GNAT)	Achievement Test
Bahamas Junior Certificate Examination (BJC)	Achievement Test

Grading Scale

U.S. EQUIVALENT

Grading RemarksCaribbean Exams Information: <http://www.caribbeanexams.com/Admin/Plain.aspx?f=cestart&S=5>**Country Notes**

The Continuous Assessment Programme (CAP) is designed to monitor students over a period of time — usually throughout grades 4-6. The Caribbean Exams' Continuous Assessment Programme (CAP) Portal is designed to meet the needs of primary school students in **Anguilla, Belize, British Virgin Islands, The Cayman Islands, Guyana, Montserrat, St. Kitts & Nevis and Trinidad and Tobago** who are preparing for their secondary school entrance examination. The system provides over 3000 practice questions, review material and pertinent information for students preparing for the following examinations:

- Anguilla's Test of Standards (TOS);
- Belize's Primary School Examination (PSE);
- British Virgin Islands Primary V;
- Trinidad's Secondary Entrance Assessment (SEA).
- Cayman's 11+ Examination;
- Guyana's Secondary School Entrance Examinations (SSEE);
- Montserrat's 11+ examination; and
- St. Kitts & Nevis' 11+ examination.

Country**UKRAINE****Diploma Awarded****Atestat**/Matriculation School Certificate:**Atestat, Diplom Technika**/Matriculation School Certificate, Professional Secondary School Leaving Diploma, Junior Specialist**Atestat, Swidoctwo Pro Zakinchennia****Uchylshcha**/Matriculation School Certificate, Vocational School Leaving Certificate**School Year** SEPTEMBER - JUNE

Compulsory Education:

Ages 7-15; Grades 1-10

Educational System

U.S. EQUIVALENT

Elementary School - Grade I	1st
Grade II	2nd
Grade III	3rd
Grade IV	4th
: Lower Secondary (Osnowna Serednia Shkola) - Grade V	5th
Grade VI	6th
Grade VII	7th
Grade VIII	8th
Grade IX -Certificate of Incomplete General Secondary Education	9th
Upper Secondary School (Licei); (Starsha Serednia Shkola);(Gimnazia); (Technikum)	10th
Grade XI	11th
Grade XII - Atestat/Matriculation School Certificate; Diplom Technika	12th - Standard HS Diploma

Grading Scale

U.S. EQUIVALENT

Scale 1	Scale 2		
5	10-12	Vidminno/Excellent	A
4	7-9	Dobre/Good	B
3	4-6	Zadovil'no/Satisfactory	C
1-2	1-3	Nezarakhovano/Unsatisfactory	F

Grading Remarks

--

Country Notes

All children aged from 7 to 15 years' old attend nine-year compulsory school. Options after comprehensive school are upper secondary school or vocational education. Upper secondary school: 3-year general school leading to the Matriculation Examination, giving successful students access to university and other higher education schools. The present vocational education system covers both general secondary and vocational programmes, with separate tracks for comprehensive school leavers and matriculated students. The system is being reformed.

System of Education: http://www.unesco.org/iau/onlinedatabases/systems_data/ua.rtf

Country

UNITED KINGDOM

School Year **SEPTEMBER - JULY**



Compulsory Education:

Ages 5-16; Grades 1 - 10; Years 1-11(UK)

Diploma Awarded

General Certificate of Secondary Education (**CGSE**)
Vocational Certificate of Secondary Education
(**VCSE**)

After Sixth Form - **General Certificate of Education Advanced Level/General Certificate of Education Advanced Subsidiary/Vocational Certificate of Education Advanced Level/Vocational Certificate of Education Advanced Subsidiary Level**

Educational System

U.S. EQUIVALENT

Combined Junior and Infant School (age 4/5); Year 1 (5/6)	Pre-K; Kindergarten
Year II	1st
Year III	2nd
Year IV	3rd
Year V	4th
Year VI	5th
Comprehensive School;Secondary Modern;Grammar School;CTC(City Tech Col)Form I	6th
Form II	7th
Form III	8th
Form IV	9th
Form V - General Certificate of Secondary Education (CGSE) or Vocational (VCSE)	10th
Sixth Form - First Year	11th
Sixth Form - Second Year - General Certificate of Education Advanced Level	12th - Standard HS Diploma

Grading Scale

U.S. EQUIVALENT

A	Excellent/Outstanding	A
B	Above Average	B
C	Average	C
D	Below Average	D
E	Failing	F

Grading Remarks

In England, Wales and Scotland go to comprehensive schools (96% in Scotland), which provide a wide range of secondary education for most children of all abilities in the 11-18 age range (12-18 in Scotland). At age 16 pupils in England and Wales may transfer to sixth-form colleges or tertiary colleges. In Northern Ireland, secondary education normally begins when pupils reach the age of 11. There are two main types of school, grammar and secondary. Grammar schools provide a range of courses for pupils between 11 and 18 years of age, while secondary schools provide a similar range of courses for the 11-16 age group, although some secondary schools offer opportunities for those aged 16+.

