



**Ministerial Resolution No. (883) of 2019  
Concerning the System of Equivalence of Private School Certificates**

**Minister of Education;**

- Upon Review of Federal Law No. (1) of 1972 concerning the Competencies of Ministries and Powers of Ministers, as amended;
- Federal Law by Decree No. (3) of 2007 concerning the Private Education;
- Federal Law by Decree No. (11) of 2008 concerning the Human Resources in Federal Government, as amended;
- Federal Law by Decree No. (15) of 2016 Establishing the Emirates Schools Establishment;
- Cabinet Resolution No. (29) of 2008 concerning the Organisational Regulation of the Ministry of Education;
- Cabinet Resolution No. (28) of 2016 concerning the Organisational Structure of the Ministry of Education;
- Cabinet Resolution No. (1) of 2018 concerning the Executive Regulation of Federal Law by Decree No. (11) of 2008 concerning the Human Resources in Federal Government, as amended;
- Ministerial Resolution No. (699) of 2016 concerning the Organisational Structure of the Departments, Offices and Sections and their competencies and responsibilities at the Ministry of Education;
- Ministerial Resolution No. (848) of 2018 concerning the System of Equivalence of Private School Certificates;
- Ministerial Resolution No. (199) of 2019 concerning the System of Equivalence of Private School Certificates in the Transitional Period until the End of the Academic Year 2020-2021, and
- And as required by the public interest;

**Resolved the following:**

**Article One**

In application of the provisions of this Resolution, the following words and phrases shall have the meanings assigned to each of them, unless the context indicates otherwise:

**The State** : The United Arab Emirates.

**The Ministry** : Ministry of Education



**The Minister** : Minister of Education

**Private School** : A non-governmental educational facility that provides educational services from kindergarten to the end of secondary education.

### **Article Two**

Private Schools located in the State fall under the following categories:

- Schools applying the Ministry curriculum.
- Schools applying the American System.
- Schools applying the British System.
- Schools applying the International Baccalaureate System.
- Schools applying the Canadian System.
- Schools applying the Australian System.
- Schools applying the French Baccalaureate System.
- Schools applying other curricula.

### **Article Three**

Students of Private Schools that apply the Ministry curriculum shall be subject to the rules and regulations of public education. Students thereof shall apply for the general secondary school certificate examination, and the successful graduates shall be awarded the general secondary certificate issued by the Ministry in the specific courses (general, advanced or elite) in public education.

### **Article Four**

Secondary school certificates from Private Schools not applying the Ministry curriculum shall be equivalenced in accordance with the following general conditions:

1. The educational system and curriculum applied shall be recognised and licensed in the UAE.
2. The educational institution that gives the certificate shall be recognised and licensed in the UAE.
3. The school shall be recognised and licensed in the UAE.
4. The school shall be accredited by the educational institution that grants the certificate.
5. The educational ladder in the State granting the certificate shall be equal to the educational ladder in the State.



6. The student shall have completed twelve (12) regular academic years after the kindergarten phase (two years).
7. The level of certificate in the educational ladder of the State granting the certificate shall be eligible for admission to universities in that State.
8. National requirements shall be completed in accordance with relevant laws and regulations.

#### Article Five

1. Secondary school certificates from Private Schools applying **the American System** shall be equivalenced in accordance with the following general conditions:
  - A. The general conditions stipulated in Article Four of this Resolution shall be applied.
  - B. The student shall successfully pass grades (ninth, tenth, eleventh and twelve), provided that the total number of hours is not less than eighteen (18) credits or equivalent, and the minimum success grade in each subject shall not less than D or 60%, noting that the Arabic language and Islamic education are excluded.
  - C. The student shall obtain the Secondary School Certificate at a grade not less than D or 60%.
  - D. The UAE standard tests for grade 12 shall be successfully passed according to the relevant laws and regulations.
2. Secondary school certificates from Private Schools applying the American System **in the general course shall** be equivalenced in accordance with the following general conditions:
  - A. The general conditions stipulated in Clause (1) of this Article shall be applied.
  - B. The student shall pass the following subjects during grades (ninth, tenth, eleventh and twelfth):
    - English (with at least four (4) credits).
    - Mathematics (with at least four (4) credits).
    - Science subjects (with at least four (4) credits), including Physics.
    - Social studies or Humanities (with at least three (3) credits).



