



## Cayman Islands National Qualifications Framework

| NQF Level   | Sample Qualifications   | Educational Stage  |
|-------------|---|--|
| Level 5     | Postgraduate Degree   | Tertiary or Advanced Professional Qualifications   |
| Level 4     | Bachelor's Degree or equivalent   | Tertiary   |
| Level 3     | A-Levels, IB Diploma, Advanced Placement, Associate Degree, CAPE, BTEC Level 3 (Nationals), Trinity Music Grade 8   | Years 12 – 14<br>(Key Stage 5)<br>Usually enables entry to the Bachelor's Degree<br>(may also offer advanced standing) |
| Level 2     | CXC CSEC Grades I-III, GCSE/IGCSE Grades A*-C, GED, BTEC Level 2 (Firsts), IMI Level 2, Trinity Music Grade 5, Cayman Islands Level 2 High School Diploma (Standard or Honours) | Years 11 – 12 (Key Stage 4 – Standard High School)<br>National Curriculum Level 7                                      |
| Level 1     | CXC CSEC Grades IV-VI, CXC CCSLC, GCSE/IGCSE Grades D-G, BTEC Level 1 (Introductory), IMI Level 1, Cayman Islands Level 1 High School Diploma                                   | Year 9<br>(Key Stage 3 – Middle School)<br>National Curriculum Level 5   |
| Entry Level | Entry Level Certificates, CoEA, ASDAN Bronze Award  | Years 4 - 5<br>(Key Stage 2 – Upper Primary)<br>National Curriculum Level 3  |

Note: Table contains education qualifications only

## **GLOSSARY OF TERMS**

A-Level – Advanced level qualification. These examinations typically allow for entrance into Bachelor level programmes.

ASDAN – Award Scheme Development and Accreditation Network. This organization offers programmes and qualifications targeting skills for learning, employment and life.

BTEC – Business and Technology Educational Council. An examining body that validates and certifies vocational courses.

CAPE – Caribbean Advanced Proficiency Examination. Offered by the Caribbean Examinations Council, these examinations typically allow for entrance into Bachelor level programmes.

CCSLC – Caribbean Certificate of Secondary Level Competence. Offered by the Caribbean Examinations Council the certification is based on a core of knowledge skills, attitudes and values targeting school leavers.

CoEA – Certificate of Educational Achievement. A three level certification usually assessed in the final three years of secondary schooling.

CSEC – Caribbean Secondary Education Certificate. Commonly referred to as “CXCs”, this certificate represents achievement in a range of subjects offered by the Caribbean Examinations Council. This award usually leads to entrance to further programmes of advanced study.

CXC – Caribbean Examinations Council. A regional examining body that offers examinations at various levels.

GCSE – General Certificate of Secondary Education. This is an academic qualification awarded in a specified subject, generally taken in a number of subjects by students aged 14–16 in secondary education.

GED – General Educational Development. GED tests are a group of five subject tests which, when passed, certify that the taker has American or Canadian high school-level academic skills.

IB – International Baccalaureate. The IB Diploma is an academically rigorous certification that typically allows for entrance into Bachelor level programmes.

IGCSE – International General Certificate of Secondary Education. This is an academic qualification awarded in a specified subject, generally taken in a number of subjects by students aged 14–16 in secondary education.

IMI – Institute of the Motor Industry. The IMI offers certification in courses such as Vehicle Maintenance and Repair at various levels of competence.

KS – Key Stage. The Key Stages define periods in the life of a child’s education. The typical year levels that correspond to the various Key Stages are as follows:

- Key Stage 1 – Years 1 – 3
- Key Stage 2 – Years 4 – 6
- Key Stage 3 – Years 7 – 9
- Key Stage 4 – Years 10 – 11
- Key Stage 5 – Years 12 – 13