In England

Country Notes

Wales and Northern Ireland, the General Certificate of Secondary Education (GCSE) serves as the principal examination taken by secondary school pupils at 16+. GCE A-level examinations are normally taken following the GCSE and after two further years of study, usually in Form VI of secondary schools, tertiary colleges or colleges of further education. The National Qualifications Framework (NQF) sets out the levels (currently eight) at which qualifications are recognized: GCSEs Grades D-G are at level 1, GCSEs Grades A*-C at level 2, and A-levels at level 3. In Scotland, at the end of four years of lower secondary education students are eligible to sit their first National Qualifications examinations, either Standard Grade or the newer Intermediate levels 1 and 2 of the National Qualifications (General and Credit Standard Grade, respectively). Their achievements are recorded on the Scottish Qualifications Certificate (SQC, formerly the Scottish Certificate of Education). The Higher level of SQC, usually taken in the fifth year of (upper) secondary education at about age 17, is the target of many students who aim to enter professions or to go on to higher education. The Certificate of Sixth-Year Studies was available for students with a pass at Higher level in their fifth year and continuing their studies for another year; it has been replaced by the Advanced Higher level.

System of Education: http://www.unesco.org/iau/onlinedatabases/systems_data/gb.rtf

Country**URUGUAY****Diploma Awarded*****Bachillerato Diversificado de Enseñanza Secundaria*****School Year** MARCH - DECEMBER***Bachillerato Técnico/Diversificado***

Compulsory Education:

Bachillerato Técnico (after 4 years of Secundaria Técnico)

Ages 6 - 14; Grades 1 - 9

Educational System**U.S. EQUIVALENT**

Educación preprimaria (ages 3-5)	Kindergarten
Educación basico/primaria - Primer Grado (age 6)	1st
Segundo	2nd
Tercero	3rd
Cuarto	4th
Quinto	5th
Sexto - Certificado de Suficiencia Escolar Para Continuar Estudios	6th
Educación medio- ciclo basico unica - Primer Año	7th
Segundo Año	8th
Tercer Año	9th
Ciclo diversificado; Technical; Bachillerato; Secundaria - Cuarto Año	10th
Quinto Año	11th
Sexto Año - Bachillerato Diversificado de Enseñanza Secundaria; Técnico	12th - Standard HS Diploma

Grading Scale**U.S. EQUIVALENT**

10-12	A
8-9	B
6-7	C
5	D
0-4	F

Grading Remarks

--

Country Notes

Primary education lasts for six years and, together with the basic cycle of secondary education (first three years) form the nine years of compulsory education. The last three years of secondary education are called the "Ciclo Diversificado" where students can opt for Bachillerato courses or technical-vocational education. The Bachillerato offer three basic options: Biology, Humanities and Science which are again subdivided during the last year. Technical studies are offered in technical schools and lasts between two and seven years. One example is the "Universidad del Trabajo" where students complete three or four-year programmes, depending on the field chosen, and leave with the "Bachillerato Técnico".

Education System: http://www.unesco.org/iau/onlinedatabases/systems_data/uy.rtf

Country**UZBEKISTAN****Diploma Awarded*****Certificate of Completed Secondary Education******Diploma of Completed Vocational/Technical******Education Diploma of Specialized Secondary Education*** (equivalent to Associates Degree)**School Year** SEPTEMBER - JUNE

Compulsory Education:

Ages 6-15; Grades 1 - 9

Educational System**U.S. EQUIVALENT**

Pre-school and upbringing - ages 3-6	Kindergarten
Primary school (Grades 1-4) Grade I (age 6/7)	1st
II	2nd
III	3rd
IV	4th
Secondary school (Grades 5-9) - V	5th
VI	6th
VII	7th
VIII	8th
IX	9th
lyceum, Gymnasia (2 yrs.); Vocational/Technical School (VTE); Vocational X	10th
XI *Certificate of Completed Sec. Ed; **Diploma of Completed Vocational/Technical	11th - Standard HS Diploma
Vocational College; Academic Lyceum - Diploma of Specialized Secondary Education	Associates Degree

Grading Scale**U.S. EQUIVALENT**

5	Excellent	A
4	Good	B
3	Satisfactory	C
2	Unsatisfactory	D
1	Unsatisfactory	F

Grading Remarks

Passing in a grade of 3 or higher. Grades of 1 or 2 are rarely shown on transcripts. A pass mark is issued when an exam was not taken but all course requisites were met. This can be equated to a CR (credit)/Pass in the U.S. system.