3. Secondary School Certificates from Private Schools applying the American system in the advanced course shall be equivalenced in accordance with the following general conditions:
  - A. The general conditions stipulated in Clause (1) of this Article shall be applied.
  - B. The student shall pass the following subjects during grades (ninth, tenth, eleventh and twelfth):
    - English (with at least four (4) credits).
    - Mathematics (with at least four (4) credits), including AP-Calculus AB.
    - Science subjects (with at least four (4) credits), including Physics (Calculus Based) and Chemistry or Biology; and one of these science subjects shall be at the AP level.
    - Social studies or humanities (with at least three (3) credits).
4. Secondary school certificates from Private Schools applying the American System **in the elite course** shall be equivalenced in accordance with the following general conditions:
  - A. The general conditions stipulated in Clause (1) of this Article shall be applied.
  - B. The student shall pass the following subjects during grades (ninth, tenth, eleventh and twelfth):
    - English (with at least four (4) credits).
    - Mathematics (with at least four (4) credits), including AP-Calculus AB.
    - Physics including:
      - AP Physics C: Electricity and Magnetism.
      - AP Physics C: Mechanics.
    - Chemistry or Biology at the AP level.
    - Any other subject at the AP level, excluding the Islamic education and the Arabic language subjects.

#### Article Six

1. Secondary school certificates from Private Schools applying **the British System** shall be equivalenced to the general secondary **certificate**,



without specifying the courses, in accordance with the following general conditions:

- A. The general conditions stipulated in Article Four of this Resolution shall be applied.
- B. The student shall complete the twelfth grade or equivalent.
- B. The student shall pass five (5) subjects in the general level courses (GCSE level or IGCSE) in one of the success grades (A\*, A, B, C, D), or (3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9), including the following subjects:
  - Mathematics.
  - One of the science subjects (Physics, Chemistry or Biology) or a double science subject.
  - English language or English literature.
- D. The student shall pass two (2) subjects in the advanced level courses (GCE Advanced Level) with one of the success grades (A\*, A, B, C, D).
- E. Islamic education and the Arabic language are excluded in both levels.
- F. The student shall choose the study subjects from the subjects specified by the Ministry in the relevant regulatory resolutions.

#### Article Seven

1. Secondary school certificates from Private Schools applying the **International Baccalaureate System** shall be equivalenced in accordance with the following general conditions:
  - A. The general conditions stipulated in Article Four of this Resolution shall be applied.
  - B. The school shall be recognised by the International Baccalaureate Organisation.
  - C. The student shall complete the twelfth grade or equivalent.
  - D. The student shall choose the study subjects from the subjects included in the accredited lists by the International Baccalaureate Organisation.
2. Secondary School Certificates from Private Schools applying **International Baccalaureate System** shall be equivalenced in accordance with one of the courses stated in Clauses (3, 4, 5 and 6) of this Article.



3. **The first course:** The **IB Diploma Programme certificate** shall be equivalenced to **the general secondary certificate**, without specifying **the courses**, in accordance with the following conditions:
  - A. The general conditions stipulated in Clause (1) of this Article shall be applied.
  - B. The student shall successfully obtain the IB Diploma, provided that the Islamic education subject is excluded from the subjects required to obtain the Diploma.
4. **The second course:** The **IB Subject Certificate** shall be equivalenced to **the general secondary certificate**, without specifying the courses, in accordance with the following conditions:
  - A. The general conditions stipulated in Clause (1) of this Article shall be applied.
  - B. The student shall successfully pass six (6) IB Subject Certificates in accordance with the following conditions:
    - The marks of any subject shall not be less than 3.
    - The total student's marks shall not be less than 21.
    - The student shall pass the following compulsory subjects within the six (6) subjects required for the equivalence: English, mathematics, and one of the science subjects; and these subjects may be taught at the SL or HL.
    - The Islamic education subject shall be excluded from the six (6) subjects required for the equivalence.
5. **The third course:** The **IB Career-Related Certificates** shall be equivalenced to **the general secondary certificate**, without specifying the courses, in accordance with the following conditions:
  - A. The general conditions stipulated in Clause (1) of this Article shall be applied.
  - B. The student shall pass five (5) subjects in the general level courses (GCSE level or IGCSE) in one of the success grades (A\*, A, B, C, D), or (3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9), including the following subjects:
    - Mathematics.
    - One of the science subjects (Physics, Chemistry or Biology) or a double science subject.



