



What is Cambridge IGCSE?

The Cambridge International General Certificate of Secondary Education (IGCSE) is one of the most recognised qualifications around the world. Cambridge IGCSE courses are renowned for developing vital educational skills, including recall of knowledge, oral skills, problem solving, initiative, team work and investigative skills. The resulting qualification provides a foundation for higher level courses, such as Cambridge A and AS Levels, the Cambridge Advanced International Certificate of Education, the North American Advanced Placement programme and the International Baccalaureate.

Cambridge IGCSE caters for different levels of ability with a choice between core and extended papers in many subjects. The core curriculum is based on an overview of the subject and is suitable for students expected to achieve grades C to G. The extended curriculum is more challenging and designed for students who are expected to achieve grades A* to C. Grades achieved through either route have the same value.

Cambridge IGCSE offers a flexible course of study that gives candidates the freedom to choose subjects that are right for them, whilst providing them with a broad knowledge base and lifelong skills.

Where is Cambridge IGCSE accepted and recognised?

Cambridge IGCSE is a high-profile qualification. It has exactly the same value in admitting students to institutes of further education and employment as the UK equivalent – GCSE.

- Cambridge IGCSE is comparable with GCE O Level and the UK GCSE
- Cambridge IGCSE has an excellent reputation amongst international schools worldwide
- Cambridge IGCSEs are recognised as a reliable record of attainment which counts towards entry to universities and colleges around the world
- A good grade (i.e. C or above) in Cambridge IGCSE English as a Second Language is accepted for entry by almost all universities in the UK and many in the USA, Canada and Australia as evidence of adequate competence in the English language

Who can take Cambridge IGCSE?

Cambridge IGCSE is designed to be taught as a two year course for students aged 14 to 16 years. In some countries Cambridge IGCSE courses last just one year and there are no formal age regulations.

In most subjects there is a choice between core and extended curricula, making Cambridge IGCSE suitable for a wide range of abilities. Students can enter for the level that is most appropriate for them and this need not be the same across all subjects.

How is Cambridge IGCSE taught?

At school, students are encouraged to study a wide range of subjects at Cambridge IGCSE level, at the same time. In order to follow a broad and balanced curriculum, many students take courses from each of the Cambridge IGCSE groups (see subjects listed overleaf), particularly if they're aiming to go on to further education. This can lead to the award of the International Certificate of Education – an additional qualification that recognises students who pass exams in seven or more subjects, including two languages and one subject from each of the other groups. However, it is also possible to study a free choice of Cambridge IGCSE subjects.

The syllabus is set by Cambridge, but how it is taught will depend on the school or college.

The course differs for each subject, but there will be a mix of assessment methods throughout, including coursework, practical exercises, oral and listening tests, projects and written examinations.

Examination information

Cambridge IGCSE courses take two years to complete and exams are taken at the end of that period.

Examinations are held in June and November each year with results issued in August and February respectively.

Students must enter for Cambridge IGCSE through a registered CIE Centre.

Subjects on offer

Languages – First Language

Afrikaans	Japanese
Arabic	Korean
Chinese	Portuguese
Czech	Sesotho
Dutch	Spanish
English	Thai
French	Turkish
German	

Languages – Second Language

Afrikaans	Hindi
English	IsiZulu

Languages – Foreign Language

Arabic	Malay
Dutch	Mandarin Chinese
French	Portuguese
German	Spanish
Greek	
Indonesian	
Japanese	

Mathematics

Mathematics
Additional Mathematics

Sciences

Agriculture	Environmental Management
Biology	Physical Science
Chemistry	Physics
Combined Science	
Co-ordinated Sciences	

Business, Creative, Technical and Vocational

Accounting
Art and Design
Business Studies
Child Development
Computer Studies
Design and Technology
Drama
Food and Nutrition
Information Technology
Music
Physical Education
Travel and Tourism

Humanities and Social Sciences

Bangladesh Studies
Development Studies
Economics
Environmental Management
Geography
History
Latin
Literature (available in English and Spanish)
Pakistan Studies
Religious Studies
Sociology



About CIE

University of Cambridge International Examinations (CIE) is the world's largest provider of international qualifications for 14-19 year olds. CIE's broad range of qualifications are recognised by universities, education providers and employers across the globe.

Further information