Country Notes

General (basic) education is provided in several types of basic education schools: schools with only primary education (Grades I-IV); schools which offer partial (Grades I-IX) and complete (Grades I-XI) secondary education; adult education centres, and specialized schools and boarding schools for students with disabilities. General education is also available in new types of institutions (gymnasia and lyceums), some of them attached to higher education institutions. General basic education is followed by two or three years of upper secondary education (leading to the Certificate of Completed Secondary Education) or vocational and technical (VTE) education. This is provided at two levels: the first level offers six months to three years of basic vocational training after Grade IX; the second level generally offers at least two years of training (post-secondary) in over 300 specializations leading to the Diploma of Specialized Secondary Education. A network of specialized secondary vocational institutions was formed in 1997/98. Literacy is practically universal for both men and women (99%). However, considering that the government is implementing a long-term programme of transition from Cyrillic to Latin script, in the short-term there could be some changes in the literacy rate.

System of Education: http://www.unesco.org/iau/onlinedatabases/systems_data/uz.rtf

Country**VENEZUELA****Diploma Awarded***Título de Bachiller**Técnico Medio***School Year** SEPTEMBER - JULY

Compulsory Education:

Ages 5-17; Grades

Educational System**U.S. EQUIVALENT**

preescolar/Educación preprimaria (ages 3 - 5/6)	Kindergarten
educación básica es el segundo nivel (age 6) Primer Grado	1st
Segundo	2nd
Tercer	3rd
Cuarto	4th
Quinta	5th
Sexto	6th
Septimo	7th
Octavo	8th
Noveno - Certificado de Educación Básica	9th
educación media diversificada y profesional - Primer Año	10th
Segundo Año - Título de Bachiller*	11th (Standard H.S. Diploma)
Técnico Medio (after 3 yrs of Educación Media Profesional)**	Vocational/Professional H.S. Diploma

Grading Scale**U.S. EQUIVALENT**

16-20	Sobresaliente	A
14-15	Distinguido	B
10-13	Bueno	C
1-9	Aplazado	F

Grading Remarks

Is on scale of 20-0, with 10 as the minimum pass mark. Each academic year is divided into 3 or more periods. A grade is given for each period. At the end of the year the grades for each period are averaged to form a previous grade (60% of the final mark).

Country Notes

Pre-school education is the first compulsory stage of education. Basic education is the second and lasts for nine years, divided into three cycles and leading to the Certificado de Educación Básica. Secondary education (educación media) is divided into two options: *1. Diversified, to train "bachilleres" in Science, Art and/or Humanities (two years). **2. Professional, to train middle technicians "Técnicos medios" (three years). Studies are divided into industrial, agricultural, commercial and administrative, and health sectors.

Education System: http://www.unesco.org/iau/onlinedatabases/systems_data/ve.rtf

Country**VIET NAM****Diploma Awarded****Bằng Tốt Nghiệp Phú Thúng Trung Học**
(Secondary School Graduation Certificate)**School Year** SEPTEMBER - JUNE

Compulsory Education:

Ages 6-10; Grades 1-5

Diploma of “skilled worker” (after Vocational Technical Secondary School)**Educational System****U.S. EQUIVALENT**

Senior Kindergarten	Kindergarten
Trúống Tiểu Học Cap I – Primary School – Grade I	1st
Grade II	2nd
Grade III	3rd
Grade IV	4th
Grade V - Certificate of Primary Education	5th
Trúống Phó Thóống Số Cáp II – (General education Level II) – Grade VI	6th
Grade VII	7th
Grade VIII	8th
Grade IX - *Diploma of Completion of Lower Secondary Education	9th
Specialized Secondary School; *Vocational Technical Secondary	10th
Grade XI	11th
Grade XII - : Bằng Tốt Nghiệp Phú Thúng Trung Học	12th - Standard HS Diploma

Grading Scale**U.S. EQUIVALENT**

9-10	Gíoi/excellent	A
7-8	Kha/Good	B
5-6	Trung Binh /Fairly Good	C
0-4	Kem/Poor(Failing)	F
-	Dat/Pass	Pass

Grading Remarks***Bằng Tốt Nghiệp Phó Thóống Thóống Co Số** - Diploma of Completion of Lower Secondary Education****Trúống Phó Thóống Trung Học Cap III** (Upper secondary school)*****Bằng Tốt Nghiệp Trung Học Chuyén Nghiệp** (Secondary Technical School Diploma)**Please note: Bằng Tot Nghiệp Day Nghé Trung Hoc** (Secondary Vocational Diploma) and the **Bằng Tóot NghiEep Phó Thóống Trung Hoc** (Upper Secondary School Diploma). Students are then eligible to take the university entrance examination.**Country Notes**

Primary education lasts for five years (Grades 1-V) leading to the Certificate of Primary Education. Secondary school education is divided into two cycles: basic secondary (Grades VI-IX) and specialized secondary school (Grades X-XII). Admission to upper secondary school requires the success in a competitive entrance examination. There is also technical and vocational secondary education. Secondary technical schools provide students with an intermediate level of technical skills. Students are enrolled in vocational training schools at two levels: at the lower level, the duration of courses ranges from two years (simple trades) to three years. At the upper secondary level, one- or two-year courses are offered. Upon graduation, students obtain a diploma. At the end of secondary education, pupils sit for the *Bang Tot Nghiep Pho Thong Trung Hoc* (universal graduation) examination administered by the MOET. They then have to pass an entrance examination called *Ky Thi TuyEen Vto Dai Hoc* to enter university.

