

UCAS Offers and Tariff Points



UCAS tariff points are used by some universities (*around a third*) when making conditional offers. Instead of asking for grades (*e.g. BBC*), a university may express the offer as 112 points. However, not all universities use tariff points. The more traditional universities are more likely to make an offer stipulating grades and not points. Also, universities may not, for example, consider BBB at A level to be the same as ABC at A level.

Entry requirements and offers that state tariff points may also require a minimum level of achievement in a specified subject, for example '128 points from a minimum of three A levels to include grade A in A level Chemistry', i.e. an A in Chemistry (48) and B grades in two other A levels (40+40). The same is true of tariff offers made to IB pupils, which may still specify a higher level profile or total points.

Bear in mind that there is no double counting. With certain qualifications like A levels, which build on an earlier qualification like AS, only the higher qualification will be counted. This principle also applies to music and speech & drama exams at grades 6, 7 and 8.

Although tariff points can be accumulated in different ways, not all points will necessarily be acceptable for entry to a particular course. The achievement of a points score, therefore, does not give an automatic entitlement to entry and many other factors are taken into account in the admissions process.

Using the table below, you can calculate how to convert A level and IB grades into tariff points for those universities who use the tariff system:

A Level	AS Level	EPQ	IB HL	IB SL	IB EE	IB ToK
A* = 56	-	A* = 28	7 = 56	7 = 28	-	-
A = 48	A = 20	A = 24	6 = 48	6 = 24	A = 12	A = 12
B = 40	B = 16	B = 20	5 = 32	5 = 16	B = 10	B = 10
C = 32	C = 12	C = 16	4 = 24	4 = 12	C = 8	C = 8
D = 24	D = 10	D = 12	3 = 12	3 = 6	D = 6	D = 6
E = 16	E = 6	E = 8	-	-	E = 4	E = 4

Example 1 (A level)

A student with AAB at A level and a B grade in a fourth AS subject will have a tariff score of 152; however, some university courses may specify that they would like the student to reach a certain target without the fourth AS, in which case the student's score in this example would be 136.

Example 2 (IB Diploma)

A student with 665 at Higher Level (*i.e. roughly AAC A level equivalent*) and 554 at Standard Level (*i.e. roughly BBC AS level equivalent*) with a B in the Extended Essay and a B for ToK (*i.e. 2 IB core*

points or an equivalent of a B in an EPQ) would have an IB Diploma score of 33 but the UCAS tariff equivalent would be 192.

Other qualifications, such as practical music or speech and drama exams like LAMDA and ESB, also have a tariff value but it is unlikely that these tariff points will count towards your offer unless you are applying for a specialist practical music or drama course, in which case it will be the qualifications themselves and not their tariff points which will be valued:

Grade	Grade 8	Grade 7	Grade 6
Distinction	30	16	12
Merit	24	12	10
Pass	18	10	6

You can use the tariff calculator on the UCAS website to work out what other qualifications are worth and there is also a helpful video which explains the tariff system in more detail.

Grade-based offers for applicants with the IB Diploma

Although universities operate slightly different policies with regard to the offers they make and there is not a standard 'exchange rate', it can be helpful to bear in mind the following:

IB Grade	A level Grade	IB Score	A level equivalent
7	A*	38	A*AA
6	A	36	AAA
5	C	34	AAB
4	D	32	ABB
3	D	30	BBB

Offers will usually specify a total diploma score and may ask for a specific grade in the subject of study or in related subjects, for example:

- Biology at Bristol 35-38 points with 666 at higher level including two sciences or maths
- Business Economics at Exeter 34-38 points
- English at Leeds 38 points including 18 higher level points with 6 in higher level English

More detailed information can be found at: www.ibsca.org.uk/index.php/universities-and-ib/university-offers