- English language or English literature.
  - Islamic education and the Arabic language are excluded.
  - The student shall choose the study subjects from the subjects specified by the Ministry in the relevant regulatory resolutions.
- C. The student shall pass three (3) subjects of the IB subjects with at least (3) marks, and these subjects may be taught at the SL or HL; and the Islamic education subject is excluded from the three (3) subjects required for the equivalence.
- D. The student shall pass the BTEC Level 3 Diploma with (120 credits) with a PP mark at least from among the subjects specified by the Ministry in the relevant regulatory resolutions.
6. **The fourth course:** The IB **Career-Related Programme certificate** shall be equivalenced to **the general secondary certificate**, without specifying the courses, in accordance with the following conditions:
- A. The general conditions stipulated in Clause (1) of this Article shall be applied.
  - B. The student shall pass two (2) subjects of the IB subjects with at least (3) marks, and these subjects may be taught at the SL or HL; and the Islamic education subject is excluded from the two (2) subjects required for the equivalence.
  - C. The student shall pass the BTEC Level 3 Diploma with (90 credits) with a PP mark at least from among the subjects specified by the Ministry in the relevant regulatory resolutions.
  - D. This equivalence shall be granted in the same speciality as the BTEC Level 3 Diploma and shall allow its holder to complete university studies only in the same speciality or a related speciality, according to the relevant regulatory resolutions

#### **Article Eight**

- 1. Secondary school certificates of Private Schools applying **Canadian System** shall be equivalenced in accordance with the following general conditions:
  - A. The general conditions stipulated in Article Four of this Resolution shall be applied.





- B. The school shall be recognised by the Department of Education in one of the provinces in Canada.
- C. The student shall successfully pass the specified subjects for each of the grades (tenth, eleventh and twelfth) in accordance with the curriculum and the study plan of the Canadian province followed by the school.
- D. The student shall obtain the graduation diploma from the secondary school.
- E. The final certificate shall be issued by the province, which has recognised the school and duly accredited according to the province's requirements.
- 2- Certificates issued by schools **applying** general secondary examinations issued by the province that recognised the school, shall be equivalenced to **the general secondary** certificate, without specifying the courses, in accordance with the following conditions:
- A. The general conditions stipulated in Clause (1) of this Article shall be applied.
- B. The student shall pass the following subjects during grades (tenth, eleventh and twelfth):
- English language.
  - Mathematics.
  - One of the science subjects (Physics, Chemistry or Biology) or general science subject.
- 3- Certificates issued by schools **not applying** general secondary examinations issued by the province that recognised the school, shall be equivalenced to the **general secondary** certificate, without specifying **the courses**, in accordance with the following conditions:
- A. The general conditions stipulated in Clause (1) of this Article shall be applied.
- B. The student shall pass the following subjects during grades (tenth, eleventh and twelfth):
- English language.
  - Mathematics.





- One of the science subjects (Physics, Chemistry or Biology) or general science subject.
- C. The student shall successfully pass the UAE standard tests for grade twelfth according to the relevant laws and regulations in the following subjects:
- English language.
  - Mathematics.
  - One of the science subjects (Physics, Chemistry or Biology).

#### Article Nine

1. Secondary school certificates of Private Schools applying **Australian System** shall be equivalenced in accordance with the following general conditions:
  - A. The general conditions stipulated in Article Four of this Resolution shall be applied.
  - B. The school shall be recognised by the Department of Education in one of the states or provinces in Australia.
  - C. The student shall successfully pass the specified subjects for each of the grades (tenth, eleventh and twelfth) in accordance with the curriculum and the study plan of the Australian province or state followed by the school.
  - D. The student shall obtain the graduation diploma from the secondary school.
  - e. The final certificate shall be issued by the Australian province or state, which has recognised the school and duly accredited according to the Australian province or state requirements.
- 2- Certificates issued by schools **applying** general secondary examinations issued by the province or state that recognised the school, shall be equivalenced to the **general secondary** certificate, without specifying **the courses**, in accordance with the following conditions:
  - A. The general conditions stipulated in Clause (1) of this Article shall be applied.
  - B. The student shall pass the following subjects during grades (tenth, eleventh and twelfth):
    - English language.