System of Education: http://www.unesco.org/iau/onlinedatabases/systems_data/vn.rtf

Country**YEMEN****Diploma Awarded****Al Thanawiya** (General Secondary Education Certificate)**Al Thanawiya** (Vocational/Agricultural Education Certificate)**School Year** SEPTEMBER - JUNE

Compulsory education is not enforced.



Military is compulsory for males after graduation.

Educational System**U.S. EQUIVALENT**

riyad al atfal ou jardins d'enfants (preprimary) - ages 4-6	Nursery; Pre-K; Kindergarten
al-assassi; al-ibtida'i; al-aedadi - 1st	1st
2nd	2nd
3rd	3rd
4th	4th
5th	5th
6th	6th
7th	7th
8th	8th
9th: Intermediate School Certificate	9th
<i>Upper Secondary: Technical secondary School - 10th</i>	10th
11th	11th
12th - Al Thanawiya (General Secondary Education Certificate)	12th - Standard HS Diploma

Grading Scale**U.S. EQUIVALENT**

90-100%	1	630-700/excellent	A
80-89%	2	561-630/very good	B
65-79%	3	491-560/good	C
50-64%	4	421-490/fair	D
		350-420/pass	D
5 passing is a grade of 50% or higher		below 350	F

Grading Remarks**Usual grading system in secondary school**

Full Description: Al Thanawiya is graded out of 700.
 Highest on scale: 630-700 excellent, 561-630 very good
 491-560 good, 421-490 fair
 Lowest on scale: 350-420 pass

Country Notes

Basic education covers nine years leading to the Intermediate School Certificate. Secondary education covers three years. After a common first-year curriculum, students choose either the scientific or literary track for the remaining two years. The Al Thanawiya examination is taken at the end of the third year. There are some technical secondary schools, three vocational training centres, a Veterinary Training School, a Health Manpower Training Institute and several agricultural secondary schools. There are also religious institutes which concentrate on Islamic education. Vocational secondary education also leads to the Al Thanawiya after three years or to vocational certificates. The education system is based on Islamic Law.

System of Education: http://www.unesco.org/iau/onlinebases/systems_data/ye.rtf

Country**ZIMBABWE****Diploma Awarded****General Certificate of Education 'O' Level****School Year** JANUARY - DECEMBER**Cambridge Higher School Certificate (HSC)
/CGE 'A' Level**

Compulsory Education:

Ages 6 - 13; Grades 1 - 7

Educational System**U.S. EQUIVALENT**

Pre-school (3 yrs.; ages 3-5)	Nursery; Pre-K; Kindergarten
Primary - Grade I	1st
Grade II	2nd
Grade III	3rd
Grade IV	4th
Grade V	5th
Grade VI	6th
Grade VII - Grade Seven Certificate	7th
: Secondary School (Forms I to IV) - Form I	8th
Form II	9th
Form III	10th
Form IV: General Certificate of Education 'O' Level	11th - Standard H.S. Diploma
Secondary School (Forms V & VI) - *Cambridge Higher School Certificate (HSC) (CGE 'A' Level)	Preparatory School

Grading Scale**U.S. EQUIVALENT**

A		A
B		B
C		C
Below C is failing		F
Passing is a grade of 60% (C) or higher.	Some private schools differ; always	check secondary
school transcripts legends.		

Grading Remarks**Usual grading system in secondary school**

Full Description: A-F for Ordinary ("O") Level and Advanced ("A") Level.

Highest on scale: A

Pass/fail level: E for "A" Level and D for "O" Level.

Lowest on scale: F

Country Notes

Primary education lasts seven years and children usually enroll at the age of 6. The seven-year cycle is divided into infant grades (I and II) and junior grades (III-VII). At the end of the primary stage, successful pupils are awarded the Grade Seven Certificate. Secondary education lasts six years and includes: a four-year Ordinary Level cycle where the official entry age is 13 years (there is unimpeded progress to the CGE O-Level cycle, but some schools set selection criteria based on Grade VII examinations); a two-year Advanced Level cycle, which is a restricted cycle since progression is on merit or selection. At the end, students take the Cambridge Higher School Certificate (HSC) or CGE 'A' Level Certificate. Important to note that secondary schools do not produce transcripts for their students. Students receive informal, handwritten school reports twice a year. Teachers sometimes downgrade students reports as motivator for them to work harder. The "O" and "A" level certificates are considered the official academic qualifications. The exam results are certified and stamped by the Head master, the Minister of Education or the U.S. Embassy in Zimbabwe.

