

# Advanced Secondary Education Credentials

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# Overview

## **Major types of secondary credentials**

- Secondary school records
- Leaving examinations
- Two levels
- Possible advanced standing



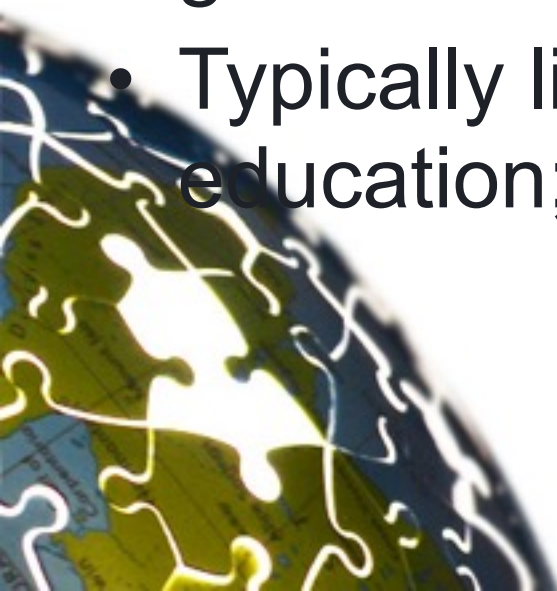
# Secondary School Records

- Mexico
- Canada (Alberta)
- Brazil



# Characteristics

- Typically denotes some form of weight (credits, hours, etc.) on the document
- Generally awarded/issued by the school rather than an external exam body or governmental authority
- Typically lists all years of upper secondary education; may be issued separately



# Mexico

- Usually shows 3 years for academic upper secondary (may be 2 for accelerated)
- If credits are identified, can use at face value to calculate a weighted average
- Similar to US transcript; usually no diploma
  - HEI admission requires completion of *Bachillerato/Preparatoria* program from validated school



# Canada (Alberta)

- Typically has credits & grades as well as confirmation of graduation on transcript
- Course code numbering corresponds to year of study (10s = 10th grade, 20s = 11th, 30s = 12th)
  - HEI admission requires graduation with courses/grades based on program requirements



# Brazil

- Credits/hours might not be listed
- *Certificado* graduation usually listed on back or bottom of transcript without a separate graduation credential
  - HEI admission requires completion of *Ensino Media* and university entrance exam (*Vestibular*) or equivalent



# Leaving Examinations

- United Kingdom
- West Africa
- Caribbean





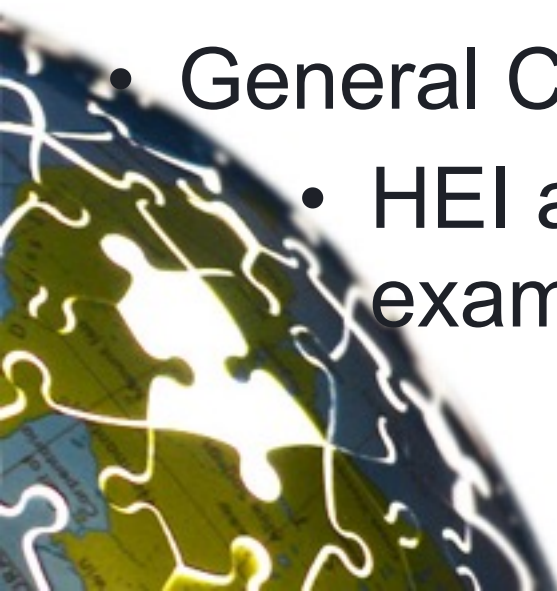
# Characteristics

- Schools may issue informal documents not valid for further ed / employment
- Further and higher education requires standard national exam certificates
- Exam bodies may offer varying levels of vocational, secondary, pre-university



# United Kingdom

- Multiple exam bodies: AQA, Edexcel, OCR, CIE, WJEC, etc.
- Attend secondary schools to prepare for national exams in grade 11 (form 5), often from different bodies for different subjects
- General Cert of Secondary Ed (GCSE)
  - HEI admission requires 5 passing exams including English & math



# West Africa

- West African Examinations Council (WAEC) in Nigeria, Ghana, Sierra Leone, Liberia, and the Gambia
- Students take the West African Senior School Certificate Exam (WASSCE) or country-specific national exams
  - HEI admission requires grades of C in English and 4 other subjects



# Caribbean

- Caribbean Examinations Council (CXC) represents 16 countries in Caribbean including Jamaica, Trinidad & Tobago, Dominica, Guyana, Barbados, etc.
- In grade 11, students sit for Caribbean Secondary Exam Cert (CSEC) exams
  - HEI admission typically requires 5 passes in specific academic subjects



# Two Levels

- Haiti
- Iran
- India



# Characteristics

- These countries offer more than one leaving credential that may appear to represent “high school graduation”
- Lower-level qualification may grant access to limited further/higher education or may be simply a different naming convention
- University degree programs require the second tier qualification



# Haiti

- Grade 12: *Diplome d'Etudes Secondaires, Premiere Partie* = completion of 12th grade
- Grade 13: *DES, Deuxieme Partie* = completion of high school graduation
- Awarded by *Bureau National des Examens d'Etat (BUNEXE)*
  - HEI admission requires Part II for university programs; Part I may admit students to some diplomas

# Iran

- Grade 11: Cert of Compl of Sec Ed/High School Diploma = completion of 11th grade
- Grade 12: Cert of Compl of Pre-Uni Year = completion of high school graduation
- Awarded by the high school/pre-uni center
  - HEI admission requires pre-university year (since 1998) and entrance exam (*konkur*) for university programs; Grade 11 may enroll in tech insist



