

How to succeed in the GAC



When you choose to study in GAC program, you are choosing a different way to walk and gain more experience. Not only will you take more English classes during the course; you will also experience international teaching styles as well. However, it is not everyone who is able to succeed in GAC because of many different factors. As a student who is going to graduate and get a GAC diploma, there are some suggestions which the writer would like to share on how to succeed in the GAC.

The first step which leads to success in the GAC program is basically starting from the time you arrive at school. The students who are late in every single class without the teacher's permission will be marked absent which will affect the coursework score.

When studying, class participation is very important, especially for the newcomers that are still not familiar with the GAC. Without class participation, students will lose their class mark and not understand the given assignments. This may result in a low GAC grade or even a failure of the AE.

The most important key to succeed in the GAC is avoiding plagiarism. In GAC, the cruelest fault is copying another person's work. Therefore, every time students do research, referencing is very important. Note that students must also remember to submit their work on time.

It is not hard to succeed in the GAC if the student has enough responsibility and knows his own duty. Coming to school on time, participating in class, and avoiding plagiarism are the basic responsibilities of GAC students. Luckily, we all have our GAC teachers who are always there to give us help, so my final piece of advice is to ask the teachers for help and advice!

SES18017 Yenchit Meadsavapanmonkol

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To be successful in the GAC is not an easy job, but it is also not that hard. All you need are good intentions in producing good assessments, preparing for and meeting deadlines and asking the teachers when you have questions or queries.

According to my experience, one of the most important things to achieve whilst studying the GAC is time management. To start an assessment early is better than rushing to finish it at the last minute before the deadline. Work that is done in a rush will not be as good as a non-rushed work. Another important thing is to ask for teacher's advice on how to develop your work to get a higher score and to improve your personal skills. Also, the teachers can help in understanding the direction so you will be able to express your work to meet the target of the assessment.

Another thing that needs to be of concern in order to succeed in the GAC is the readiness to perform at the highest level you can - both in lessons and in presentation assessments.

Finally, class attendance can end your GAC life if you cannot be on time. All the work you have done will not help you to get an 'A' if you miss classes, so I would suggest you not be late or absent if you want to succeed in the GAC.

SES18021 Tatpicha Au-Yeung

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Before I started the GAC program, I studied the Foundation English course first which is a preparation before the real GAC. For me, the GAC is the best English program as it gave me a lot of knowledge and experience. For example, I have learnt how to write academic essays and reports, present work using Power-Point in front of many people and many other things that are very useful for me.

In the GAC program I have faced many problems; sometimes I wanted to give up and wanted to stop doing GAC work, but no matter what happened I just kept going on as every GAC teacher gave me their hands and their help to push me up and help me to pass all the assessments. Every piece of work that I have done is useful, even though I felt very tired I still battled on with it because when I look back I feel proud and appreciate all the feed-back that I got.

I can honestly say that before I joined this program I was the one who was very bad at English and very shy when I had to speak English in front of many people. But after doing lots of GAC work I found that my English skills had improved greatly, not only in writing and listening but also in speaking as I spent a lot of time with the GAC teachers and also did lots of presentations. I experienced many things from this program and I feel lucky that I chose to join the GAC class, also I am very thankful to all the GAC teachers for giving me the best advice and good opportunities as a GAC student.

The most important thing to achieve success in the GAC is to be a hard worker, because this program is challenging as there are many assessments and every student has to submit all the work on time. However, regardless of the stress and problems I have faced, I will still keep moving on because I know that in the future I will be thankful for everything that I have done throughout the GAC program.

SES18026 Wathanee Chamnankitvanich

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There are several ways to succeed in GAC depending on the goals of each person, but if we try our best, there is no way that we will fail. The most important thing that we need to do in order to achieve our goals is ask teachers for help. For example, if we do not understand the assignments, we should ask the teachers so we can do the assignments correctly and it will not waste our time. In the classroom, when the teachers are teaching we should listen carefully because if we understand the lesson clearly, we can do everything in the manuals or the assignments quickly. Next, we need to keep track of every single assignment, do not keep it till the last week because we will mess up with many things. Sometimes there is more than one assignment due in the same week, so we have to speed-up our work rate to finish before the due date which may increase the chances of making more mistakes. Another way is prioritizing our work; I think that this way might help a lot for every student because we will know what work is more important so we can label them in order. The last thing is attending the class on time because the attendance for GAC is very important and we should not miss any class.

SES18027 Nutthapol Tangserisuk

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“**Success**”, what does this simple word mean to you? If it means that you pass all the assessments and get the GAC diploma at the end of Year 12, then my suggestions for you are to get higher than 55% in all assessments, make sure to submit all your work on time and behave well, do not break the rules. You will graduate without any problem. However, if it means to get the highest scores possible, to improve your skills and have some happy time, then here are my tips.