System of Education: http://www.unesco.org/iau/onlinebases/systems_data/zw.rtf

Addendum

Compiled by the Department of Multicultural Education

This page intentionally left blank

Country

Dominican Republic

School Year September - June

Compulsory Education:

Ages 5 - 14; grades K - 8

Diploma Awarded

Bachillerato en Ciencia y Letras (to go on to University)

Perito (to go on to Technical School)

Educational System**U.S. EQUIVALENT**

Pre-Primary/Early Childhood (Educación Preprimaria/Educación Inicial)	Kindergarten
Primary/Basic (Educación Básica) -- 1st --Primer Ciclo	1st
2nd	2nd
3rd	3rd
4th	4th
5th -- Segundo Ciclo	5th
6th	6th
7th	7th
8th	8th
Secondary (Educación Media) -- 9th -- Primer Ciclo	9th
10th	10th
11th -- Segundo Ciclo	11th
12th	12th - Standard High School Diploma

Grading Scale**U.S. EQUIVALENT**

Excelente	90 - 100	A
Muy Bueno	80 - 89	B
Bueno	70 - 79	C
Deficiente	60 - 69	D
Insuficiente	0 - 59	F

Grading Remarks

A 0 - 4 point scale is sometimes used: A = 4; B = 3; C = 2; D = 1; F = 0

<http://www.dreembassy.org/spanish/Culture/iframe4.htm>

Country Notes

Pre-Primary Education (La Educación Inicial) is organized into three levels: the first level serves children ages 0-2 years old, the second group serves children ages 2-4 years old, and the third group serves children ages 4-6 years old. Pre-primary education is not compulsory except for the last year (the school year beginning when the child turns 5). Basic education (Educación Primaria) is compulsory for children ages 6-14. It lasts for eight years, and is organized in two cycles of four years each (Primer Ciclo and Segundo Ciclo). Secondary education (Educación Secundaria or Educación Media) is not compulsory, but it is the duty of the government to offer it free of charge. It serves children 14-18 years old. Grades 9 and 10 are the Primer Ciclo Común and then grades 11 and 12 are the Segundo Ciclo. Students can specialize in one of three areas: general (academic), technical, or the arts. Upon completion, students receiving a Bachillerato can go to a University. Students completing the technical track will receive a Perito and can go to a higher education technical school. The school year is 42 weeks long in pre-primary education and basic education, and 43 weeks in secondary education. The higher education system includes higher education institutes (all private), (los institutos de estudios superiores) and universities. The institutes offer courses of a higher technical level; the universities offer technical, undergraduate, and graduate courses.

http://www.ibe.unesco.org/Countries/WDE/2006/LATIN_AMERICA_and_the_CARIBBEAN/Dominican_Republic/Dominican_Republic.pdf

Country**Estonia****Diploma Awarded**

Gümnaasiumi lõputunnistus (Secondary School Leaving Certificate) or
 Tunnistus Põhihariduse Baasil Kutsekeskhariduse Omandamise Kohta (Certificate on Acquiring Secondary Vocational Education Based on Basic Education)

School Year September - June

Compulsory Education:

Ages 7 - 16

Educational System**U.S. EQUIVALENT**

not compulsory	Kindergarten
Basic School/Põhikool - Year 1	1st
Year 2	2nd
Year 3	3rd
Year 4	4th
Year 5	5th
Year 6	6th
Year 7	7th
Year 8	8th
Year 9	9th
General Secondary School/Gymnasium or Vocational Education Institution - Year 1	10th
Year 2	11th
Year 3	12th - Standard High School Diploma

Grading Scale**U.S. EQUIVALENT**

5	Excellent	A
4	Good	B
3	Satisfactory	C
2	Unsatisfactory	D
1	Poor/Fail	F

Grading Remarks

Pass/Fail is 3.

Country Notes

General education is divided into two parts: basic education (9 years; ages 7 to 16) which is compulsory for all children in Estonia, and secondary general education. Since 1993, the Basic School Leaving Certificate, obtained at the end of basic education, provides a student with the right to continue at the next level which offers two strands (three additional years): 1) Secondary General School/Gymnasium Education or 2) Vocational Education. Upon graduation, students receive the Secondary School Leaving Certificate (Gümnaasiumi lõputunnistus) which gives access to higher education at a University. Students who complete the the study program at the vocational secondary level are awarded the Certificate on Acquiring Secondary Vocational Education Based on Basic Education (Tunnistus Põhihariduse Baasil Kutsekeskhariduse Omandamise Kohta). These students can go on to a post-secondary vocational program to earn a higher education vocational certificate.

Country**Finland****Diploma Awarded**

Lukion päättötodistus/Avgångsbetyg från gymnasiet (General Upper Secondary School Certificate);
 Ylioppilastutkintotodistus/Studentexamensbetyg (Certificate of Matriculation)

Ammatillinen perustutkintotodistus/Betyg över yrkesinriktad grundexamen (Vocational Qualification Certificate)

