



## Comparison Guide **SACE v A-Levels**

### About SACE

SACE has been developed and certified by the SACE Board – a South Australian government agency. The SACE curriculum meets Australia’s extremely high academic standards, which have been recognised internationally for decades. The SACE is part of a teaching heritage stretching back to 1874. SACE has also been taught with great success across the Asia Pacific region for more than 40 years. SACE is a pathway to universities globally, with graduates accepted into top-tier universities across the world. There are no limits on where SACE can take you!

The following information will help you assess your options and make an informed decision about which program suits you best.

### How is SACE similar to A-Levels?

Quality and accreditation	A-Levels	SACE
Recognised and accepted by universities worldwide	✓	✓
Government accredited curriculum	✓	✓
Proven history of graduate success	✓	✓
Two years’ duration*	✓	✓

\*SACE duration can be shortened to 1 year with recognition of prior studies.

## The differences between SACE and A-Levels

Differences	A-Levels	SACE
<b>Authority</b>	Multiple private companies including Pearson Edexcel, Cambridge and OxfordAQA Examinations.	SACE Board of South Australia, a South Australian Government agency.
<b>Accreditation</b>	Standardised tick box process.	Rigorous process that ensures alignment of the school's mission, education philosophy and values with the SACE Board's approach to foster a thriving learner.
<b>Teaching focus</b>	Summative in nature, with prescriptive adherence to textbooks. The focus is on rote learning as students must remember facts and then repeat them at exam time.	A highly practical approach that allows teachers to use a wide range of resources and real-life scenarios to capture student's interests and better prepare them for life outside the classroom.
<b>Subjects available</b>	55+	100+
<b>Number of subjects taken</b>	Students typically study three A-level subjects.	Students take a minimum of five subjects.
<b>Standardised global curriculum</b>	An international version of the A-Level is usually delivered outside the UK.	Students outside of Australia study the same curriculum as students in South Australia making them eligible to receive an ATAR just like all Australian students.
<b>Assessment approach</b>	100% examination with multiple exams per subject. All exams are assessed externally. Assessment favours multiple choice or short answer questioning. It tests the student's ability to remember facts and uses a percentage grading system.	A standards-referenced assessment approach to ensure a comprehensive evaluation of students' application of knowledge and soft skills. Clear performance standards are outlined for each subject, facilitating targeted assessment. Ongoing evaluation involves a balanced mix of school and externally set assessments.
<b>Use of technology in assessment</b>	No.	First in the world to implement online electronic examinations.
<b>After school practice centres</b>	This style of assessment has created an industry of exam practice/cramming centres for students to attend after-school to memorise facts for exams.	Not applicable.
<b>Exam re-sits</b>	Yes.	No. The final result is not fully dependent on exams. Ongoing assessments and feedback mean that students can improve their grades while they learn.
<b>Preparation for university</b>	Focuses on knowledge preparation.	In addition to deep academic knowledge, students develop research skills, solve real-world problems and work in teams. They learn to think critically and are adaptable, forward-thinking and resilient, preparing them better for their university journey.