- **Be on time:** The morning classes start at 7.30 am. If you cannot make it, send a text message to Mr. Phil (Try not to send it every day/too often or you will get scolded.) On the day without morning class, you must go down for the assembly! (Or you will be scolded by Mr. Udom) Same thing goes for after lunch GAC classes. If you have them, you can stay in your room (It’s changeable depending on the higher-ups). But if you don’t, you need to be down stairs.

- **Criteria:** Read through the criteria and make sure you understand what you are asked to do. Read carefully as you may do something your own way that is not in the criteria and you may get a deduction, especially in computer assessments. Criteria along with the cover page are extremely easy to lose. Keep them safe, or else you will have trouble photocopying them on the deadline, as they are needed to be submitted together with your work.

- **Listening test:** be aware of the directions. “No longer than 3 words” literally means you cannot answer using more than three words, one or two is okay. When you read the questions try to imagine what the story is about and what the answer might be. Words and sentences used in the paper and the tape are not exactly the same, so expect something with similar meaning.

- **Summary:** Write only one paragraph with only main ideas in your own words. Word count is very important for this. Do not exceed $\pm 10\%$ of the total word count.

• **Presentation:** There is an amount of time you need to exceed, so you better prepare yourself well before the real presentation. Writing a script for your presentation is okay, but try to use them as a guide. You will be in trouble if you forget your script and cannot continue. Don't be shy, speak loudly. If you are not fluent, you can slow down but not too slow. During the question time, you may think of the questions and give them to your friends so that the Q/A time flows without silence and you will be able to answer with confidence. It's a bit trickier in the discussion part (Level 2+). You ask them questions so that the whole class can share their ideas whether they support or are against the idea.

• **Report/Research:** There are 6+2 parts in report: abstract, introduction, methodologies, findings, discussion, conclusion, plus references and appendices. Let's say the topic of the research is water scarcity in Somalia and the purpose is to find the causes to come up with a possible solution. After doing some search for the findings part, there are three causes which are water storage, contamination and infrastructure. Now it's time to think for the thesis which I come up with "It is expected that an improvement of the infrastructure will significantly improve the water scarcity situation in Somalia." With this thesis, I need to discuss how infrastructure will solve the problem in the discussion. I also need to find more information about how to improve the infrastructure and put it in the findings. By the way, you should include at least two figures whether they are tables, graphs, charts or pictures. Then sum up the whole research in the conclusion. It is also important to put in-text references somewhere in your report. Look for the format in the GAC referencing guide. If you do not understand anything, go ask your teacher and let them give some examples so that it is easier to understand.

• **Smart devices and Technology.** You can store your manuals in pdf files and keep them on your device(s) so that you don't need to carry those big and heavy books all around. Google Drive is also another way to keep your GAC work.

with cloud storage, if you forget your flash drive at home you can still access your files at school via the internet.

- Ask teacher(s) for help: When you face any problem or have any questions, go see your teachers in the office. It is better than finding the answer yourself or asking your friends. Asking by phone or via e-mail is also possible – and convenient.

Lastly, please be careful with your time. Everyone has 24 hours in a day, but the effectiveness of time management differs. One's lifestyle is all so different. Please find your best way to finish all your work while you are able to do other activities that you want. Make sure you have enough time to study for your entrance exams, especially if you want to be a doctor or an engineer in Thai option, or else GAC will change from university preparation course to a Great hell Awaiting for your Cold death...

// P.S. I just want to emphasize, but if it's rude and inappropriate, then change to "or else GAC will change from university preparation course to something that prevent you from your dream"

SES18029 Noppanut Nopchamnan

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GAC, or the Global Assessment Certificate, is one good program that not only aims to improve the learner's English proficiency but also develops critical thinking skills, the ability to understand and search for information and the working skills needed for higher education. Another benefit is the pathway university availability which provides more opportunities for the students in the program.

In its own structure, the GAC isn't a hard program to study, but when combined with our normal course of Thai studies, it can be really tough. As a student who chose to study under this program, I have faced and overcome many problems. There are three main areas for success in the GAC; patience, time management and teacher's help. The biggest challenge of this program is time management because most of the assessments are reports, which take time and effort to complete; when included with normal class work, it could turn out to be a big problem. If one didn't plan his time well, one might have to turn in many pieces of work at the same time. One must be patient with this program, as many assignments might require a resubmission with something to be edited and fixed. This would prove how much effort we put in to complete our tasks. For the GAC, effort alone cannot give one a full score; aid from teachers might, sometimes, mean life or death. We are only students and we have so much to learn; we could not produce perfect work without help from our mentors.

Finally, I think that all I have learned from the GAC is worthy of my efforts. My graduation is coming and also the end of this program. I have survived it. My advice is still - be patient, manage your time well and ask the teachers for help. I believe that everyone can succeed in the GAC - if they really want to.

SES18033 Supakorn Phutthaprasartporn