School Year mid-August - June**Compulsory Education:**

ages 7 - 16; grades 1 - 9

Educational System**U.S. EQUIVALENT**

Preschool/Grade 0	Kindergarten
Basic -- Peruskoulu/grundskola (comprehensive school)/Grade 1	1st
Grade 2	2nd
Grade 3	3rd
Grade 4	4th
Grade 5	5th
Grade 6	6th
Grade 7	7th
Grade 8	8th
Grade 9 -- student receives a Peruskoulun päättötodistus/Avgångsbetyg från grundskola (School Leaving Certificate)	9th
Lukio/gymnasiet (General Upper Secondary) or Ammatillinen koulutus/yrkesutbildning (Vocational Upper Secondary) -- Grade 10	10th
Grade 11	11th
Grade 12	12th - Standard High School Diploma

Grading Scale**U.S. EQUIVALENT**

9 - 10	Very good - Excellent	A
8	Good	B
7	Satisfactory	C
5 - 6	Adequate - Moderate	D
0 - 4	Failing	F

Grading Remarks

Students and their parents are to be provided with information concerning the individual students' schoolwork and progress of studies at sufficiently frequent intervals. Assessment is based on the objectives defined in the curriculum. A course is assessed once it has been completed. The purpose of assessment is to give students feedback on how they have met the objectives of the course and on their progress in that subject. The scale of grades used in numerical assessment is 4–10. Some courses are assessed with passed/failed. At the end of general upper secondary education, students usually take the matriculation examination. The examination consists of at least four tests; one of them, the test in the candidate's mother tongue, is compulsory for all candidates. The candidate then chooses three other compulsory tests from among the following four tests: the second national language, a foreign language, mathematics, and one test in the general studies battery of tests (sciences and humanities). The candidate may include one or more optional tests. There is a separate assessment system for the matriculation examination. The tests are initially checked and assessed by each upper secondary school's teacher of the subject in question and finally by the Finnish Matriculation Examination Board.
http://www.oph.fi/english/education/general_upper_secondary_education/student_assessment

Country Notes

After completing 9-year basic education, students can choose between general upper secondary education and vocational upper secondary education: 1) general upper secondary school (lukio/gymnasiet) provides general education leading to the national Matriculation examination (ylioppilastutkinto/studentexamen), which gives eligibility to all forms of higher education; 2) vocational upper secondary education (ammattillinen koulutus/yrkesutbildning) may be organized in vocational education institutions or in the form of apprenticeship training. An (initial) Vocational Qualification (ammattillinen perustutkinto/yrkesinriktad grundexamen) takes three years to complete and gives eligibility to all forms of higher education. In vocational further education and training it is also possible to obtain Further Vocational Qualifications (ammattitutkinto/yrkesexamen) and Specialist Vocational Qualifications (erikoisammattitutkinto/specialyrkesexamen) which can only be taken as competence-based examinations and are mainly intended for employed adults.

<http://www.euroeducation.net/prof/finco.htm>

Country

Ghana

School Year September - June

Compulsory Education:

Ages 6 - 15

Diploma Awarded

West African Senior Secondary School Certificate Examination (WASSCE)

Senior Secondary School Certificate Examination (SSSCE or SSCE)

Educational System**U.S. EQUIVALENT**

Pre-School (ages 3 - 5)	Kindergarten
Primary School -- Grade 1	1st
Grade 2	2nd
Grade 3	3rd
Grade 4	4th
Grade 5	5th
Grade 6	6th
Junior Secondary School -- JSS1	7th
JSS2	8th
JSS3	9th
Senior Secondary School or Technical/Vocational School -- SSS1	10th
SSS2	11th
SSS3	12th - Standard High School Diploma

Grading Scale**U.S. EQUIVALENT**

A (Excellent)	A1 (Excellent)	A
B (Very good)	B2 (Very good)	B
C (Good)	B3 (Good); C4, C5, C6 (Credit)	C
D (Credit); E (Pass)*	D7, E8 (Pass)*	D
F (Fail)	F9 (Fail)	F
-----SSCE-----	-----WASSCE-----	
*These grades are not given credit and not used for admission to a university.	http://www.nafsa.org/_/File/_/ges/Ghana%2009.pdf	

Grading Remarks

Major Educational Reform was instituted in 2007, but there are conflicting reports as to whether Ghana still has a fourth year of Senior Secondary School. If the student was in a school with a fourth year, he/she would not receive a diploma until the completion of the "13th year" of school in Ghana.

In the public schools, all students take a Core curriculum consisting of English Language, Integrated Science, Mathematics, and Social Studies. Each student also takes three or four Elective subjects, chosen from one of seven groups: Sciences, "Arts" (social sciences and humanities), Vocational (visual arts or home economics), Technical, Business, or Agriculture. The secondary school transcript should contain a letter or percentage grade for each subject, for each of three terms, for the three years of Senior High School, equivalent to the tenth through twelfth grades.