# India

- Grade 10: Secondary School Cert / Matriculation Certificate / School Cert (often referred to as “school”)
- Grade 12: Higher Secondary Cert / Senior School Cert / Intermediate Cert (often referred to as “college”)
- Awarded by state or national exam board
  - HEI admission requires completion of Grade XII exam

# Advanced Standing

- UK Advanced (Subsidiary) Levels
- Taiwan Junior College
- India Diploma of Engineering
- Canada *Diplome d'Etudes Collegiales*
- German *Abitur*



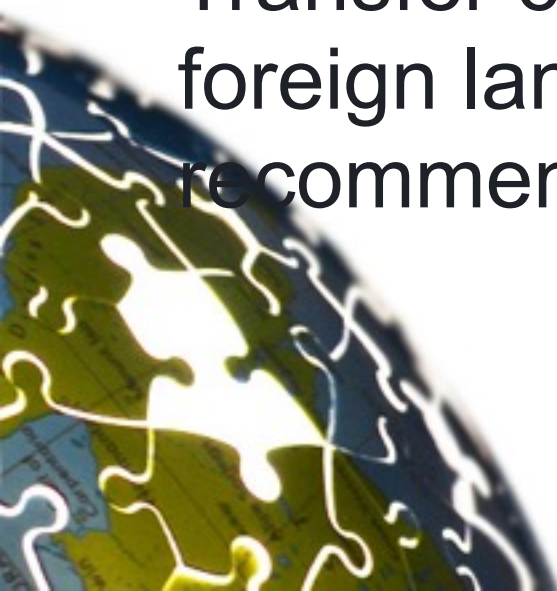
# Characteristics

- These qualifications represent more than 12 years of primary, secondary, and, in many cases, pre-university education
- They might not represent advanced standing at universities in their country but may lead to 3-year Bachelor degrees that are comparable to US Bachelor degrees



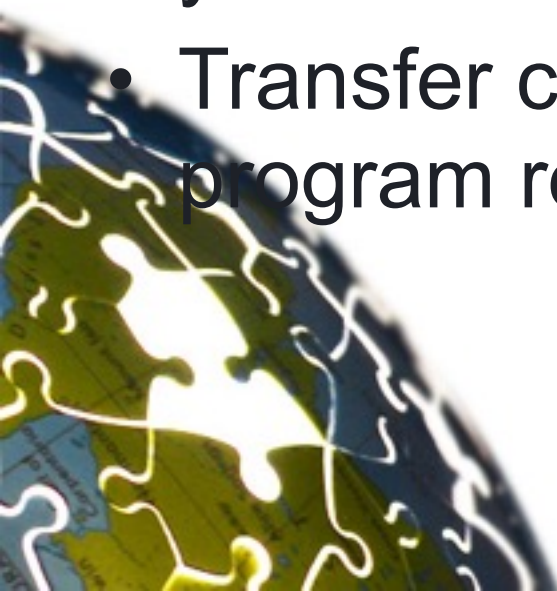
# United Kingdom

- Advanced Levels / A Levels awarded after passing national exam at grade 13
- Advanced Subsidiary / AS Levels at halfway point, grade 12
- Transfer credit: 8 credits for lab science or foreign language or 6 credits for others; recommend half credit for AS levels



# Taiwan

- 5-year Junior College Diploma awarded after 3 years of upper secondary and 2 years of lower division undergrad (Assoc.)
- No high school diploma awarded, but first 3 years are high school studies
- Transfer credit: 4th and 5th years of 5-year program represent freshman & sophomore

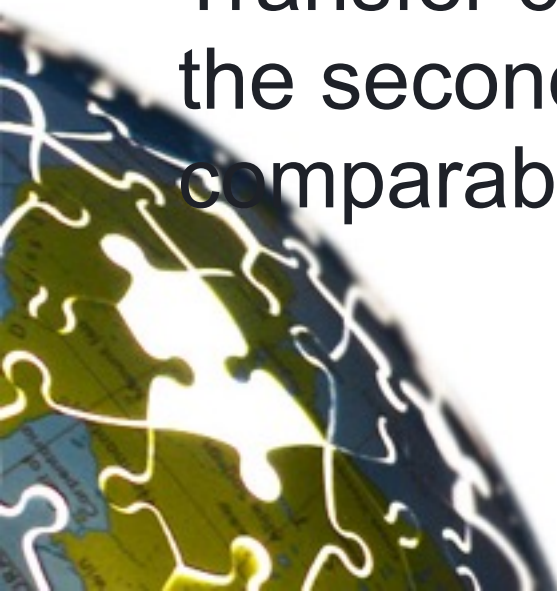


# India

- 10+3 Diploma of XYZ Engineering requires lower secondary (Grade X) for admission
- Grants access to year 2 of a 4-year Bachelor of Engineering/Technology at Indian universities
- Transfer credit: courses from semesters 5 and 6 (year 3) are recommended for freshman undergraduate in technical field

# Canada

- *Diplome d'Etudes Collegiales* pre-university program is 2 years and requires *Diplome d'Etudes Secondaires* (grade 11)
- Grants access to 3-year Bachelor
- Transfer credit: typically, courses taken in the second year can be considered comparable to the freshman year



# Germany

- *Zeugnis der Allgemeinen Hochschulreife* after 3 years of upper secondary (13 years)
- Many lander are revising to 12 year
- Transfer credit: recommend based on the 4 Abitur exams for 13 year only; 8 credits each for *Leistungsfach* (intensive) and 4 credits each for *Prüfungsfach* subjects



# Thanks!