- Mathematics.
  - One of the science subjects (Physics, Chemistry or Biology) or general science subject.
- 3- Certificates issued by schools **not applying** general secondary examinations issued by the province or state that recognised the school, shall be equivalenced to the **general secondary** certificate, without specifying **the courses**, in accordance with the following conditions:
- ج- The general conditions stipulated in Clause (1) of this Article shall be applied.
- B. The student shall pass the following subjects during grades (tenth, eleventh and twelfth):
- English language.
  - Mathematics.
  - One of the science subjects (Physics, Chemistry or Biology) or general science subject.
- C. The student shall successfully pass the UAE standard tests for grade twelfth according to the relevant laws and regulations in the following subjects:
- English language.
  - Mathematics.
  - One of the science subjects (Physics, Chemistry or Biology).

#### Article Ten

1. Secondary school certificates from Private Schools applying **the French Baccalaureate System** shall be equivalenced to the general secondary certificate, without specifying the courses, in accordance with the following general conditions:
- A. The general conditions stipulated in Article Four of this Resolution shall be applied.
- b. The student shall obtain the French Baccalaureate Literature Section (L), the Economic and Social Department (ES), the Science Section (S) or the French International Baccalaureate (OBI) meeting all the requirements for obtaining the certificate.



### Article Eleven

1. Private schools in the State shall be fully responsible for the full compliance with the provisions of this Resolution.
2. Higher education institutions in the UAE shall be committed to request an equivalence certificate issued by the Ministry in accordance with the provisions of this Resolution as a mandatory condition for the admission of students who have a secondary school certificate from Private Schools.

### Article Twelve

The concerned departments of the Ministry shall follow up the compliance of the Private Schools and Higher Education Institutions in the State with the provisions of this Resolution and shall submit their reports thereon to us to take what we deem appropriate for any violation of these conditions.

### Article Thirteen

A committee for Equivalence of General Education Certificates shall be formed under the chairmanship of the Undersecretary for Higher Education Academic Affairs and a number of members specified by the formation Resolution, provided that it shall:

1. Review the System of Equivalence of Private Schools Certificates;
2. Consider cases that are not covered by the Equivalence System.
3. Consider cases of grievance or failure to meet the equivalence conditions.

### Article Fourteen

1. Ministerial Resolution No. (848) of 2018 concerning the System of Equivalence of Private Schools Certificates shall be repealed;
2. The provisions of this Resolution shall be applied to the Secondary School Certificates issued by the Private Schools at the end of the academic year 2022-2023;
3. The Ministerial Resolution No. (199) of 2019 concerning the System of Equivalence of Private Schools certificates in the transitional period until the end of the academic year 2020/2021 shall be amended by extending the period until the end of the academic year 2021/2022,



provided that it continues to be applied until the provisions thereof enter into force.

4. The Private Schools and Higher Education Institutions in the State shall regularise positions according to the date of entry into force the provisions of this Resolution.

#### **Article Fifteen**

The Undersecretary for Higher Education Academic Affairs shall have the right to issue resolutions, circulars and implementing controls that guarantee the implementation of the provisions thereof.

#### **Article Sixteen**

The Committee for the Equivalence of General Education Certificates shall submit its proposals to us to issue ministerial resolutions that regulate the requirements of the standard Emirates tests for the twelfth grade, according to the various curricula related thereto within a period not exceeding one (1) month from the issuance of this Resolution.

#### **Article Seventeen**

This Resolution shall be communicated to whoever is required to implement it and to act thereunder and it shall repeal any text that violates its provisions.

**Hussein Bin Ibrahim Al-Hammadi**  
**Minister of Education**

**Issued on: 13/04/1441 H**

**Corresponding to: 10/12/2019**

**The original copy is signed by the Minister**