Country Notes

Grading Remarks (continued): Students' Term Reports (report cards) contain rank in class for each subject as well as grades for classwork and end of term exams. The grading system is tough: an A is rarely awarded. Transcripts with all A's are unlikely to be genuine. At the end of Senior High School (twelfth grade), all students take the West African Senior Secondary Certificate Examination, or WASSCE, (SSCE through 2005; WASSCE beginning in 2006) in each of their seven or eight subjects. These exams are given nationwide in May-June each year, but the results are not available until the following October. Grading is exceptionally tough: fewer than 3% of grades are A's, and 40% of students fail any given exam. C's and D's can be quite competitive grades. (<http://ghana.usembassy.gov/education-of-ghana.html>)

The educational system consists of six years of primary school followed by three years of junior secondary and three years of senior secondary education at the end of which students sit for the Senior Secondary Certificate Examination. The six years of primary education and the three years of junior secondary school form the nine years of basic education.

Country**Iceland****School Year** August - May

Compulsory Education:

ages 6 - 16

Diploma Awarded

Stúdentspróf (Upper Secondary)

Sveinspróf (Technical)

Educational System**U.S. EQUIVALENT**

Pre-School (Leikskólar)	Kindergarten
Compulsory School (Grunnskólar) - Year 1	1st
Year 2	2nd
Year 3	3rd
Year 4	4th
Year 5	5th
Year 6	6th
Year 7	7th
Year 8	8th
Year 9	9th
Year 10 (student receives a Grunnskólapróf Certificate)	10th
Upper Secondary (Menntaskóli/fjölbrautaskóli) or Technical Secondary School	11th
(fjölbrautaskólar/iðnmenntaskólar/sérskólar) is for students ages 16 - 20.	12th - Standard High School Diploma

Grading Scale**U.S. EQUIVALENT**

10	Excellent	A
8 - 9	Very good	B
7	Good	C
5 - 6	Satisfactory	D
0 - 4	Insufficient	F
	sometimes a 5 is given a grade of E (sufficient)	

Grading Remarks

Icelandic upper secondary schools generally have examinations at the end of every semester regardless of the type of school. Certain courses have no final examination at the end of the semester and the grade is based on continuous assessment and on the assignments set.

<http://bella.mrn.stjr.is/utgafur/skolenska.pdf>

<http://www.studyineurope.eu/study-in-iceland/grades/grading-system>

Country Notes

Basic education lasts for ten years leading to the Grunnskólapróf Certificate. Upper secondary education covers four years and is open to anyone who has completed compulsory school. Courses lead to the Stúdentspróf. Secondary vocational education is offered by the upper secondary comprehensive schools (fjölbrautaskólar), industrial vocational schools (iðnmenntaskólar) and specialized vocational schools (sérskólar). Students can either train for the certified trades or follow vocational training in such fields as Agriculture, the Fishing Industry, the Food Production Industry or Health and Commerce. Students in vocational programmes have the possibility of taking additional studies to complete the Stúdentspróf.

Country**Jordan****Diploma Awarded**

Tawjihi (General Secondary Education Certificate)

or

Completion Certificate (Vocational Secondary Schools' Training Centres and Apprenticeship)

School Year September - June

Compulsory Education:

Ages 6 - 16; Grades 1- 10

Educational System**U.S. EQUIVALENT**

not compulsory	Kindergarten
Basic Cycle - 1st	1st
2nd	2nd
3rd	3rd
4th	4th
5th	5th
6th	6th
7th	7th
8th	8th
9th	9th
10th	10th
Secondary School Year 1 (Academic or Vocational)	11th
Secondary School Year 2 (Academic or Vocational)	12th - Standard High School Diploma

Grading Scale**U.S. EQUIVALENT**

80 - 100	A
70 - 79	B
50 - 69	C
-----	D
0 - 49	F

Grading Remarks

Pass/Fail level is 50.

Country Notes

Basic education lasts for ten years. Secondary education is free but not compulsory. It consists of two years of study for students ages 16 to 18 who have completed the basic cycle (10 years) and comprises two major tracks: 1) Secondary education, which can either be academic or vocational. At the end of the two-year period, students sit for the general secondary examination (Tawjihi) in the appropriate branch and those who pass are awarded the Tawjihi (General Secondary Education Certificate). The academic stream qualifies students for entrance to universities or the job market, provided they pass the two additional subjects. 2) Vocational secondary education, which provides intensive vocational training and apprenticeship, and leads to the award of a certificate (not a Tawjihi). This type of education is provided by the Vocational Training Corporation, under the control of the Ministry of Labour/Technical and Vocational Education and Training Higher Council.

Country**Malta****Diploma Awarded**

Secondary Education Certificate (for non-university higher education studies)

or

Matriculation Certificate (for university-level studies)

School Year October - June

Compulsory Education:

Ages 5 - 16; grades K - 10

Educational System**U.S. EQUIVALENT**

Primary - Kindergarten	Kindergarten
1st	1st
2nd	2nd
3rd	3rd
4th	4th
5th	5th
Lower Secondary - Junior Lyceum - 1st Form	6th
2nd Form	7th
3rd Form	8th
4th Form	9th
5th Form	10th
Upper Secondary - Higher Secondary - 6th Form	11th
6th Form (the 6th form is two years long)	12th - Standard High School Diploma

Grading Scale**U.S. EQUIVALENT**

No grading scale available at time of publication.		A
40 - 100 is considered passing;		B
0 - 39 is considered failing.		C
		D
		F

Grading Remarks

In most schools, students must obtain an overall average of 40% to be promoted to next grade.

For Matriculation examination: A - E; Un-Unclassified; A, B, and C are high enough for admission to a university.

Country Notes

Primary education lasts for six years. There are different types of secondary education schools: junior lyceums, area secondary schools, schools for very low achievers, church and independent (private) schools. Studies last for five years and are divided into a two-year orientation cycle and a three-year cycle of specialization in lyceum and three-year orientation and two-year specialization in area secondary schools. Admission to state junior lyceums and some church schools is through an entrance examination. At the end of this cycle, pupils sit for the Secondary Education Certificate. Higher secondary schools (sixth forms) prepare pupils for the Matriculation Certificate, which gives access to university.

Country**Morocco****Diploma Awarded**

Baccalauréat or
Baccalauréat Technique

School Year September - July

Compulsory Education:

Ages 6 - 15; grades 1 - 9

Educational System**U.S. EQUIVALENT**

not compulsory	Kindergarten
Basic First Stage - Ecole Primaire - 1st	1st
2nd	2nd
3rd	3rd
4th	4th
5th	5th
6th	6th
Basic Second Stage - Collège - 7th	7th
8th	8th
9th	9th
General Secondary (Lycée) or Technical Secondary - 10th	10th
11th	11th
12th	12th - Standard High School Diploma

Grading Scale**U.S. EQUIVALENT**

16 - 20	très bien	A
14 - 15.9	bien	B
12 - 13.9	assez bien	C
10 - 11.9	passable	D
0 - 9.9	insuffisant	F

Grading Remarks**Country Notes**

Basic (fundamental) education is compulsory and lasts for nine years. It is divided into two cycles of six and three years respectively. After basic education, students enter either general secondary education or technical education and study for three years. General secondary education offers three options: letters, sciences, or mathematics leading to a Baccalauréat. Technical education leads to the Baccalauréat Technique. Some technical schools offer two years of training after the Baccalauréat leading to the Brevet de Technicien Supérieur (BTS) (for students ages 18 – 20). Access to vocational education at the basic education level (crafts and agriculture) is open to pupils in Forms 7 or 8 following a competitive examination. Pupils in Form 9 or in the first two years of secondary education may also opt for vocational training after passing a competitive examination. They are awarded a Certificate de Qualification Professionnelle at the end. Pupils opting for vocational education in the third year of secondary education are awarded a Diplôme de Technicien whereas pupils who hold the Baccalauréat obtain a Diplôme de Technicien Spécialisé.

Country

Republic of Georgia

Diploma Awarded

Sashulo Ganatlebis Atestasi (sometimes called a Zogadi Sashulo Ganatlebis Atestati)

School Year September - June

Compulsory Education:

Ages 6 - 14

Educational System**U.S. EQUIVALENT**

not compulsory	Kindergarten
Elementary -- Year 1	1st
Year 2	2nd
Year 3	3rd
Year 4	4th
Year 5	5th
Year 6	6th
Basic -- Year 7	7th
Year 8	8th
Year 9	9th
Secondary -- Year 10	10th
Year 11	11th
Year 12	12th - Standard High School Diploma

Grading Scale**U.S. EQUIVALENT**

5	A
4	B
3	C
2	D
1	F

Grading Remarks

Passing is considered to be 3, 4, or 5. Failing is considered to be 1 or 2.

At some schools, a scale of 0 - 10 or 0 - 100 is used for examinations.

Country Notes

The Ministry of Education and Science of Georgia is responsible for the provision of education in Georgia. Education is compulsory in the Republic of Georgia from Primary school until the first stage of Secondary school (Basic). The academic year is broken into three trimesters. The academic year is approximately 180 days. Vacations are three times a year, Winter, Easter and Summer holidays. After Basic School is completed, students can choose to go to Secondary School or Special Education. In all phases of school, six main subjects are taught: Georgian language and literature, mathematics, natural sciences (biology, chemistry, physics, and physical geography), Georgian history and geography, foreign language (French, English, Russian, German), and Aesthetic, labour, and physical training. In Secondary School, students are required to take Georgian language and literature, Georgian history, and mathematics. They can choose to specialize in subjects from natural sciences, social sciences or aesthetic-labour sciences. Those who graduate from Special Education receive a Sashulo Profesiuli Sastsavleblis Diplomi. This is considered vocational secondary education, not higher education. System of Education: <http://www.iomdublin.org/DORAS%20Georgia%20Education.html>

Supplemental Grading Scale for Haiti

For your convenience, these grading scales have been calculated for a class that is worth 200 or 300 points.

<u>200-point scale</u>	<u>300-point scale</u>	<u>Letter Grade Equivalent</u>
180 - 200	270 - 300	A
159 - 179	239 - 269	B
129 - 158	194 - 238	C
100 - 128	150 - 193	D
0 - 99	0 - 149	F